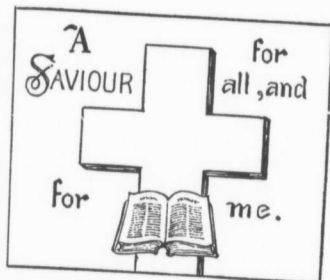


to the messengers, "Go, tell John the things you have seen and heard." They had seen the blind made to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, those with evil spirits set free from them, lepers made clean of their terrible disease, the dead made to live again, and, best of all, they found that the Gospel, or the good news from above, was preached to the poor, who had nothing to pay.

This is the best message for those who are not sure that Jesus is the very One we need.



You are messengers too. You know something about Jesus's wonderful works. Tell it out.

The Lord's message to us is: "See what I do, and believe me."

Sub-Primary Notes.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and forever." Heb. 13. 8.

Review the lessons for January 21 and February 4, in which we taught of the mission of John the Baptist and the first meeting between Jesus and John. The sand-map will help us in getting connections between lessons and in making more of a continuous story of John's life. We have already located Nazareth, where "the boy Jesus grew up." We now locate Hebron, John's early home.

When Zacharias was praying alone in the church what did the angel messenger promise? Facts for the class to recall: The angel Gabriel foretelling the birth, name, and work of John; John's wilderness life; John's message as herald of the Lord; the baptism of Jesus. Then we get further connections by recalling the time when John, standing with two of his disciples, saw Jesus, and told them to "behold the Lamb of God." John's disciples, hearing the voice of Jesus, followed him.

At the time of which our lesson speaks these two, with other disciples, are following Jesus as he goes about doing good.

At the time of which we study this was still John's message: "Be sorry for your sins. Get ready to meet the Lord Christ." John was not in the least afraid to reprove any who were doing wrong. It was this fearless way of giving his message to all that brought trouble upon him. Perhaps he would not call suffering for the sake of Christ "trouble." He still wore his dress made of skins of wild animals. He cared not for an easy life in a comfortable home. He must hurry on with his message, and carry it through the country to rich and poor alike. When people were quite wicked his warning was solemn and awful. When people longed for the Christ he gave them the sure promise. His warning was solemn and awful indeed as he talked to a wicked king, and quite startled and almost frightened this king, who was used to having his own wicked way unproved. John was shut up in prison for this plain speaking. The king was too much of a coward to hurt him yet.

We find the location for the prison on our map. Here is the Dead Sea [describing its peculiarities]. About seven miles back from the sea we make a high flat ridge where the fortress stood. John could not possibly escape from this huge stone building. Could the king well escape from thinking of John's message and reproof? Jesus was not far away. Word of his glorious work must have reached the king.

John longed for the freedom of his desert life and to be free to carry his message. He wondered what Jesus could be doing while he, John, lay idle all these weary months in prison.

The king had built himself a beautiful house near the prison. Here he was feasting and making merry in spite of warning. What was Jesus doing all this time? We review the miracle studied last Sunday as instances of his continuous work. John's disciples are allowed to visit him in prison. He questions them this way: What do you hear of Jesus? We hear little: we are a long way from where he is preaching. John is now quite discouraged from this long waiting. "Go and see if this Jesus really is the Christ. Ask him from me if he is the Lord, or if we must wait for another."

What did the disciples of John see as they went among the listening crowds? Let the