

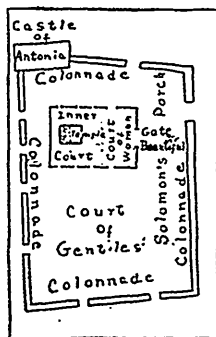
bones, but, who can save the souls of men, their own, as well as others? If they continue to reject Jesus, there is no salvation for them.

II. THE RULER'S THREAT.—13-18. The Council, unable to find anything worthy of punishment in the apostles, decided to let them go, forbidding them with threats, to speak any more in the name of Jesus.

III. THE APOSTLES' ANSWER.—19, 20. Whether it be right. This, and not the word of the Sanhedrin, was the supreme rule. In the sight of God; whose judgment is true and must be followed. We cannot but speak... seen and heard. Says Augustine, "It is the way of lovers, to be unable to conceal their love". Those who love Jesus, must tell others of Him.

Peter and John return to the meeting place of the believers, and report all that has happened to them. The whole company unite in prayer for courage to go on witness-bearing, for new manifestations of God's power and grace, and for His help in their preaching. In answer to the prayer, the place where they were met was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and "spoke the word of God with boldness", terrified, not the least, of their foes. (See vs. 21-31.)

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



THE HALL OF HEWN STONE was the chamber on the southern side of the inner court of the temple, in which the Sanhedrin, or great Jewish Council held its meetings. At its meetings the ordinary members sat in a semicircle, in order that they might see one another. The president sat in the centre, and accused persons stood facing the president. Two, or perhaps three, secretaries kept a record of the proceedings.

The number of members was 70 or 71. Various qualifications of members of the Sanhedrin are given by the Rabbis. One says they must be good scholars, modest and popular; another, that they must be strong and courageous; and a third, that they must be tall, of imposing appearance, of advanced age, and acquainted with foreign languages.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What charge did the Sanhedrin seek to bring home to Peter and John ?
2. How was Peter freed from fear and endowed with wisdom ?
3. What was the Sanhedrin's prohibition, and the apostles' reply ?

LESSON QUESTIONS

How did the Jewish authorities treat Peter and John? To what number were the disciples now increased?

5-7 Of what three classes was the Sanhedrin composed? Where did they meet? How were they seated? Where did accused persons stand? What question was asked of Peter and John? What charge did the Sanhedrin thus seek to bring against them? What Psalm speaks of rulers taking counsel against the Lord? (Ps. 2:2.)

8-12 How was Peter qualified to answer his judges? What promise of Jesus was thus fulfilled? How does Peter address the Sanhedrin? Where does he teach submission to rulers? (1 Pet. 2:17.) To whose power does he ascribe the healing of the lame man? What Old Testament passage does he apply to Jesus? How had the Jews treated Him? Upon whom is the church founded? By whom alone can we be saved?

13-20 What did the Sanhedrin forbid the apostles to do? What was their reply?

Whither did Peter and John return when let go? What took place there?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Jesus, the only Saviour.
2. When are rulers to be obeyed; and when not?

A LESSON FOR LIFE

In the construction of the famous Simplon tunnel, twelve miles long, through the Alps, for five years two little armies of men bored their way, the one from the Italian, the other from the Swiss side; and then, one day, so exact were the calculations and plans of the engineers, the two companies of workers met, and the mountain was pierced through. God's will for us is a straight road. Walking in it, we can never lose ourselves or miss the blessed goal to which it leads.

Prove from Scripture—*That the Holy Spirit gives strength.*

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 1-4.

The Question on Missions—5. Describe a mission outdoor dispensary. Outside is a large crowd of sick people. Some have come long distances on wheelbarrows, some in carts. Inside the large dispensary room, the doctor and his assistants are busy washing, dressing and bandaging wounds and giving medicines.