

GOLDEN TEXT

Matt. 16: 16. Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

DAILY READINGS

M. —Matt. 26: 57-68. Jesus and Caiaphas.
 T. —John 18: 12-23. Smitten and afflicted.
 W. —John 18: 18-27. Hated without cause.
 Th. —Acts 6: 7-15. False witnesses.
 F. —John 2: 18-25. The temple of His body.
 S. —John 1: 29-31. The Son of God.
 S. —1 Peter 2: 19-25. Our example.

CATECHISM

Q. 66. What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?

A. The reason annexed to the fifth commandment, is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall

serve for God's glory and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment.

TIME AND PLACE

Very early morning, Friday, April 7, the day of the crucifixion; the residence of the High Priest, the exact site of which not known.

LESSON PLAN

I. The False Witnesses, 57-68 (a).
 On whose word Jesus was to be condemned.

II. The Blinded Rulers, 63 (b) 68.
 Who pronounced the innocent guilty.

III. The Mocking Crowd, 67, 68.
 Who offered insult to the very Son of God.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 208; 7 (Ps. Sel.). 231; 128: 531; 241.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—57, 68 What had taken Jesus? Where was He now? Before what council was He brought? Who composed it? How many members were there in it? Who was at the head of it? Was this a regular meeting of the council? What power was not then possessed by the council? (John 18: 31.) Where did the trial take place? Who had followed Jesus? For what purpose? How many times did he deny his Master?

50-61 For what purpose was this trial conducted? (John 5: 18; 8: 37-40; 11: 50.) What success in finding witnesses? What was said, at length, by the two witnesses? Who was similarly accused? (Acts 6: 13.) How far back had the Jews to go for this testimony? (John 2: 19.) Did even these witnesses agree? (Mark 14: 29.)

62-64 What was said by the High Priest? By Christ? Why silent? How again questioned? What did He reply? When would this happen?

65, 68 How did the High Priest act? Of what was Christ accused? To what condemned? In what way ill-treated? What was He asked to do? How treated by many to-day?

Seniors and the Home Department—57, 58 How many times was Jesus tried? Before whom was this trial? For what crime was He condemned? What was now the accusation before Pilate? (Luke 23: 2.) Describe Peter's three denials?

59-61 How had the council treated Jesus? With what result? What final charge made? What was Jesus' meaning of verse 61?

62-64 Explain Jesus' silence. How can He be imitated in this? (Matt. 7: 6.) What would have been the result if Jesus had confessed the charge made

against Him? What, if He had denied? What led Him at length to speak? What declaration does He make? (Matt. 16: 27, 28; Mark 9: 1.)

65, 66 How was Caiaphas affected? Of what was rending of the garments a sign? What was the legal punishment for blasphemy?

67, 68 What forms of contempt heaped upon Christ? Why permitted by the council? How received by Christ?

Prove from Scripture—That false witness was given against Christ.

Practical Points—1. Evil deeds love the darkness.

2. Let us not be too hard on those who follow Christ "afar off." Better that than not at all.

3. Following afar off brings little good. We have no joy in it ourselves. It does not please our Master as following closely does, and the world scoffs at us for it. Besides, there is always danger for stragglers when the army is in the midst of foes.

4. It was by a half-lie that they sought to condemn Jesus. We see the baseness of it, and yet how ready some are to exaggerate or alter a story and think it no harm. They forget that:

"A lie which is half a truth is ever the blackest of lies.

A lie which is all a lie may be met and fought with outright;

But a lie which is part of a truth is a harder matter to fight."

5. A word may cost one his life; but if truth and honor and loyalty require that word, it should be spoken.

6. When you have to stand a little "chaff" for your religion, remember what your Master endured.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. By what means did they seek to convict Jesus?

2. By what was He finally convicted?

3. What ill usage did He suffer?