

little from the ground, so that the sufferer could easily speak to those around him. He realized that his mother would now be left more than ever alone, as her husband was dead, and her younger sons were not then believers in Jesus. **The disciple . . . whom he loved.** The fact that John stood in this relation to Jesus was one reason why Mary was committed to his charge. Another reason was that he was probably her nephew, the son of her sister, **Woman.** Not spoken with any lack of love, as the term was customary as a form of address. **Behold thy son.** This was his **third word** from the cross, accompanied probably with a look toward John as if commending her to his care. *(5) Honor to parents is thus sanctioned by the dying Saviour.*

27. Behold thy mother. "Their sympathy in their common loss is to be their bond of love for one another."—*Wheaton.* Took her unto his own home. From the facts that John was acquainted with the high-priest, and that he relates in detail the Judean ministry of Jesus, it has been inferred that he had a home in Jerusalem. Long afterward John took the mother of Jesus to Ephesus, in Asia Minor, according to tradition.

28. After this. Next in order, about noon, came the darkness over the land, and the **fourth word** from the cross, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" the first verse of **Ps. 22.** Some think that he was about to repeat the entire psalm, which refers to the sufferings of the Messiah, but paused from lack of

physical strength. **Knowing that all things.** He had the full consciousness that his work was completed, the prophetic words were fulfilled, and that he had now only to surrender his spirit to God the Father. **That the Scripture might be fulfilled.** Not necessarily that he recalled the Scripture and thought of a prophecy yet to be fulfilled; but that in his words and the event which followed them the Scriptures were fulfilled. **I thirst.** The **fifth word** from the cross. He knew that the end was approaching, and required strength to utter his last cry.

29. A vessel full of vinegar. The sour wine used by the common people as a refreshing beverage. **Put it upon hyssop.** A reed-like plant, on the stalk of which the sponge was fastened. **Put it to his mouth.** He was elevated but little above the people around him, so that this was not difficult.

30. It is finished. The **sixth word** from the cross; meaning that the work which he had come to do was now complete. Unless we understand this to refer to his work as a Redeemer, it is difficult to understand how a young man, dying at thirty-three years of age, under circumstances of apparent failure, could utter such words as these. Immediately afterward came the **seventh and last word** from the cross, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit!" **Gave up the ghost.** He surrendered up his life, not as one conquered, but as a conqueror, laying it down of his own accord.

HOME READINGS.

- M.* Jesus crucified. John 19. 17-30.
Tu. Jesus buried. John 19. 31-42.
W. Jesus bearing his cross. Mark 15. 21-38.
Th. The disciples' duty. Luke 9. 23-27.
F. The sacrifice for sinners. Heb. 9. 19-28.
S. Christ's garments parted. Ps. 22. 8-19.
S. The Scripture fulfilled. Ps. 69. 13-21.

GOLDEN TEXT.

It is finished. John 19. 30.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 173, Dominion Hymnal.

Behold the Saviour of mankind
 Nailed to the shameful tree!

No. 265, Dominion Hymnal.

Oh, now I see the crimson wave,
 The fountain deep and wide;
 Jesus, my Lord, mighty to save,
 Points to his wounded side.

No. 174, Dominion Hymnal.

When I survey the wondrous cross
 On which the Prince of Glory died.

TIME.—Friday morning.

PLACE.—Jerusalem; Calvary.

RULES.—Same as before.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The way of salvation.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

- 1. The Cross, v. 17-22.**
 Who crucified Jesus?
 What two things show this to be true? one in ver. 18, and one in ver. 19.
 Why did Pilate put up such a writing upon the cross?
 What interest have we in the "two" mentioned in ver. 18?
 Why were three languages used in the inscription on the cross?
 Can you give a reason for the request of ver. 21?
- 2. The Soldiers, v. 23, 24.**
 What light does the scene at the cross throw upon the character of Roman soldiers?
 What was the "coat" for which they cast lots?
 What Scripture was fulfilled by the soldiers' act?
 How many soldiers composed the band that crucified Christ? v. 2, 3, and Luke 23. 47.
 What testimony did their commander give to the character of Jesus? Matt. 27. 54.
- 3. The Friends, v. 25-27.**
 Who were present at the cross besides the soldiers?

What exhibition of love does Jesus make in this awful hour?

- How many watchers at the cross were women?
 Was there only one disciple "whom he loved"?
 Why does John speak thus of himself?
 What is the test of true friendship?

4. The End, v. 28-30.

What things were accomplished of which Jesus knew?
 Read the Scripture that was fulfilled by ver. 29.
 What is meant by vinegar?
 What was the last utterance of Jesus upon the cross?
 What are the seven things which Jesus said upon the cross? Matt. 27. 46; Luke 23. 34, 43, 46; John 19. 26, 28, 30.
 What was finished?

Practical Teachings.

1. Jesus has borne the cross before us: and why should we expect to escape it?
2. Where in this lesson can we find a picture of wonderful love?
3. Only one disciple out of twelve. When Jesus is now attacked and reviled by the world, when it costs something to be his friends, how many of us will be by his cross?
4. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

- 1. The Cross, v. 17-22.**
 What burden did Jesus bear?
 Whither was he led?
 What was then done to Jesus?
 Who suffered at the same time?
 What was the written testimony of Pilate?
 In what languages was it written?
 What change did the Jews desire?
 What was Pilate's answer?
- 2. The Soldiers, v. 23, 24.**
 Who took the garments of Jesus?
 What division did they make?
 How was the coat made?
 What proposal was made concerning it?
 What prophecy was thus fulfilled? Ps. 22. 18.
- 3. The Friends, v. 25-27.**
 What friends of Jesus stood by him?
 To whose care did Jesus commend his mother?
 How was this charge kept?
- 4. The End, v. 28-30.**
 What was the cry of Jesus?
 Who foretold this thirst? Ps. 69. 21.
 How was this cry answered?
 What were the last words of Jesus?
 What is said of the manner of his death?
 What did he say of himself? John 10. 17, 18.