

tells His disciples of His coming sufferings at Jerusalem at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, who composed the Sanhedrin, or great Jewish Council. The objection of Peter shows how far short he yet was in knowledge and in the true spirit, and brings upon him the stern rebuke of the Master.

IV. A GREAT REQUIREMENT.—24-26. Our Lord now teaches his disciples and "the people" (Mark 8:34) what is required of each of His followers. He must: (1) deny himself; give up pleasing self and seek to please Jesus; (2) take up his cross; imitate Jesus in His self-sacrifice; (3) lose his life; count even death better than to do wrong. V. 26 declares the worth of the soul.

27, 28. V. 27 describes the coming judgment day. The prophecy of v. 28 was partly fulfilled when the 3,000 were converted on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41), and Christianity spread to Asia Minor, Greece and Italy. It will be completely fulfilled when Christ comes again in glory.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Peter's great confession, Matt. 16:13-20. T.—Peter's great confession, Matt. 16:21-28. W.—The confession repeated, John 6:66-71. Th.—Peter's boldness, Acts 4:1-12. F.—Martha's confession, John 11:18-27. S.—"His dear Son," Col. 1:9-20. S.—Reward of confessing, Matt. 10:26-33.

Prove from Scripture—That Jesus expects us to confess Him.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 19. What is the misery of that estate wherinto man fell? A. All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

The Question on Missions—22. How do the people receive the colporteur and the missionary? On the whole, respectfully, and often sympathetically. But sometimes they meet with much opposition, and in some cases colporteurs are driven away, and even threatened with being beaten.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 151 (Supplemental Lesson); 3; 67; 2 (Ps. Sel.); 549 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 161.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—Near what city were Jesus and His disciples? Name the mountain close by.

13-16 After whom was Caesarea Philippi named? What did Jesus first ask His disciples? Their answer? Give Jesus' second question. Who answered it? In what words?

17-20 Why was Peter "blessed"? Who had taught Him? What is the key opening the door into Christ's kingdom? What is it to "bind"? To "loose"?

21-23 What did Jesus foretell? Who made objection? What did Jesus say to Him?

24-28 What three things does Jesus require? What prophecy in v. 28? When was it partly fulfilled? When will it be fulfilled completely?

Seniors and the Home Department—Give the events between last Lesson and to-day's.

13-16 What was the purpose of Jesus' questions? Give the answer to each. Quote Peter's "great confession"; Show its importance.

17-20 What is meant by, "Upon this rock," etc.? Explain "gates of hell". What authority was given to the apostles? On what condition?

21-23 Where does Isaiah predict the sufferings of Christ? (Isa. 53:7, etc.). Give proofs that Christ rose again. (1 Cor. 15:1-8.)

24-28 What is the great reward of confessing Christ? (ch. 10:32.)

THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. Many of the biggest questions in the world are to be answered by the heart rather than by the head. Take the question that starts the Lesson. The surest way to become convinced that Jesus is the Son of God, is just to read the gospel story with an honest, willing heart. To the portrait drawn therein no mere man answers.

2. Jesus never withholds the word of praise. He praised John the Baptist and Mary of Bethany. Here He pronounces a great eulogy on Peter. On the great day He will greet all His servants with a hearty, "Well done." It ought not to be so very hard to serve such a Lord and Master. The humblest service is sure of recognition and reward.

3. The tempter is always urging us to do the things that are easy. Any one with his eyes open knows what this means. For the student it means disappointment when the class lists come out; for the business man failure when he comes to square his accounts. Nor can we get to heaven by doing easy things. We must win our crown, as Christ won His, by enduring the cross.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

- 1. Who are we to believe that Jesus is?
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- 2. What did He suffer for us?
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- 3. In what manner will He come again? For what purpose?
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