

which reveals Jesus' sympathy with men, however poor and despised they may be. **Confess**; declare that he is a loyal and faithful follower. **Before the angels**; the attendants of Jesus when He shall come again (see ch. 9 : 26). **He that denieth**; like Peter, ch. 22 : 34, 61. **Speak . . . against the Son of man . . . forgiven**; because this sin, great as it is, may arise from not understanding who Jesus really is. **Blasphemeth (speaketh evil) against the Holy Spirit (Rev. Ver.) . . . not be forgiven**; because the Holy Spirit speaks within through our own conscience, and to speak against Him is, therefore, to go contrary to conscience, deliberately choosing evil instead of good. So long as we do this, repentance, and therefore pardon, is impossible.

**IV. HELP PROMISED.—11, 12. They**; persecutors. **Before the synagogues (Rev. Ver.)**; the local courts held in the synagogues and presided over by the elders. **Rulers, and . . . authorities (Rev. Ver.)**; higher powers than the synagogue, such as the Sanhedrin, the chief Jewish council, the law courts of Herod and the Roman government. **Be not anxious (Rev. Ver.)**; but trust in God. **How or what**; "how" the manner, "what" the matter. **What ye shall say**; in defence. **The Holy Spirit shall teach you (Rev. Ver.)**; and therefore there will be no danger of sinning against the Holy Spirit by ill advised words. **In that very hour (Rev. Ver.)**; even while the trial is proceeding.

**JERUSALEM HOUSES**

A view from a house roof in JERUSALEM shows the houses so crowded together that one could not make out where the streets run between them. The streets, in fact, are only narrow, crooked lanes. Some of the houses have but a single story, some have a second story reached by an out-of-door stair case leading up from a walled courtyard. Some houses have flat roof spaces separated from the neighbor's premises by high boundary walls, giving a sort of upper room with sides, but no roof, of its own. In the walls there are sometimes peep holes, made of tubular tiles, for the women of the family to look through, without being seen.

**LESSON QUESTIONS**

1-3 What had brought the crowds about Jesus? To whom did He speak? Against what did He warn

them? Explain the word "hypocrite." Why is hypocrisy senseless? What is the doom of the hypocrite? (Matt. 24 : 51.)

4, 5 What did Jesus call His disciples? Why would they need courage? What was the worst that their enemies could do? Who was most to be feared? Why? Where is "the fear of the Lord" called "the beginning of wisdom?" (Ps. 111 : 10.)

6, 7 What two illustrations did Jesus give of God's minute care? Why should God's children not fear? Where does a psalmist say "I will not fear?" (Ps. 56 : 4.)

8-10 What is it to confess Christ? What is it for Him to confess us? Why can blasphemy against the Holy Ghost not be forgiven? Where do we read of a sin unto death? (1 John 5 : 16.)

11, 12 What courts are spoken of in vs. 11, 12? How were the disciples to be able to answer their accusers?

**FOR DISCUSSION**

1. "There is no fear in love," 1 John 4 : 18. Does v. 5 of the Lesson contradict this?
2. Does v. 10 limit God's willingness to forgive?

**A PRAYER**

O Thou in whom we live and move and have our being, we lift our hearts in praise to Thee, and ask Thee that Thou wilt enable us to live to the honor and praise of Thy holy name. May our lives draw others to Thee. May our faith be strong. May we be undiscouraged, eager for a blessing on others, zealous in Thy service, sure always that Thou wilt be true to Thy word through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Prove from Scripture—That faith conquers fear.**

**Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 85-87.**

**The Question on Missions—8.** What is done when there are not enough children for a Sunday School? In some places an Adult Bible Class is commenced, and this, along with the few children, forms a School. In other places a Home Department is started, and the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY is distributed to the homes to be studied there.

**Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise : 80 (Supplemental Lesson), 263, 261, 125 (Ps. Sel.), 526 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 264.**

**FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS**

1. Why did Jesus say that His disciples should not fear their foes? .....
2. What promise did Jesus make to those who confess Him? .....
3. Why can blasphemy against the Holy Spirit not be forgiven? .....

**SIGN NAME HERE** .....