

He looked for a city that hath foundations.—Heb. xi. 10.

to the commands of God In *all things* that regard your Christian life, *take the Word of God as your guide*. Strive to live a life consistent with your confession, and work to save others. Never indulge in anything you cannot ask God's blessing upon.

"Abstain from all *appearance of evil*," 1 Thess 5 : 22.

Never associate with those whose influence will be hurtful.

[ORIGINAL.]

"The Arrest."—John 18 : 2-11.

By MISS DORA ALLEN.

THE chief points in this portion seem to be :—
1st. Jesus betrayed by Judas. vs. 2, 5.

2nd. His voluntary surrender of Himself. vs. 4-8.

3rd. His tender care for His people. v. 8.

4th. The security of His people. v. 9.

5th. His kindness, even to His enemies. v. 10 and Luke 22 : 51.

6th. His practical submission to His Father's will. v. 11.

1st. *His betrayal by Judas*. The conduct of Judas seems peculiarly base, for, 1st. He had been one of the chosen twelve, Matt. 10 : 4. 2nd. He had been with Jesus during the years of His ministry, and had had opportunities of seeing the holiness of His character, a character so faultless that even His accusers, anxious though they were to condemn Him, could get no witnesses but false ones to accuse Him, and Pilate was obliged to give Him up to the Jews, with these words, "I find no fault in Him," Luke 23 : 14. 3rd. He professed to be the *friend* of Jesus, and with "a kiss," the token of friendship, betrayed Him. Matt. 26 : 48, 49 ; Luke 7 : 38 ; 15 : 20 ; Acts 20 : 37.

2nd. *Jesus' voluntary surrender of Himself*. How truly were His own words fulfilled: "I lay down My life . . . No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself." John 10 : 17, 18.

3rd. *His tender care for His people*. "Let these go their way." How constantly do we find that "the everlasting arms" are around us (Deut. 33 : 27) to support in time of weakness—to shield in times of danger, so that *no harm* can come nigh us (Ps. 91 : 3-7). How safe are those who trust in Him, who is the same tender Saviour *now* that He was *then*, for "with Him is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (Jas. 1 : 17 ; Ps. 2 : 12. Do we so trust Him?

4th. *The security of His people*. This is one of the most prominent truths in God's Word. "My sheep shall *never* perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand." (John 10 : 28). "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" questions Paul. (Rom. 8 : 35). He, who "cannot deny Himself" (2 Tim. 2 : 13) has promised, that "whosoever believeth in Him, shall not perish, but have EVERLASTING life (John 3 : 16), and we know "He is faithful, who

hath promised" (Heb. 10 : 23). Do we know that we are His? If so, *we are safe*.

5th. *His kindness, even to His enemies*. He had preached this duty to the multitude, in His memorable sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5 : 44), but with what force would the *practical* illustration come home to the hearts of the disciples now! They would have used their swords (Luke 22 : 49); but the only weapons which the Master uses, are *prayer* (Ps. 109 : 4), *love* (Luke 22 : 50, 51), and *meekness* (Mark 14 : 61). Well might He say of Himself, "I am meek" (Matt. 11 : 29), and well might Paul "beseech his brethren by the meekness and gentleness of Christ" (2 Cor. 10 : 1). Do we follow Him in this?

6th. *His practical submission to His Father's will*. For this he had been praying, and such strength was given to Him, that *not one* murmur escaped His lips! We cannot fathom the bitterness of the "cup" which He had to drink. It was filled with the wrath of God against *sin*—none of the dregs even were left behind for us to drink; had there been, we could never have been saved; but He *did* bear the full penalty for all our sins: for "the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Isa. 53 : 6). It was He "who His own self bear our sins in His own body" (1 Pet. 2 : 24). It was He "who redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us" (Gal 3 : 13). So the "cup" was indeed a bitter one! bitter, because of the wrath of God against *sin*—bitter, because mixed with the curse pronounced against the sinner. Yet Jesus drank it *willingly*, Ps. 40 : 8 ; Heb. 10 : 7. He drank it *fully*, for He exclaimed, "It is finished" (John 19 : 30). What a heart of love must this precious Saviour have! Manifested in "seeking and saving that which was lost" (Luke 19 : 10). In dying for sinners (John 15 : 13 ; 1 John 3 : 16). Surely we may say with the Apostle Paul, "it passeth knowledge" (Eph. 3 : 19).

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (1 John 4 : 11). In His submission to His Father's will—in His patience and meekness—in His tender care of His dear ones—He has most assuredly "left us an example, that we should follow His steps" (1 Pet. 2 : 21). Are we betrayed? So was Jesus (Ps. 41 : 9). Are we forsaken? So was He (Isa. 63 : 3). Have we a bitter "cup" to drink? So had He. Oh! to be submissive to the Father's will *always*, so that under the most severe trials, we may be able from our hearts to say with God's servant of old, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him" (Job 13 : 15), and with Jesus, "The cup which My Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it?"

Trials are sent, 1st. *To exercise our patience* (Rom. 5 : 3). 2nd. *To purify us* (Mal. 3 : 3). 3rd. *To make us more fruitful* (John 15 : 2). 4th. *To make us partakers of His holiness* (Heb. 12 : 10). Blessed results! ARE THEY SEEN IN US?

THE Lord Jesus always finds service for willing hearts and willing hands: let us desire only that service for which He has fitted us.