

## LESSON II.—April 10th, 1898.

### SUFFERINGS OF JESUS FORETOLD. Matt. 16 : 21-28.

*Read Matt. 16 : 1-28. Commit vs. 24-26.*

21 From that time began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up.

22 And Peter took him, and began to rebuke Him saying, Be it far from thee, Lord : this shall never be unto thee.

23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan : thou art a stumblingblock unto me ; for thou mindest not the things of God, but the things of men.

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

25 For whosoever would save his life shall lose it : and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it.

26 For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?

27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels ; and then shall he render unto every man according to his deeds.

28 Verily I say unto you, There be some of them that stand here, which shall in no wise taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

### HELPS TO GET THE LESSON.

Jesus had asked his disciples what people were saying about him, and what they themselves thought of him. Peter had said—verse 16—“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus knows that they think he is to reign as an earthly king, and he does not wish them to follow him with false hopes of earthly gain, so he tells them that instead of sitting on an earthly throne, he is to be put to death. The lesson tells how he told them this truth and what they said about it.

**21. From that time.**—The time when Peter spoke, verse 16. **Must**—Jesus was not forced to die by any one else, but only by his own wish to save mankind. **Be killed.**—What a blow this would be to the hopes of any of the disciples who thought he was to be a great earthly king.

**22. Took him.**—Led him away by himself to give him advice. **Began.** Jesus did not allow him to continue.

**23. He turned.** Jesus turned away because he so hated what Peter was saying. It was like Satan tempting him to turn away from duty. Matt. 4 : 8, 9. **Saviour** est fast in mind.

**24. Deny himself.**—Jesus tells in this verse that not only must he suffer, even die, when it was his duty, but that all who would follow him must be ready to do their duty, no matter whether it is pleasing or not. Taking up a cross means doing what we think right, no matter how much it may cross our wishes.

**25. Will save his life.**—This is the opposite of denying self and taking up the cross. It means that if anyone just lives to please self “have a good time,” that he will miss the true end of this life and be unhappy forever. It means, too, that if anyone lives to do what good he can and to please God, he will live a true life and be happy both in this life and the next. The way to make the best of life is to give it up to Christ, and to live it for him.

Oh happy is the man who hears  
Instruction's warning voice,  
And who celestial wisdom makes  
His early, only, choice.

According as her labors rise;  
So her rewards increase;  
Her ways are ways of pleasantness  
And all her paths are peace.

**26. What shall it profit**—This explains the previous verse and shows what a bad bargain one makes who lives just for self. Jesus asks how much clear profit a man will have if he gain the world, with all its honor and wealth, and lose his soul. It is plain that there would be no gain, but only loss, because at death he would lose the world which he had gained, and his own soul also. Jesus also asks what a man could pay to get back his lost soul, and implies that no price would be large enough.

**27. Reward every man.**—Read the three last verses together. Vs. 25 tells that if one lives just to please self he will miss the best of life in every way. Verse 26 shows how this is, that if one lives to please self in this life he will miss life eternal. Verse 27 tells how all this is, because Christ rewards each one according to his life here. A time is coming when Jesus himself is to return to earth in glory to look into and reward the deeds of men.

**28. Shall not taste of death.**—They had been looking for a kingdom, and were sorry when they learned that he was not to be a king, but was to be put to death ; so he tells them that he will come in his kingdom, and that in some sense or another some of the people then hearing him would live to see him as king over men's lives. Many suppose that this promise was fulfilled in the day referred to in Acts 2, when so many were led to believe in Jesus as a Saviour. His Kingdom is in hearts that submit to His sway, and His coming in His Kingdom was very manifest on that occasion.