

Sabbath School Lessons.

December 25th, 1864.

WE WOULD SEE JESUS.

John xii. 20-36.

Those who made the request. These were not Greek Jews—Jews speaking Greek—as some have supposed, though there were many such. But these were Gentiles who were accustomed to worship not only their own gods, but the gods of the city or region into which they had come. They also brought offerings to Jerusalem, and frequently attended the great feasts of the Jews. Hence, there was in the temple the court of the Gentiles, so called by appointment of Solomon, 1 Kings viii. 41.

Of whom the request was made. It was of Philip. Why they came to Philip is not stated. It may have been because they knew he was from Galilee. These Galileans had heard of Christ, and perhaps had seen something of His triumphal entry at Jerusalem, and were led by curiosity, as Zaccheus, or by desire to learn something more of Him, to make this inquiry.

How their request was treated. Philip told Andrew, and they both told Jesus. It is not said whether the Greeks were admitted to converse with Jesus, but it seems probable that these words were spoken to Philip and Andrew in reply, and in the hearing of the strangers and of the disciples. The answer of Jesus was suggested by the appealing of these Gentiles. The hour was come for the glorification of Christ, and this was connected with the conversion of the Gentiles. He rejoiced in spirit, and before his audience he discoursed of the solemn events that were about to occur to prepare the way.

• Observe—1. Those who seek Christ must enquire of his word and people, and use the proper means, ver. 21.

2. The death of Christ was necessary to the design and glory of his kingdom, ver. 24.

3. The same Divine law applies to the disciples as well as to the Master. His kingdom

was to be carried on by their instrumentality, and only as they submitted to self-sacrifice would they attain to everlasting life and glory, ver. 25.

4. That the "lifting up" of Christ would draw all classes of men and of operations to himself. Thus the attractions of the cross are varied and powerful.

A SECRET FOR MOTHERS!

Mr. and Mrs. Ashton, with their numerous family of sons and daughters, came to the Lord's table an unbroken circle. I never witnessed the blessed sight without asking myself, "What secret family influence has been owned of God by these precious results?" One day I said to the youngest daughter, a child of twelve years, "Do you ever forget Jesus?" "Oh no!" she replied, "we can none of us at home ever forget Him; for mother speaks to us of Jesus every day. He is ever with us." O mothers, take to your hearts the precious secret of that family's bliss. The mother, ever abiding in Jesus, made his name a household word. His presence ever acknowledged, ever felt.

"She speaks to us of Jesus every day!" Mother is it true of you? Do your lips and life daily, hourly breathe the knowledge and love of Jesus into the hearts of the little ones at your knee? Is *Jesus* a name which your baby often hears, and early lisps? Trust not that formal counsels, invitations, and prayers will be owned and blessed of God in the salvation of your children. The ever-abiding, ever-pleading, out-breathing, out-speaking love of Jesus alone shall prevail. Giving yourself, and your little ones, unto God to be saved by the blood of Jesus alone, according to his everlasting covenant to you and to your children, trust him unwaveringly to keep his word. So shall you be sustained in your work of Christian nurture, not alone by hope and faith, but by the blessed assurance that God will make your labours effectual unto salvation, by his converting and saving grace.—*British Messenger.*