



LESSON II.—April 10.

The Resurrection of Jesus.

Mark xvi., 1-8.—Memory verses 6, 7. Read the whole chapter.

Golden Text.

'Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept.—I. Cor. xv., 20.

Home Readings.

- M. Matt. xvi., 1-20.—'Who say ye that I am?'
- T. Matt. xvi., 21-28.—Sufferings of Jesus foretold.
- W. Isa. liii. 1-2.—'He was wounded for our transgressions.'
- T. John x., 7-21.—'I lay down my life for the sheep.'
- F. II. Cor. v., 1-21.—'He was made sin for us.'
- S. Mark viii., 27-38.—'And after three days rise again.'
- S. I. Cor. xv., 1-20.—'He rose again the third day.'

Lesson Story.

The disciples of Jesus Christ were plunged in deepest gloom. He whom they had acknowledged as the Son of God, he whom they had followed as their King, he on whom they had fastened their highest hopes, was dead. They had seen him crucified and laid in the cold dark tomb. Where now were all their hopes and expectations? What was there now left for them to live for?

He had told them that he must be mocked and scourged and crucified, but that he would rise again the third day. (Matt. xx., 17-19; Mark viii., 31; ix., 31; Matt. xii., 40.) But it was difficult for them to believe, they saw the cross and the death and the tomb, but they could see no further.

Three days and three nights the body of our Lord lay in the tomb, but early in the morning of the first day of the week, that first glorious Easter morning, the three women who came to the tomb found that their Lord was risen.

Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome took sweet spices and set out at earliest dawning for the sepulchre. As they went they questioned among themselves who should roll away the stone for them from the door of the sepulchre. But as they came within sight of it they saw that the stone had already been rolled away. Hurrying forward they entered the sepulchre and there at one side they saw an angel, a young man clothed in a long white garment. The sight filled them with fear, but the angel said unto them, 'Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified; he is risen; he is not here; behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him as he said unto you.'

The women trembled and were much amazed, and hastily leaving the sepulchre ran back to tell the disciples the glad news, not speaking to anyone by the way.

Lesson Hymn.

Jesus lives! no longer now
Can thy terrors, Death, appal me;
Jesus lives! by this I know
From the grave he will recall me.
Hallelujah!

Jesus lives! to him the Throne
High o'er heaven and earth is given;
I may go where he is gone,
Live and reign with him in heaven.
Hallelujah!

Jesus lives! for me he died;
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to him and glory giving.
Hallelujah!

Jesus lives! my heart knows well
Naught from me his love shall sever;
Life nor Death, nor powers of hell,
Part me now from Christ forever.
Hallelujah!

Jesus lives! henceforth is death
Entrance gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath,
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Hallelujah! Amen.

—Gellert.

Lesson Hints.

'Who shall roll us away the stone?'—they had seen the huge rock rolled to the opening of the sepulchre by three or four men, and knew that they themselves had not power to move it. If they had known that the Jews had had the stone sealed and guarded, they surely would have thought their undertaking impossible before reaching the place. But like a great many of the things we question and fret about beforehand, this was a difficulty which they never had to meet.

'The stone was rolled away.' Their path was clear. And so shall we find our path clear as we go boldly forward in the way God marks out for us.

'A young man,' 'the angel of the Lord.' . . . His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.' (Matt. xxviii., 2-4.)

'Be not affrighted,' or 'amazed.' A message of peace and love. There was no reason for the disciples to be amazed that Christ had fulfilled his word to them and risen from the dead.

'Was crucified'—that is all over now, forevermore. He is your Risen Lord. Jesus lives!

'He is not here.' He is the God of the living, not of the dead. Life cannot abide in the tomb.

'Behold the place'—it is empty. The Lord of life has conquered death and burst its bonds asunder. 'Tell his disciples'—those sorrowing, wondering ones, tell them that the Lord of life keeps his word. His promises must be fulfilled.

'And Peter'—poor Peter, plunged in remorse and despair. He had denied his Lord and felt as though he might never be counted again as one of his disciples. If the message had been simply to the disciples, Peter might not have dared to go and face his risen Master. But that tender message of love made him once more a man among men. He could not feel himself an outcast, since Jesus had so specially and lovingly remembered him. Those who fall have a loving friend in Jesus.

'He goeth before you'—in every trial, in every discouragement, in every weariness Jesus has gone before us. He goes before to show us the way and to lead us on to the glory above. (John x., 4: xiv., 2-4.) He has gone further into the darkness of agony and suffering than we can ever go. 'He went a little farther.' (Matt. xxvi., 39.) 'Galilee'—where they had worked together so long. 'There shall ye see him.' He was seen of all the disciples and over five hundred brethren at once. (I. Cor. xv., 5-8.)

