

Lesson VII.

THE APOSTLES IMPRISONED

February, 14, 1909

Acts 5 : 17-32. Study Acts 5 : 17-32--Memory Verses, 19, 20.

Golden Text—Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake : for their's is the kingdom of heaven.—Matt. 5 : 10.



17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sad'ducees,) and were filled with indignation,

18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.

19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

21 And when they heard that they entered into the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Is'rael, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

22 But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told,

23 Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors : but when he had opened, we found no man within.

24 Now when the high priest and the cap-

tain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.

25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.

26 Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence : for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned. 27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council : and the high priest asked them, 28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name ? and, behold, ye have filled Jeru'salem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 29 Then Pe'ter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Je'sus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Is'rael, and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are his witnesses of these things ; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

THE LESSON RETOLD

God had given to Peter and the other apostles such wonderful power in working miracles, that great multitudes of sick people came from all over the country round about, to be healed.

The high priest and the Sadducees were very angry, when they heard this, and they put the apostles in prison. But in the night, the angel of the Lord came down from heaven and opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go up now to the temple, and preach the gospel to the people". And the apostles did as the angel commanded, going up early to the temple

and preaching there.

But the high priest and the Sadducees, not knowing that the angel had set the prisoners free, called the rulers together, and sent to the prison to have the apostles brought. But when the officers went to the prison, they could not find them ; so they came back to the rulers, saying, "We found the prison still tight shut, and the guards keeping watch before the doors, but the men for whom you sent us were not there".

The rulers wondered what this strange news could mean. But while they wondered, there came a messenger, who said,