

said, "You must plead with your husband to save our people." It was exceedingly dangerous to interfere with anything which the flattered king permitted. It was as dangerous to go to him uninvited.

"Pray for me three days, you and all our people, and I will go," said Esther. So the people and Esther prayed. "The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous." Nothing should be allowed to hurt the people whom the beautiful Esther loved and longed to protect. "The way of the ungodly shall perish."

Illustrations showing how the courage and faithfulness of one man or woman saves many from death or danger. Bible history is to be preferred, and it is best to use stories familiar to the class, so that the children may help in the telling. Show how the whole world rejoices to honor one who gives himself for many.

From familiar accounts of courage and faithfulness shown in saving others from physical peril, pass on to show the greater courage and faithfulness of those who have sacrificed self to save perishing souls. This, our climax (to be worked out more in detail next Sunday) with the calling to mind how the friends (apostles) of Jesus worked to save souls from death; finally, speaking softly of him who gave his life that all might live forever.

LESSON III. (October 15.)

ESTHER PLEADING FOR HER PEOPLE.

Esth. 8. 3-8, 15-17.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Psa. 37. 5.

Primary Notes.



with all our trouble, and gives us a promise. We will call this a promise lesson, and write under this round of the ladder, "He will bring it to pass." God will make it come about if the thing we ask for is right.

[Bring up the history. Tell of the sending out of the letters to kill the Jews, the grief of Mordecai, his talk with Esther, the rule about the golden scepter, the brave determination to go in to plead for her people, the king's restless night,

the reading of the records, the honor done to Mordecai for the service he had done, the anger of Haman, the feast Esther made, inviting the king and Haman. Make incidents clear, but beware of spending too much time upon them. Emphasize the holding out of the scepter, impressing lesson that our King is always sure to let us come to him with our prayers. His love, like a golden scepter, is always held out to us.]

Esther pleading. It was not for herself. When she came before the king and again he held out the scepter to her she begged for the life of her people. She told the king what Mordecai was to her, how he had brought her up, though he was not her father, but a near relation. There was nothing selfish about it; she did not say, "Let me be spared," but "Spare my people."

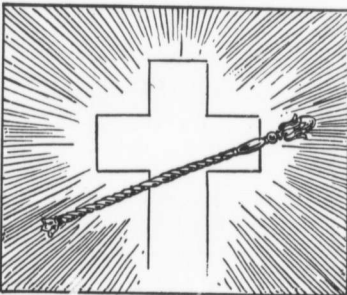
It came to pass. The pleading was heard. The king gave the queen what she asked for—the life of her people—and letters were hurried off to carry the king's message by men on horseback, on mules, and on young dromedaries. Mordecai was clothed in royal blue and white with a great crown of gold upon his head, and the city rejoiced and was glad, while everywhere the Jews had light and gladness and a good day, and many became Jews because they saw what God had done for them. Now take the Golden Text in two parts. It fits on to this lesson wonderfully. The trouble was taken to God, and he brought good to pass. First, then,

Our part. "O please help me carry this load," cried a tired traveler with a heavy burden.

"Let me take it, then," said the kind friend.

"No, no, I can't let go, but do help me somehow."

And the man refuses still to let go. How can another carry his load? If we want God to help us in any trouble, or to make the way clear for



us when we don't know what to do, we must give up the trouble and leave the way with him. Commit thy way really means to "roll the way."