

the soldiers, the thief by His side. (b) His fortitude, refusing to take the stupefying draught, and no reproach for His enemies. (c) His absolute confidence in God. Set forth this in such a summary as, "Better than any other it sets forth the real glory of heavenly-minded self-sacrifice. Jesus was never so deeply impressed upon the world as by His voluntary exaltation on the cross. Its humiliation became a badge of honor. The way of the cross He bequeathed to His disciples as the way of true service." The practical lesson is to accept the benefit of His death and then live in His spirit.

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

What incidents occurred on the way to Calvary? (See Matt. 27:32; Luke 23:27, 28.) Tell the legend of the wandering Jew who refused to allow Jesus to rest at his door, and who was doomed to wander up and down the earth till our Lord's return. The following may serve as an outline of the Lesson:

1. *The Cross*, vs. 22-28. Question the class about the place of crucifixion, the "green hill far away,"—the two names which it has in the Gospels, the reason why Jesus refused to take the wine mingled with myrrh in order that He might face death in possession of all His faculties, the superscription over the cross, the other crosses. Refer to the picture of the crucifixion by an American artist, in which the middle cross is bright with heavenly light which relieves somewhat the gloom of one of the other crosses. Here we have the light of the world, for without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. Make clear that the cross is a symbol of light and life and love as well as a symbol of suffering and death and hatred. Bring out that sin made it necessary for Jesus to suffer in this awful way to atone for sin, to manifest the love of God to the world.

2. *The Crowd*, vs. 24, 29-32. Point out that: (a) some were indifferent (v. 24),—they gambled near the cross while Jesus died; (b) some mocked, vs. 29-32. Who were they and what had they to say? Their bitter hatred makes their mocking demonish. One of our Canadian poets has pictured a laughing demon. We have here some evidence that

such may exist. (c) One at least was impressed with a feeling of wonder and awe, v. 39. (d) Some were profoundly sympathetic (see John 19:25, 26). What impression does the cross make upon us? Does it touch the deepest places of our nature and draw us by the cords of love?

3. *The Cry*, vs. 33-37. What was this loud cry of desolation? What did it mean?

"We may not know, we cannot tell

What pains He had to bear;

But we believe it was for us

He hung and suffered there."

How did some of the bystanders interpret this cry? What other words did Jesus speak on the cross? (See Luke 23:34, 43, 46; and John 19:26, 28, 30.)

In studying the crucifixion lead the scholars to see that they have a personal interest in what Jesus endured, and help them to say:

"Love so amazing, so divine,

Demands my soul, my life, my all."

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Refer to *Light from the East* and to the *Geography Lesson* for details in regard to the place where the crucifixion took place. Then discuss the Lesson under these heads:

1. *The Crucifixion of Jesus*, vs. 22-28. What was offered to Jesus in order that His mind might be dulled to the pain? There is said to have been a society of women in Jerusalem who provided wine and myrrh for dying criminals. Jesus did not accept the wine. Why? For one thing, He had still certain things to do which required His attention. This may be a good point at which to remind the scholars of the "words from the cross," only one of which is recorded in our Lesson, v. 34. The others are to be found in Luke 23:34, 43; John 19:26, 27, 28, 30; Luke 23:46. Point out the thoughtfulness for others, and the triumphing faith in God which are evident in these last words of the dying Saviour. Ask what the soldiers did after they had crucified Christ. Are we ever careless about the fact that Christ died for our salvation? What words were affixed above the cross? They were probably put there in sarcasm, but they really told the truth. Who were crucified along with Jesus? Speak of the penitent thief. Some one has said that we are told