

It was always the custom when any one was put to death in this way, to write in large white letters on a board, to be fastened to the top of his cross, the name of the wicked thing the man had done. Because Jesus had done no wrong, Pilate simply wrote above His cross, "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS." As Jesus hung dying upon Calvary, the people passed back and forth on their way to the Passover holiday at Jerusalem. No one paid any attention to the others, but many people stopped, when they saw what was written above the middle cross; and, wagging their heads, the people mocked at Jesus saying, "Save Thyself, and come down from the cross! Ah! Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days!" With them also joined the scribes and elders, saying, "He called Himself the King of Israel. Let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe. He saved others; Himself He cannot save." Even the two thieves mocked and reviled Him.

Suddenly, a strange thing happened. It was now noon, but thick blackness overspread the sky, so that there was darkness over everything for three hours. At the end of that time, Jesus called with a loud voice, saying, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Thinking He was calling for help, some one ran and filled a sponge with a kind of sour wine, and reached it up upon a reed to His lips. When Jesus had cried again, saying, "It is finished," He gave up His life; and immediately the great curtain in the temple was torn in two, from the top to the bottom.

Now, when the captain of the soldiers who kept guard beside the cross heard Jesus' words and saw how He gave up His life, He was astonished, and said, "There can be no doubt that this man was the Son of God."

Questions on the Lesson

1. What did Pilate give the Jews leave to do with Jesus? 2. Who only were punished in this way? 3. Where was Jesus taken to be crucified? 4. Near what city was Golgotha? 5. Who were crucified with Jesus? 6. What did the soldiers do with Jesus' clothes? 7. What words were written above

His cross? 8. What did the people who passed by say to Him? 9. Who, most of all, mocked and jeered at Jesus on the cross? 10. What happened at noon? 11. What were Jesus' last words? 12. What did the Roman captain say about Him?

Lesson Hymn

There is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.

—Hymn 46, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—98. For whose sake do we ask God to hear and answer our prayers? We ask God to hear and answer our prayers only for the sake of Jesus Christ, His Son. **99.** For whom should we pray besides ourselves? God's Word teaches us that we should pray for all men.

SHORTER CATECHISM—26. How doth Christ execute the office of a king? A. Christ executeth the office of a king in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Death on the cross was a very shameful death. It was only those thought to be the worst and wickedest who were put to death



in this way. But think of the bright crown and glorious throne which Jesus now enjoys! These He won by enduring the cross. We have our hard things to do. Let us learn from Jesus to do them bravely. If we do this, then there is a crown for us, too.

I Have Learned Today
THAT JESUS TAKES AWAY SIN