

3. Verse 33.

33. Where did the king seek privacy? How did he show his intense grief? Was his wish a wise one? What made him lose all interest in the victory?

Teachings of the Lesson.

Parents think of children away from home. Their intimacy with wicked advisers causes anxiety and fear. When we have no knowledge of the doings of absent ones we are influenced by their previous history. When young people get into trouble it is not they who suffer most. No man is safe out of Christ. If we should die suddenly, what evidence would our friends have that we were safe?

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

What had Absalom made the people of Israel think?

What did they do when he rebelled against David?

Was this right?

What did David do when he heard the news?

What brook did he cross that Jesus crossed?

Kidron.

How was David treated?

Who else was treated with scorn and hatred?

Who won in the great battle?

How was Absalom slain?

Why could not Absalom hope for success?

Where did David wait to hear news of the battle?

What was the first question he asked?

What did he do when he heard the fate of his son?

Of whose love is this a picture?

Remember—

That disobedient children are punished.

That if we disobey our King we shall perish.

That God loves and pities us in our sins.

LESSON OUTLINE.

The News of the Victory.

I. THE MEMORIAL.

1. *Lieared up for himself a pillar.* v. 18.

Their inward thought . . . forever. Psalm 49. 11.

2. *Called after his own . . . name.* v. 18.

The name of the wicked shall rot. Prov. 10. 7.

II. THE WATCHER.

1. *Sat between the two gates.* v. 24.

His heart trembled. 1 Sam. 4. 13.

2. *Is the young man . . . safe?* v. 29.

In the nurture . . . of the Lord. Eph. 6. 4.

III. THE TIDINGS.

1. *All is well.* v. 28.

To the righteous . . . shall be well. Isa. 3. 10.

2. *Hath delivered up.* v. 28.

All enemies under his feet. 1 Cor. 15. 25.

3. *As that young man.* v. 32.

Ungodly . . . like the chaff. Psalm 1. 4.

IV. THE SORROW.

1. *The king was much moved.* v. 33.

A son that causeth shame. Prov. 19. 24.

2. *Went up . . . and wept.* v. 33.

Others which have no hope. 1 Thess. 4. 13.

3. *Would God I had died.* v. 33.

Yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5. 8.

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

General Statement.

When the news of Absalom's conspiracy reached Jerusalem David immediately sought safety in flight. Whether from the weakness of age or because he had calm confidence in God, whether cast down by the memory of his sin or dispirited because of the ingratitude of his much loved Absalom, he left the crown to the usurper. A wail of sadness rent the air as the old king, bowed down with grief and walking barefoot, left the city he had rebuilt, and parted with true and valued friends. With him went the bodyguard of Philistines, the regular soldiers, officers of the court, and his faithful band of six hundred warriors, declined, as God had said of Jerusalem, "This is my rest." In their flight David was met by Ziba, who brought bread, fruits, and a skin of wine. Ziba (probably falsely) accused Mephibosheth of treachery, and secured for himself the property of the poor cripple. Passing on, the king was cursed and stoned by Shimei, an old adherent of the house of Saul. News of the defection of Ahithophel, his shrewdest counsellor, now reached him. In the midst of these trials he stopped to worship God. When Hushai offered to accompany the king he was advised to go and pretend to be an adherent of Absalom. After Absalom's arrival in Jerusalem a council was held at which Ahithophel proposed to pursue David at once with twelve thousand men, and pledged himself to slay the king only. Hushai recommended delay till Absalom should be strengthened in the capital. This would give David all he wanted—time. The advice was taken and the council separated. Hushai to communicate with David, and Ahithophel to commit suicide. David made his headquarters at Mahanaim, a sturdy fortified town near the Jabbok. Three months after Absalom was made king the battle was fought in the wood of Ephraim. Amasa commanded for Absalom,