

rulers cried out with loud voices against him, and stopped their ears, so that they should not hear what they thought were his wicked words. And they brought him out of the city, and stoned him with great stones. While they were treating him thus cruelly, he kneeled down on the ground, and prayed, "Lord, forgive them this sin". And having said this, he died as peacefully as if he had been falling asleep.

Now, among the Jews, when a man was stoned, the persons who had borne witness against him, always cast the first stones. And so the false witnesses who had spoken against Stephen cast the first stones at him. For this purpose, they took off their outer garments, and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul, that he might keep them safely. This Saul was likely one of the rulers who had agreed to put Stephen to death.

After this, there was a great persecution against the disciples. But good men took Stephen's dead body and mourned over it, and buried it. As for Saul, he did much harm, for he went into every house, to find those who believed on Jesus, and when he had found them, he took them, whether men or women, and dragged them away to prison.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Whom did the apostles set apart to help them in their work? 2. Name one of these deacons. 3. What was he able to do besides preaching? 4. How did some of the Jews feel towards him? 5. What did these lyingly tell the people he had done? 6. Before whom was Stephen brought to be tried? 7. Of what did the false witnesses accuse him? 8. What reply did Stephen make? 9. How, did he say, God's people had acted towards Him? 10. What did the rulers do when they heard these things? 11. What vision did Stephen see? 12. What did he cry out? 13. What did the rulers then do? 14. How did they kill Stephen? 15. What was Stephen's last prayer for himself? 16. What was his prayer for his enemies? 17. Who threw the first stones at Stephen? 18. In whose charge did they leave their cloaks? 19. How did Saul treat those who believed on Jesus? 20. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Hymn

He who gladly barter
All on earthly ground :
He who, like the martyrs,
Says, 'I will be crowned' :
He whose one oblation
Is a life of love,
He shall win salvation
With the blest above. Amen.
—Hymn 253, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM — 15. Who wrote the Bible? Good men, who were taught by the Holy Spirit. 16. What besides the Bible teaches us about God? All God's works teach us about Him.

SHORTER CATECHISM—8. How doth God execute his decrees? A. God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

The Question on Missions

8. Do Chinese patients show gratitude for healing? Very many of them do, and speak kindly of the foreign doctor to their friends at home, and bring other sick people to him. Many of them give donations towards the keeping up of the hospitals.

SOMETHING TO DO AT HOME

Copy the picture, and remember how Stephen forgave even those who were stoning



him to death. So we should forgive all those who injure us in any way.

I Have Learned Today

JESUS WILL TAKE ME TO HEAVEN