

of authority as did these members of the Jewish Sanhedrin, but are wilfully opposed to the light and truth? Why were they so obstinately set in opposition to Peter and John? Simply because if the apostle were right, they themselves were wrong. But further, they were afraid that they would lose their authority over the people. The desire to rule and "keep in office" made them heedless of all other considerations. Political parties often come to the same point of view. The most abominable injustices are committed by some of our members of Parliament in their desperate eagerness to cling to office. The War has shown us that a wicked clique of plotters and reactionaries may rule for a time, and flourish in the face of the whole world, but the day of reckoning draws steadily nearer.

The third lesson is a lesson in *broad tolerance and sympathy with others who are advancing the kingdom*. The rulers of the Sanhedrin looked with peevish hearts and jealous eyes on Peter and John, because a poor cripple had been made to leap with joy. These proud ecclesiastics who were supposed to be the guardians of religion, could not stand to see a cripple made straight and strong. Why should we not rejoice in the extension of Christ's kingdom by means of all other agencies than our own? Why not clasp hands with all our fellow soldiers in this long

drawn out battle with evil? So often we condemn others just because they do not reach the goal by our route or method. We are all inclined to be hard on the non-conformist, and yet it is the non-conformist who saves the world. To that valiant class belonged Peter and John.

The fourth lesson is the *sublime assurance of the apostles*, v. 12. In these trying days of peace we should remember Peter's words. We may raise wages, institute partnership in industry, form a League of Nations, and make a hundred changes in the social or political structure, but unless we base our nation's life on the spirit of Christ, we shall repeat the mistake of the Teutonic people. As one writer has put it: "it is Christ or chaos." Jesus himself spoke of his own teachings as the "rock" on which human life and institutions may be built with security. All else is a foundation of "sand."

The last lesson is the *futility of attempting to stop the progress of the gospel by commands*. The rulers said: "We forbid you to preach any more about Jesus." But such a command was powerless to stem the rising tide of feeling and faith. Persecution after persecution failed to arrest the growth of Christianity. The martyrdom of the missionaries has never stopped the kingdom. Indeed, the cross of Christ is the fountain head of all Christian expansion.

### FOR TEACHERS IN THE ADULT DEPARTMENT

Teachers in the Adult Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY or the PATHFINDER.

Begin by pointing out that our lesson today is closely related to the one we studied last week, inasmuch as the arrest of the two apostles grew out of their curing of the lame man at the gate of the temple. Suggest reasons for the arrest: (a) that Peter and John presumed to teach the people without possessing those qualifications which the rabbis were supposed to have; (b) that Peter and John laid such emphasis upon the resurrection which was a doctrine distasteful to the powerful party of the Sadducees. In this connection, indicate the significance of the fact that the Sadducees are specially mentioned in the beginning of the chapter as moving to bring about the arrest of Peter

and John. Remind the class, also, that most of the chief priests were Sadducees. Now discuss:

1. *Peter's defence*, vs. 8-12. Upon what unseen source of strength did Peter rely in making his defence? What promise had Christ given to cover just such a case as this? Have some one read Luke 12:11. Show how Peter brings out the favorable fact that the curing of the lame man was no criminal offence, but rather a "good deed done to an impotent man." If the court is fair, it must take this into consideration. Show, too, that Peter takes it for granted that the purpose of the investigation is to discover the means used for the cure. How does Peter answer