

disturbing him. The children may remember the name "Herod" in connection with the story of the flight into Egypt, with its clause, "They are dead which sought the young child's life." We explain that it is Herod's son, Herod Antipas, who is troubled when he hears of the miracles of Jesus, and learns that crowds follow him.

He had been troubled before this by knowing of the crowds of people who followed John the Baptist. "What if this man is John the Baptist come back to life?" he asks. His conscience makes him afraid of these men who work wonders in the name of the Lord.

We left John the Baptist in prison, and have not heard of his death until now. Let us go back a little, to explain how it could happen that a good man, the Lord's messenger, should be put in prison. Because he had the courage to give God's message, a stern reproof, to Herod Antipas. John knew that he risked his life when he spoke thus truthfully to the king.

Would this certain danger make a real hero careful to tell a polite lie by keeping back part of the truth? We picture the striking scene in which the prophet, clad in his desert dress, comes boldly to the king, calling him a lawbreaker, commanding him to forsake and be sorry for his terrible sins.

There were heroes before John's day who chose to obey God and die rather than to disobey and live. There have been such heroes since John's time. No doubt there are faithful souls now who are willing, if God commands, to choose the right whatever the cost. In your teacher's "morning talks" (baby history and biography lessons) at kindergarten you have heard of such men. After speaking for a moment of these brave men who were willing to die for a cause we teach that the disciples of Jesus were equally brave and faithful.

Herod ordered his soldiers to put John in prison on the pretense that he was stirring up trouble among the people. Faithfulness in delivering God's message, even when the king would not hear stern reproof, was the real reason.

John's prison, a fortress on a high hill, we indicate on our sand-map, showing the place where Jesus was teaching at this time. In imagination we enter John's prison with his disciples, and hear him ask them to seek Jesus and learn of him positively whether he is the Christ, or not.

Still reviewing Lesson V, with the aid of our sand-map, we take the journey back to John, and bring the comforting assurance from Jesus: "The blind receive their sight, the dead are raised. There is none greater than John the Baptist."

This brave soul can wait patiently in his prison, knowing that he has carried the Lord's message faithfully, and has turned many people from their sins, and brought them to the Lord.

The king has not forgotten John, but visits him in his prison from time to time. John's message disturbs Herod Antipas a good deal, but he wants to talk it over, and seems interested. Herod does not mean that any hurt shall come to John.

The king had a great feast on his birthday; and in the midst of wine, song, and foolishness the king was persuaded to give word that John the Baptist should be put to death.

Many noble souls have given life because they were true to Christ the Lord, and would never deny him in the face of danger and death. This is the Bible promise to such faithful souls: "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: . . . be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2, 10).

Peter, Matthew, John, and the disciples of Jesus knew all about John's imprisonment and death. They knew that the same perils threatened them in all their work for the Master. Would that prevent them from carrying the name of Christ into dangerous places, and spending their whole lives in this work, for the sake of those for whom Christ said, "The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep?"

LESSON XII. (June 17.)

THE FEEDING OF FIVE THOUSAND.

John 6. 5-14.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Give us this day our daily bread." Matt. 6, 11.

Primary Notes.



Introductory. Were you ever hungry? How many here have ever been hungry—real hungry? How does it feel? What do you mean by hunger? Hunger is a great longing for something—wanting it so

much that it seems as if one could not do