

How all look up and strain their ears to catch every word!

"Which is the first commandment of all?" asks Joseph.

"Ah, he has the man there!" says Joab to Obadiah. "Hard to tell which is the first sometimes!"

Obadiah leers and rubs his hands. He is pleased. He thinks highly of those commandments, but he does not think much of keeping them. They are very good for the Romans.

The crowd is keenly interested to catch the great Prophet's reply. Does he hesitate? Does he misstate? Clear, prompt, conclusive are his words. To love God—that is the commandment leading off.

The friends of Jesus are pleased. Joab scowls.

"He answers too quick, Obadiah."

"Yes, he does not think long enough," mutters Obadiah.

Joseph smiles to catch the quick, apt reply of the Lord.

But hark! He is about to give the second commandment.

Obadiah hopes it is that against profanity. He is never profane, but his neighbors he slanders, crowds, cheats.

Listen, Obadiah!

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Joab looks as if a Roman javelin had been sent at him, while Obadiah acts as if it had gone through him. But Joseph, fair, honorable, answers, "Thou hast said the truth."

"Too much, concedes too much!" growls Obadiah.

Joab growls also.

The Lord must have noticed the grumblers, but he has words only for Joseph.

Clear as a bell, straight as an arrow, swift as a bird of flight, goes the voice of the Saviour to the profoundest depths of the soul of Joseph:

"Thou art not far from the kingdom of God."

Joseph goes away, his soul all a-flutter with the longing and aspirations of one who stands at the gate of the fair kingdom of God.

"Will Joseph follow that man?" Joab asks of Obadiah. "We had better not puzzle him with any more questions, if that is the result of them."

"No, no!" cries Obadiah. "I don't like his doctrine. Love a Roman, the idea! We will stop him another way."

Yes, stop him with the Roman's cross.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. "God is Love."

Recall the parable Jesus spoke in the temple. To whom did he speak it? Who owns the vineyard? Who takes care of it? What ought to be found in a vineyard? What is a child's vineyard? What kind of fruit ought to grow in our vineyards? Who can make us bring forth good fruit?

Show picture of a scribe, or Pharisee. Tell that these men asked questions of Jesus, hoping he would say something to make the people angry with him. There were many listening when the scribe asked, "Which is the first commandment of all?" By this he meant, "Which is the greatest, or most important?" The Jews thought some of the commandments more important than others. Some said the one about the Sabbath was the greatest; others, the one against idolatry, and so on. The scribe thought that Jesus would tell which one he thought was greatest, and then all who did not

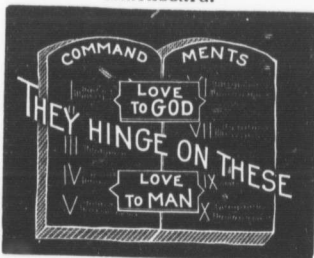
agree with him would be angry with him. Make the stone tables on the board, number the commandments, and take this opportunity for a drill. As they are recited, put down two or three catch-words in each, enough to suggest the text to those who are not very familiar with it. Over the whole print in very large, faint letters the word "LOVE." Tell that this is the answer Jesus gave to the scribe. It is his answer to us if we ask how we can keep the Ten Commandments.



Print above the first table, "Love to God;" above the second, "Love to man." Teach that only love to God can make us love our neighbor. Tell the story of the man who was robbed and left half-dead on the way to Jericho. Tell how the different ones who came by treated him. Ask which one showed love to God? How did he show it? The priest who went by and left the poor man to suffer thought he loved God. How do we know he did not?

Teach that only love in our hearts can make us keep God's law. God is love, and he has sent Jesus to live in us. Will we let him come in? If we do we shall love God first of all and above all. Then we shall love all the people, even the unlovely people, and such love is "the fulfilling [or keeping] of the law."

Blackboard.



EXPLANATION. The drawing on the blackboard represents the two tablets of stone, with the commandments inscribed thereon, joined together with two hinges, the upper hinge being love to God, and the lower hinge love to man. The divine law hinges on these two great commandments. The upper one is the sum of the first table of the law, and the lower one is the sum of the second table of the law. The two go together; each one is incomplete without the other.

DIRECTIONS. Draw the tables with light brown or gray chalk; the hinges with white; the words on the hinges with bright yellow, so as to make them plain, and the large sentence in red.

Herean Methods.

The Teachers' Meeting.

As this lesson relates the last of Christ's teaching in the temple, glance at the events and teachings given on that day as described in the chapters preceding.... Outline of the lesson: 1.) The scribe's question; 2.) The Saviour's answer; 3.) The scribe's reply.... True Religion: 1.) Its source—God; 2.) Its inspiration—love; 3.) Its power—the heart; 4.) Its relation—