

vant girl, "denies him," and curses and swears that he does not know the man. After its descent, he does not hesitate to declare the claims of Christ before kings and governors, and charges the death of Christ upon the Jewish rulers, and although they—as the professed builders of the house of God—had set him at naught, he was, in fact, the Head-stone of the corner, and was so by Divine appointment. From the copious baptism of the Spirit, the Apostles spake the word with great boldness. Their hearts were so influenced with the love of Christ, that neither life nor liberty was of any account in their estimation, when his glory was concerned. No man could disprove their testimony. In preaching Christ they violated no law,—they injured no man,—but conferred the greatest possible good upon multitudes. While thus engaged they were censured, imprisoned, brow-beaten, and severely threatened. They esteemed public scorn as a badge of honor. Hence their voice was heard in all directions, preaching Christ with a boldness and fidelity that would listen to no denial, nor submit to any compromise.

What a view does the inspired historian give of them when he says, that "daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." Of this delightful theme they were never weary, and they felt they could never exhaust it. "Daily," therefore, when the people assembled in the temple to offer their morning and evening sacrifice, the apostles were there asserting his Messiahship. When the people returned to their homes, the apostles followed them thither, entering every house where they could gain access. Their hearts yearned over dying men sinking into hell, and they labored at all hazards to save them from it.

When the storm of persecution is raging they all come together and address themselves to God in prayer,—not that this work may be suspended, but that they may preach the Word with increased boldness, and that miracles may be continued and extended by stretching forth his hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be wrought in the name of his holy child Jesus. And the historian goes on to state, that by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people (Acts v. 12, 15).

What a scene is here presented: the sick and dying are brought and placed in beds along the streets, where it was known the apostles would daily go to the temple. As the apostles passed these objects of misery the Lord put forth his healing power, disease fled, and the voice of lamentation and woe was changed for gratitude and praise. In the meantime the news spread, and the afflicted from the surrounding towns and cities were brought to Jerusalem to be healed. The public roads were thronged with people bringing their suffering relatives to the apostles of the Lord Jesus, and in no instance were they unsuccessful—"they were healed every one."

In the midst of all this excitement the apostles preached Christ with great power, so that the people magnified them, and believers were the more added to the Lord; multitudes—yes, multitudes—both of men and women. From this time the Christians in Jerusalem ceased to be numbered.

Attempts were again made to arrest their progress by shutting up the apostles in prison; but angels came and set them at liberty, directing them to