Primary Lesson.

Jesus lives!

We have been learning how our Lord Jesus Christ lived and worked on earth long ago. How he came into the world as a little baby, nineteen hundred years ago, and lived till he grew up to be a man and went round helping everyone and telling them of God's love.

At last the cruel people killed him and laid him in a tomb. They thought he was just a man and that that would be the end. But Jesus is not only a perfect man, he is the perfect Son of God. Death has no power over the Lord of life. For three days and three nights his body lay cold and lifeless in the dark, lonely tomb.

But, very early in the morning on the first day of the week the tomb was empty. Jesus, the Lord of life, had risen from the dead to show to all the world that death had no power over him, and that all who love and obey him will in the last day rise again from the grave just as our Lord did.

Our souls cannot die. Our bodies die and are put in the grave, but our souls live on forever.

To those who love Jesus and trust in his righteousness, death is just like moving from one room to another. We leave this life and step into the heavenly life where we shall see our Lord Jesus face to face, and know more than ever about his love and care for us.

Jesus lives, and if we trust in his love and

forgiveness, we shall live forever with him in heaven.

Suggested Hymns.

'The Day of Resurrection,' 'Christ the Lord is risen to-day,' 'Christ is risen,' 'There is a green hill,' 'Low in the grave he lay,' 'Praise Him!' 'Happy Easter time,' 'Angels, Awake,' 'Hallelujah to the Lord.'

Practical Points.

April 10th.—Matt. xvi., 21-28.

In regard to our future sufferings, ignorance is bliss. But Jesus knew all He had to suffer, and the cross cast its shadow over his mind years before his crucifixion. (Verse 21.)

The half-hearted Christian shrinks from cross-bearing. (Verse 22.)

But Jesus rebukes selfishness by example and precept. (Verse 23, Matt. viii., 20.)

Self-denial is inseparable from Christianity. (Verse 24.)

What the world counts gain is reckoned loss by the Christian, and in some cases the salvation of the body means the destruction of the soul. (Verse 25, Acts xxiv., 25.)

In verse 26 we have a question that is easier asked than answered. The quality of our life is regulated by our ideals and aspirations as well as the estimate we set upon the soul. (Job ii., 4.)

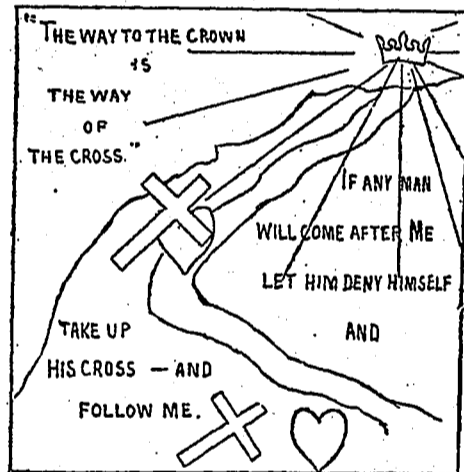
Christ's second coming should be the inspiration of his people, and specially of those who are entirely consecrated to his service. (Verse 27.)

As many as are born of God have seen Jesus with the eye of faith, and his kingdom is not of this world. (Verse 28.)

The Lesson Illustrated.

Jesus had just brought his disciples up to the knowledge of his Messiahship, now he begins to unfold to them the fact that he must suffer, that the Messiah's crown will be upon the Messiah's cross.

Peter is scandalized at such a thought and wants the Master to take the Crown without the Cross. Our Lord rebukes him and lays



down the law for all his servants that those who would follow him to the heavenly land must bear the cross. 'No cross—no crown,' and 'The way to the crown is the way of the cross,' as the old saints have said. So our picture shows the Master bearing his cross up a rugged pathway to the crown shining beyond. Another heart down below has not yet taken up its cross, and so is not yet on the way to the crown.

Cut the two hearts, two crosses and crown from paper, gilding the crown if possible. A few strokes of chalk will give you the hill and the path.

Christian Endeavor Topics.

April 10.—Conquering the fear of death.—John viii., 51-54; Phil. i., 21-26.

The souls we have won for Jesus will one day be our crown. The apostle told his Thessalonian converts that they would be his joy and crown in that day. It is as though the hand of Jesus will weave into a crown those whom we have won for him. But who of us will dare to wear it? As Baxter said, we shall have a new heaven in each one that we have brought to heaven; but we shall turn to our Lord, and casting our crowns at his feet, cry, 'Not unto us, not unto us, but unto thy name be all the glory forevermore.'—Rev. F. B. Meyer.