

their teachings. The persecution was entirely instigated and maintained by the rulers. **Lest** . . . **stoned**. Stoning was the expression of the popular abhorrence especially against acts of treason or blasphemy. It was appointed in the law as a method of execution, because it was the act, not of an official, but of the people in a body.

27, 28. Set them before the council. This was the second appearance of Peter and John, but the first of the other apostles. **High-priest asked.** It was the office of the high-priest to examine prisoners. **Did not we straitly command you?** Rev. Ver., "We straitly charged you." Straitly means "strictly." We would rather expect the first question to be "How did you escape?" but indignation at their disobedience and their teaching of Christ was uppermost in the feelings of the priest and the rulers. **In this name.** In all their wrath they carefully avoid mentioning the name of Jesus. **Filled Jerusalem.** Not that all the people had become believers, but the fame of the Gospel had filled the city. **Your doctrine.** Rather, as in Rev. Ver., "Your teaching." **This man's blood upon us.** "You intend to hold us up before the people as answerable for the blood of Jesus." Yet, a few months before, they had said, "His blood be on us!" Matt. 27. 25. 7. Sin looks very different before the crime and after it.

29, 30. Peter and the other apostles. Peter as the leader answering for the rest. **We ought.** 8. Oh, the weight of that word "ought!" No stronger impulse than duty can control action. **Obey God rather than men.** The logic of the speech is: (1) We ought to obey God; (2) God has raised up Jesus, and (3) Made us witnesses of the fact; (4) We cannot, therefore, refuse to bear testimony. **Hanged on a tree.** The word signifies "wood," referring to the cross, and it is noticeably one used by Peter, both in his discourses and his epistles. 1 Pet. 2. 24.

31. God exalted. Jesus, lifted up from a cross to a kingdom. **With his right hand.** This may read, as in margin of Rev. Ver., "at his right hand," the place of honour and power. **To be a prince.** The word strictly means "chief, or leader, one who leads the way." 9. Where Jesus leads we may follow. **To give repentance.** Repentance comes through the Spirit which is given as the effect of Jesus' appearance. **Forgiveness.** Which is made possible through the shedding of Jesus' blood.

32. We are his witnesses. It was to testify to the "Christhood" of Jesus, to the facts of his resurrection, and to the truth of the Gospel, that the apostles were appointed. **Of these things.** Literally, "these sayings," that is, "these things which we have just spoken." **Holy Ghost.** The Spirit of God, writing his testimony on the hearts of disciples. **Given to them that obey him.** A promise implied that if the council themselves

will obey the voice of the Spirit they will have the same assurance as that enjoyed by the apostles.

GOLDEN TEXT.

We ought to obey God rather than men. Acts 5. 29.

OUTLINE.

1. In the Prison, v. 17, 18.
2. In the Temple, v. 19-26.
3. Before the Council, v. 26-32.

HOME READINGS.

- M.* Persecution renewed. Acts 5. 17-32.
Tu. Persecutions expected. 2 Tim. 3. 1-12.
W. Enduring persecution. 1 Pet. 4. 12-19.
Th. Persecution a blessing. Matt. 5. 3-16.
F. The affliction light. 2 Cor. 4. 6-18.
S. Patience in trouble. Psal. 37. 1-11.
S. Deliverance from trouble. Psal. 34. 1-16.

LESSON HYMNS.

Know, my soul, thy full salvation; 8, 7.
 Rise o'er sin, and fear, and care;
 Joy to find in every station
 Something still to do or bear.

Think what Spirit dwells within thee;
 What a Father's smile is thine;
 What a Saviour died to win thee;
 Child of heaven, shouldst thou repine?

No. 461, *New Hymn Book.* S. M.

Angels your march oppose,
 Who still in strength excel,
 Your secret, sworn, eternal foes,
 Countless, invisible;
 But shall believers fear?
 But shall believers fly?
 Or see the bloody cross appear,
 And all their powers defy?

Jesus' tremendous name
 Puts all our foes to flight;
 Jesus, the meek, the angry Lamb,
 A Lion is in fight.
 By all hell's host withstood,
 We all hell's host o'erthrow;
 And conquering them, through Jesus' blood,
 We still to conquer go.

No. 777, *New Hymn Book.* 7s & 6s.

Stand up! stand up for Jesus!
 Ye soldiers of the cross!
 Lift high his royal banner;
 It must not suffer loss;
 From victory unto victory
 His army will be lead,
 Till every foe is vanquished,
 And Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up! stand up for Jesus!
 The strife will not be long;
 This day the noise of battle,
 The next the victor's song.
 To him that overcometh
 A crown of life shall be;
 He with the King of glory
 Shall reign eternally.