

who were well armed, for they did not know what resistance might be made by a desperate band of disciples in a wood by night (see Matt. 26 : 51-53). Observe how the majesty of Jesus is depicted in John 18 : 4-8. Jesus is especially moved by the manner of His betrayal by Judas, Luke 22 : 47.

THE TRIAL—It falls into two parts : (a) before the Jewish rulers ; (b) before Pilate.

(a) *The Jewish rulers* : (1) At night before Annas, a deposed high priest, but still the soul of the administration—a preliminary and unofficial investigation. (2) Before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin, illegal because before dawn and too hurried, though sentence was not pronounced till morning, Mark 14 : 53-72 ; 15 : 1. Unsuccessful in discovering a sufficient charge to lay before the Roman authorities, they condemn Jesus to death for blasphemy. During this time the denial by Peter occurs. (b) *The Roman Trial* (Mark 15 : 1-20 ; Luke 23 : 1-25 ; John 18 : 28 to 19 : 16)—When Pilate refuses to confirm their judgment, the Jews trump up a charge of sedition. The governor, reading their hypocrisy, scoffs at all their attempts, and at last yields only to personal fear lest they should prefer some accusation against himself in the court of the jealous Emperor Tiberius. Note again the majestic demeanor of Christ before Pilate, John 18 : 33-37 ; 19 : 8-11. So the trial was a perversion of justice throughout.

THE PASSION—(a) Brutal treatment of condemned prisoner (Mark 15 : 16-20. (b) The road to Calvary (Mark 15 : 21-23 ; Luke 23 : 26-32). (c) The crucifixion (Mark 15 : 24-37 ; Luke 23 : 39-43 ; John 19 : 17-37), in which the narrative of the penitent thief is contained. (d) The seven words from the cross : (i.) Luke 23 : 34 ; John 19 : 27 ; Luke 23 : 43—full of love for others ; (ii.) Matt. 27 : 46 ; John 19 : 28—in the article of death ; (iii.) Luke 23 : 46 ; John 19 : 30—victory ; (e) Sympathy of nature and testimony of men (Matt. 27 : 51-54) ; (f) The burial (Matt. 27 : 57-66 ; John 19 : 38-42).

LESSON VII.

THE MORNING

SOURCES—There are greater differences between the evangelists in the narrative of

the Resurrection than in almost any other part of the Gospels. (a) Matthew 28 : 1-10 refers to appearances of the risen Jesus to His disciples in Galilee. (See also John ch. 21.) (b) Mark 16 : 1-8 agrees on the whole with Matthew. The passage, ch. 16 : 9-20, does not belong to the original gospel of Mark. (See margin of Revised Version.) (c) Luke 23 : 56 to 24 : 35 contains much that is peculiar to himself, especially the disciples' state of mind (ch. 24 : 9-11), and the wonderfully beautiful "walk to Emmaus" ch. 24 : 13-35. Luke tells only of appearances in Jerusalem and its neighborhood. (d) John ch. 20, appearances in Jerusalem ; ch. 21, in Galilee. (e) 1 Cor. 15 : 1-8, not an exhaustive record, but probably those appearances which would be accepted by his readers as being based on reliable testimony.

THE MEANING OF THESE MANIFESTATIONS—(1) The tomb is either stated or assumed to have been empty. (2) The disciples were not expecting a reappearance of Jesus, having forgotten the promises of Jesus, Mark 9 : 31 ; 10 : 34, etc. (3) They recognize Jesus, though changed, Luke 24 : 36, 37 ; John 20 : 16, 17, 19. We see the transition from the life they had lived with Jesus on earth to the larger life in which they will continue to love Him. They have occasional manifestations in order to assure them that He is still alive, Matt. 28 : 18-20 ; Luke 24 : 49 ; John 20 : 22.

THE FACT OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS—Belief in the resurrection of Jesus is not based on a single event like the empty tomb, but on a much wider agreement of testimony : (a) the indisputable witness given in 1 Cor. 1-8 ; (b) the common evidence of all the gospels, however they differ in details ; (c) the existence of the Christian Church. Every book of the New Testament assumes that Christian faith and hope are based on the risen Christ, 1 Cor. 15 : 14 ; 1 Peter 1 : 3, 21 ; Rev. 1 : 17, 18.

THE ASCENSION (Mark 16 : 19, 20 ; Luke 24 : 50-53)—Jesus enters on His fuller life whereby He will bring into His fold many sheep from the wide world, John 10 : 16. The record of the next stage of the work of the living Christ through His Holy Spirit is contained in the book of Acts, Matt. 28 : 18-20 ; Luke 24 : 47, 48 ; John 20 : 21-23.