

Martha do not know what to do. "Oh, if Jesus were only here!" they say to each other in the sadness of their hearts.

Review—Jesus had gone away up to Galilee (map), after telling the Pharisees the Parable of the Good Shepherd (recall). Then, for the last time in His life, Jesus said good-by to His friends around Galilee, where He spent so many happy days teaching and healing, and away He goes back toward Jerusalem, passing through Perea, east of the river Jordan. When He had come to Jerusalem, He preached in the temple, and the Pharisees were angry because He said He was equal with God—God's Son—and they tried to stone Him; but Jesus went back again to Perea.

A Sad Message—While He was here, a message comes from Mary and Martha (unfold a letter from an envelope), "Lord, behold, he whom Thou lovest is sick". How would Jesus feel when He received this message? Will He go at once?

Friendship Tried—The sisters know that Jesus will come to them. They wait and watch for Jesus all day, and next day, and next; and He does not come; and Lazarus died and was buried in a tomb with a big stone before the door (outline).

What a Friend We Have in Jesus—Poor

Martha and Mary were so sad. Many friends came to comfort them, but their best Friend had not yet come. Ah! now some one brings the news that Jesus is coming! Martha ran out to meet Him away along the road, but Mary sat still in the house. Tell the conversation between Jesus and Martha, vs. 21-27. Martha ran back and told Mary, "The Master is come, and calleth for thee", and Mary went out quickly to meet Him. Tell the rest of the story.

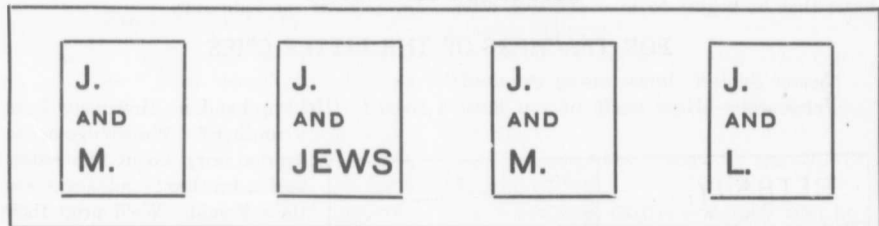
Jesus Wept—Print, JESUS WEPT. Jesus feels all our sorrows, and is full of love and sympathy for us.

Lazarus Lives—Picture Jesus going to the cave, praying, and calling, "Lazarus, come forth"; and picture Lazarus walking alive out of the tomb! Now we know why Jesus did not come at once! He wanted to let Lazarus die, so that He could make him live again, and by His doing this many would believe that Jesus was the Son of God. The leaders of the Pharisees made up their minds to put Jesus to death. Why?

Golden Text—Print and repeat. "I am the Resurrection, and the Life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live":

Something to Think About—I should not fear death.

FROM THE PLATFORM



Draw four squares, each to stand for a picture to be found in the Lesson. There is one Person who appears in all the pictures—Jesus (Print J. in all the squares). In the first picture a woman has thrown herself weeping at His feet. The scholars will readily tell who this is,—Mary (Print AND M.). Bring out, by questions, the cause of her grief, and how it was she came to meet Jesus. The next picture shows us Jesus surrounded by a group of men, who are asking a question about Him. Who are the men and what is their question? Print AND JEWS. Who is the woman in the third picture? She is trying to prevent a great stone being taken away from the mouth of a grave. Question about this scene, and print, AND M. (for Martha). We see the last picture Jesus AND L. (Print), whom Jesus has called from the grave. Dwell a moment on Jesus' power over death, and the certainty that no one who believes in Him can die forever.