

Lesson XII.

JESUS CRUCIFIED AND BURIED

March 24, 1901

Luke 23 : 35-53—Memory Verses, 46, 47

Golden Text—Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.—1 Cor. 15 : 3.

44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.

46 And when Je'sus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

47 Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.

48 And all the people that came together to that sight, beholding the things which were done, smote their breasts, and returned.

49 And all his acquaintance, and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things.

50 And, behold, there was a man named Jo'seph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just:

51 (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathæ'a, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.

52 This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Je'sus.

53 And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One sad day the people who passed to and fro to Jerusalem, saw three crosses set up outside the city gate.

Over the middle one, the one on which Jesus was, Pilate had written something in large letters that all the world could read: "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS." On either side of Jesus hung two robbers.

Now some of the wicked rulers had come there on purpose to see Jesus suffering and to mock at Him. They said: "Not long ago this man was saving others, but He cannot save Himself. He said He was the Son of God. Let Him now prove it and come down from the cross and we will believe Him."

Then the rough soldiers, who had driven

the nails into Jesus' hands and feet, began to laugh at Him, pretending to offer Him a drink and then snatching it away again and saying: "If thou be the King of the Jews, save thyself."

One of the thieves also on the cross beside Him began to sneer at Him, daring Him if He was Christ to save Himself and come down from the cross. But the other thief said to his companion: "You ought to be afraid to speak so. We are both bad men, and it is right that we should be punished for our crimes, but this man has done nothing wrong." He then spoke to Jesus saying: "Master! Lord! Remember me when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom." He knew that even on the cross Jesus was King.