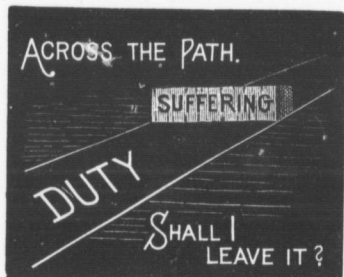


Blackboard.



In to-day's lesson we learn how Jeremiah was persecuted, how he was steadfast and faithful, and was true to the performance of his duty. The blackboard can only make the application of the teaching of this lesson to our own lives. Across the path of duty there is often the burden of suffering. Shall I leave the path of duty because of that?

"Must Jesus bear the cross alone,
And all the world go free?
No; there's a cross for every one,
And there's a cross for me."

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *Good Stronger than Evil.*

Blackboard. Make on the board a scepter, a chain, a prison window, and a broken chain. Cover each with a piece of paper until ready to use. [The teacher who prefers can cut these from paper, and pin to the board.]

Zedekiah. In our last lesson we learned about a King of Judah. What was his name? Was he a good king? What did he try to destroy? Can God's word be destroyed?

Do you remember that God said he would punish King Jehoiakim for his sin? Not long after he had burned the roll that held God's words the King of Babylon came and took the holy city, Jerusalem. The king was taken prisoner, and was going to be carried to Babylon. But before he could get away he died, and his dead body was thrown outside the gates of Jerusalem. There was no one to bury him, no one to weep for him! He had not cared for God, and now no one cared for him. [Uncover the scepter.] If you should see a king on his throne, what do you think he would have on his head? A crown. Yes, and in his hand he would very likely have something like this. It is called a scepter. It is a symbol of the king's power.

There was another king in Jerusalem now. His name was Zedekiah. I will print it, for it is a

hard name to remember. He ought to have been a good king, for he had been taught the law of the Lord. What did Jehoiakim do with the Lord's words? Yes, he burned them. Zedekiah did not do this, but he did what was almost as bad, he did not mind them! Do you think trouble will come upon this king too? O, yes; trouble is sure to come upon those who do not obey the Lord.

Jeremiah. You know who this was. One of the books of the Bible was written by him. [Turn to it in the large Bible, and then closing the book, ask some child to come and find it for you.]

Jeremiah was a good man, and the Lord loved him and took care of him. May be you think he never had trouble. But that is a mistake. Sometimes the people who love and serve God have a great deal of sorrow and suffering, but if God is their friend it will all work for good.

Jeremiah knew that Zedekiah's sin would bring him and his people into great trouble. So he told them what God would do to punish them. This made them angry [uncover the chain], and they thought they would punish Jeremiah. They beat him for telling the truth, and shut him up in prison [uncover prison window], and there he stayed many days.

Do you think he was sorry now that he was a servant of the Lord? It is better to serve God and suffer a little while than to serve Satan and suffer forever.



How God Helped. Jeremiah thought he would surely die if he stayed long in that dreadful prison. One day the king sent for him secretly, to know if there was any word from the Lord. Jeremiah told him the truth that God had spoken; that the king should be delivered into the hands of the King of Babylon. And then Jeremiah asked the king not to send him back to the prison where he had been. The Lord softened the hard heart of the king, and he told his servants to bring Jeremiah into the court of the prison, close by the king's house, and to give him bread to eat every day.

[Show the broken chain.] Now Jeremiah had more liberty and was not in danger of dying from want of food.

[Use lesson symbol.] See how God used the wicked king to help Jeremiah! He can make even our enemies to be our friends and helpers. This is because God is stronger than Satan. If we are on God's side we shall be strong and safe, and have peace in our hearts.

Print in large letters, "Sin does not pay," and tell in few words the sad fate of King Zedekiah.