

Verse 31.

Here He lays down the Golden Rule. Do unto others as you would that they should do to you. What you're unwilling to receive be sure you never do.

What a happy world it would be if everyone obeyed this rule. Christ wants each one of us to obey it, and thus do what we can towards making the world happy.

25 Nov.

Opposition to Christ.

Les. Mark 3 : 22-35. Gol. Text John 1 : 11.
Mem. vs. 23-26. Catechism Q. 103.

Why should any one be opposed to Christ, who was all the time doing all he could to help people? For the same reason that some are opposed to him now, because they love some sin, and when people love any sin they must hate Christ.

One thing that made some of them hate Him was that He had driven the traders out of the temple a year before. Others said He did not teach truth regarding the Sabbath. He was friendly with publicans, and these Jewish rulers did not like that. His miracles and wonderful teaching led the multitudes to follow Him, and this made the rulers jealous and angry, and they were eager to find some means of putting Him to death.

Some scribes from Jerusalem hit upon a plan. They said, He is in partnership with Satan, the Prince of the Devils, and in that way gets power to cast out evil spirits. If they could only prove such a charge as that, He would be put to death.

Jesus showed that this could not be, because Satan is not so stupid as to give men power to destroy his kingdom, and if he were, his kingdom would soon go to pieces, and there would be no evil. The scribes must have been ashamed of their charge.

Then Jesus tells them what a wicked thing they have done, they have said that the things which He did by the power of the Holy Spirit were done by the evil one. They have thus blasphemed the Holy Spirit.

But the opposition was not all from His enemies. His friends could not understand Him. They thought that He was going crazy, and one day when He was preaching and healing, with a crowd of people around Him, they came to reason with Him.

But He could not turn from His work, even for them, and His answer is a very precious and helpful one to all of us, showing how near and dear to Him, are all who keep his commandments.

LESSONS.

1. If we oppose what is good, it is because we ourselves are not right.

2. We may know by our efforts to do His will whether we are His brethren.

3. What an honor and privilege to be brethren of Christ.

4. If we belong to the family of Christ, we will have the family likeness.

5. Let us seek to help rather than hinder work for Christ.

2 Dec.

Christ's Testimony to John.

Les. Luke 7 : 24-35.

Gol. Text Luke 7 : 27.

Mem. vs. 27, 28.

Catechism Q. 104.

Poor John, what a change for him! The previous summer he had been boldly preaching to the multitudes that came to him: now he had been for some months shut up in a lonely dungeon cell, because he had spoken against the sin that was going on in Herod's palace.

Some of his friends came and told him of the wonderful works that Jesus was doing and as he sat there lonely and discouraged, he began to think that Jesus had forgotten him, and that if He were really the great Messiah, He would not leave an old friend so long in prison.

At length he got two of his friends to go and ask Jesus if He were really the one who was looked for. When they came they found Him busy teaching and working miracles, and when they gave their message Jesus just said to them; go back and tell John what you have seen and heard, the blind getting their sight, the lame walking, the lepers being healed, and the poor having the Gospel preached to them. John would know that none but the Messiah could do these things, He also told them to tell John to wait and trust, not to lose heart or faith because Christ had not set him free.

Then the friends went away with their message to John, and Jesus began to tell the people what a grand man John had been.

Some of the rulers did not like this, and Jesus had to tell them that they were very silly, acting like very little children instead of men; for John the Baptist lived a very lonely life and they found fault with him, and Jesus lived a social life and they found fault with Him.

LESSONS.

1. Troubles may come to good people as they did to John.

2. God does not forget His children in their trouble.

3. We should trust Him whatever may happen.

4. Both John and Jesus, after a short ministry, were put to death but their work lives.

5. The workers may be taken away but God will carry on the work.