

dangers or outside dangers? Compare Matt. 15. 11. Now that Jesus was bidding his disciples farewell he warned them against the wars and persecutions and false teachers that were coming. But these were all outside of the Church. What really troubled him were the signs of danger in the hearts of the disciples themselves.

Are Christians ever selfish? These disciples were; each one wanted to be called the greatest. Could they be of any use to Jesus so? If the Church was to be successful the leaders must be like Jesus; and how was he? (verse 27.) Who are the most useful people in our Church? Are they more distinguished for their self-seeking, or for their hard work? What kind of people do you hope will stay away from our Sunday school picnic? Why?

Now, some of these selfish Christians are in the Church, and I think they do more to keep out sinners than all the opposers of religion put together. They deny Christ and confess themselves. Is it like Christ to be angry when we are not elected to an office or asked to sing a solo? Does not such a person really say, like Peter, "I know not the man?" Whenever such a person gets into a Sunday school, or an Epworth League, or a church, there is danger—danger to the body, and greater danger to the person himself.

Now, Jesus says something very strange to Simon Peter. Satan had desired to have the disciples (not Peter alone; note the plural), in hopes

that some of them were chaff. Which one of the twelve did Satan get? Which one did he come near getting? But Jesus prayed for him. Wherein lay Peter's danger? Self-confidence. Read verse 33. Did verse 34 come true? I wonder if some of these selfish people are not in the same danger. Do they know how near they are to denying Christ.

What a mercy that none of us are in danger of such a sin! How many are ready to follow Christ wholly? Is there any possibility that we may begin with love to Christ and end with love for ourselves? Yes; Satan is sifting us every day. Our only safety is in remembering our danger and keeping close to Christ.

After Peter had fallen and been restored what did Jesus tell him to do—criticise the brethren? No; he must lovingly work to "establish" them in the faith. When we are weak and liable to fall our best remedy is to work for Jesus.

What is our Golden Text? What sort of a mind did Jesus have? Are we striving to have it in us? Nothing but that can make us of any use in Christ's kingdom. No throne of high service for us unless we are ready to do the humblest task that he needs to have done.

References.

FREEMAN'S HANDBOOK. Ver. 31: The sieve, 609. Vers. 25, 36: The purse, 653; the scrip, 256; shoes, 654; the sword, 255.

A. D. 30.]

LESSON XI. JESUS CRUCIFIED.

[June 14.]

GOLDEN TEXT. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. 1 Cor. 15. 3

Authorized Version.

Luke 23. 33-46. [Commit to memory verses 44-46.]

[Read from Luke 22. 66, to 23. 56.]

33 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and mocking him.

37 And saying, If thou be the King of the Jews, save thyself.

38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Lat'in, and He'brew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost thou not fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

Revised Version.

33 And when they came unto the place which is called the skull, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand and 34 the other on the left. And Jesus said, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And parting his garments among them, 35 they cast lots. And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also scoffed at him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if this is 36 the Christ of God, his chosen. And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, offering 37 him vinegar, and saying, If thou art the King 38 of the Jews, save thyself. And there was also a superscription over him, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, Art not thou 40 the Christ? save thyself and us. But the other answered, and rebuking him said, Dost thou not even fear God, seeing thou art in the same 41 condemnation? And we indeed justly: for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this 42 man hath done nothing amiss. And he said,

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