

### Jesus Comforting His Disciples.

John 14: 1-14.

**W**HEN a friend dies or goes away from us, perhaps never to return, how often we think of, and how much we prize, the last words they speak to us. Remember this is the last talk Jesus had with His disciples before he was crucified. Think how they must have felt when He told them He was surely going to die. They had expected to see Him a great king, and instead, He was to be betrayed and put to death. What an end to all their bright hopes! Read slowly and carefully the tender, loving words Jesus spoke to them, and to us as well. "I go to prepare a place for you;" "I will come again," etc. Notice how kindly and patiently He answers doubting Thomas and curious Philip. He knew how many other doubting and curious ones would read these same words. Learn by heart the blessed promise in the last verse of our lesson—meant for you, and me, and everybody, who shall go to the Father in Jesus' name.

The word 'comfort' originally meant 'strengthen.' The title of the lesson would thus read 'Jesus strengthening His Disciples.' They needed strength, because soon He was to leave them, and they were to go forth alone into the world to preach the Gospel. He aimed to give strength by *encouraging them with good news*. What, then, was the good news with which Jesus sought to strengthen His wavering disciples?

First—That He was going to prepare a home for them in Heaven. Though they had no home here, they would comfort themselves and be encouraged by the hope that at last they would enter an everlasting home. Each of them would say to himself, "I have no home on earth, but Jesus has prepared for me a home in heaven, and is keeping it for me. In a few more years I shall be there and never more go out."

But He also strengthened them by promising to answer their prayers while they were still on earth. "Ask, and ye shall receive." This promise would make them realize that He still cared for them, and in spirit was not absent from them.

Remember the promise of prayer answered "Ask, and ye shall receive," is for us as well as for John and Peter.

### Jesus the True Vine.

John 15: 1-16.

**I**T was the night when He was betrayed that Jesus spake to His disciples about the "Vine and its branches," and compared Himself to a Vine, and His people to its branches. Now, what do we learn from this? What does a vine do for its branches? 1. The vine gives life. The root and stock of the vine is full of life, and the sending forth of this keeps the branches alive. All the branches (even the smallest) get their life from the vine. See what Jesus says of Himself in John 10: 10. 2. The vine gives growth. The sap from the root of the vine flows up through the branches, and causes them to put forth leaves and grow. So by the grace that Jesus gives His people, they "grow up unto Him in all things."

In John 15: 5 He says, "Without Me ye can do nothing."

3. The vine gives fruitfulness. But to be fruitful, a branch is to remain in the vine. If it is broken off from the vine, it will bear no fruit, so we can bear no fruit—do no good works—unless we abide in Him. You know, dear children, that men care very little for a vine unless it bears fruit. Now, to be useful, to do good to others, is the greatest of all privileges. It is to



JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES.

be like Jesus. When He was on earth He went about doing good. That is, He was always bearing fruit, and He wishes us to be like Him. All the fruit we bear, all the good we do, helps to glorify God. This is what we are made for. Remember, that Jesus tells us to "Abide in Him." This means that we are to have faith in Him—that we are to love Him—that we are never to do anything to displease Him. Now, this is *our duty*, and you know that a child who fails to do his duty, must expect to suffer. Let us never forget this. Jesus also speaks of branches which bear no fruit, and that these will be taken away. Dear children, don't be fruitless branches. Let our little boys and girls prove themselves to be true branches of "the True Vine," by bearing much fruit.

### 'OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.'

Edited by ALF. SANDHAM. Published on the first and third Saturday of each month, by the Toronto Willard Tract Depository,—S. R. BRIGGS, Manager,—corner Yonge and Temperance Streets, Toronto, Ont.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.—PER YEAR—Single copies, 25c.; 10 copies, \$1.50; 25 copies, \$3.00; 100 copies, \$7.00.