



SACRED HISTORY.

New Testament.

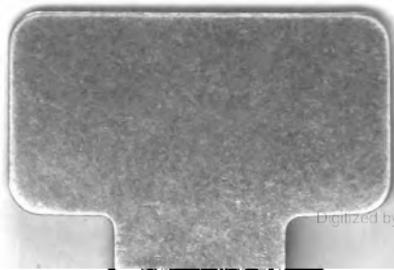


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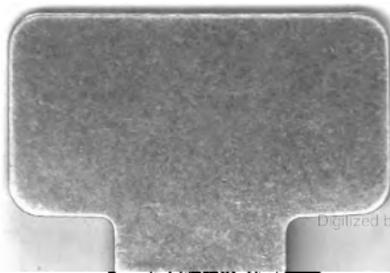




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THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

From Steink.



Sacred History.

NEW TESTAMENT.



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IN the preparation of this volume the Editor has taken considerable portions of Schmid's New Testament History. He has endeavoured to combine simplicity and reverence; and he trusts it will be acceptable to Christian mothers.

R. B.

July 1844.



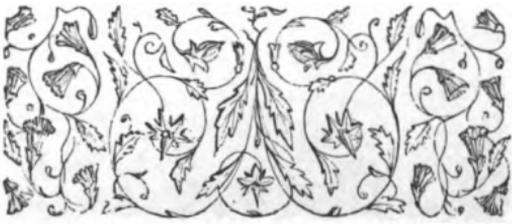


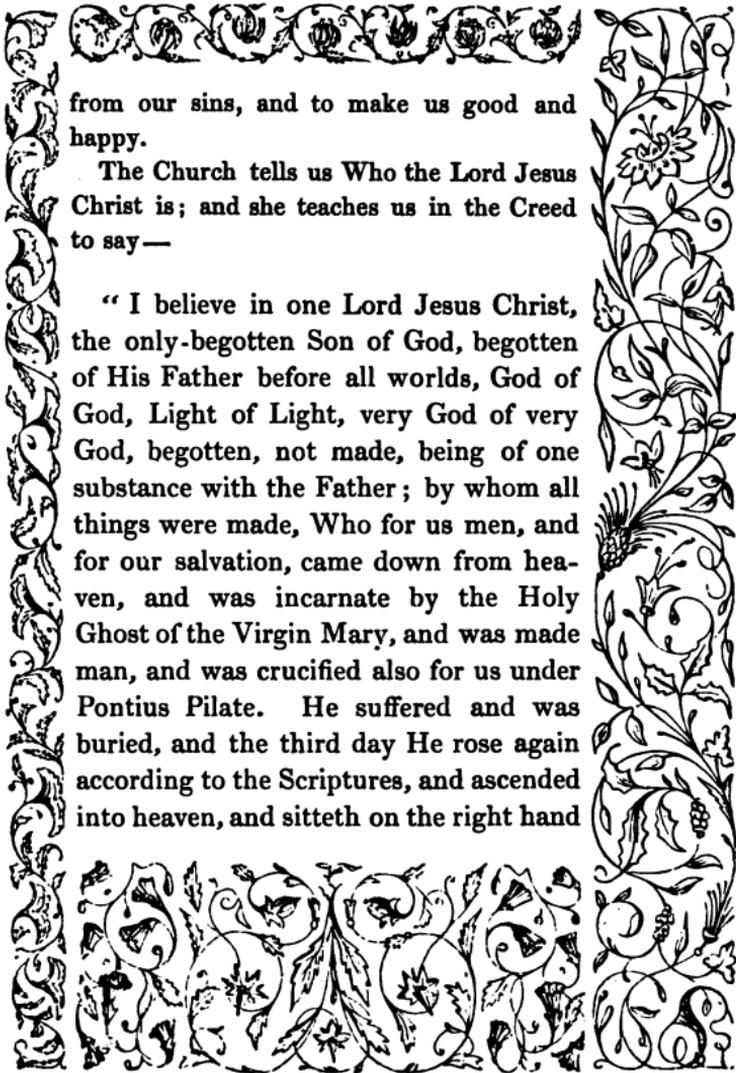
TO THE

Little Lambs of Christ's flock.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,

IN this little book you will learn some of the great and wonderful things, which our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ said and did when He was in this world. It will tell you that He was once a little Child, that He was very poor, that He was often hungry and tired, and that He was treated unkindly, and put to a cruel death by wicked men. When you read about these things, you must remember that Jesus Christ was not a common man; but that He was the great, Almighty God, as well as man. He was not obliged to bear all this misery; but He came down from heaven to save us





from our sins, and to make us good and happy.

The Church tells us Who the Lord Jesus Christ is; and she teaches us in the Creed to say—

“ I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made, Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand



of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead : Whose kingdom shall have no end."

I hope, dear children, you will often say this Creed when you read this little book, and that you will learn to love and fear this great, good, and merciful Saviour. Imitate Him by doing every thing your dear parents bid you ; by loving your brothers and sisters, and every body else, and being kind and obliging to all people. Pray often to your Saviour, and He will give you His Holy Spirit, to help you to do these things. You will then be happy ; for the good Shepherd will love you and take care of you.





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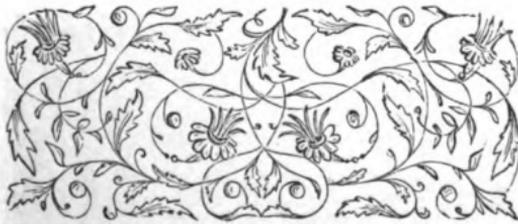


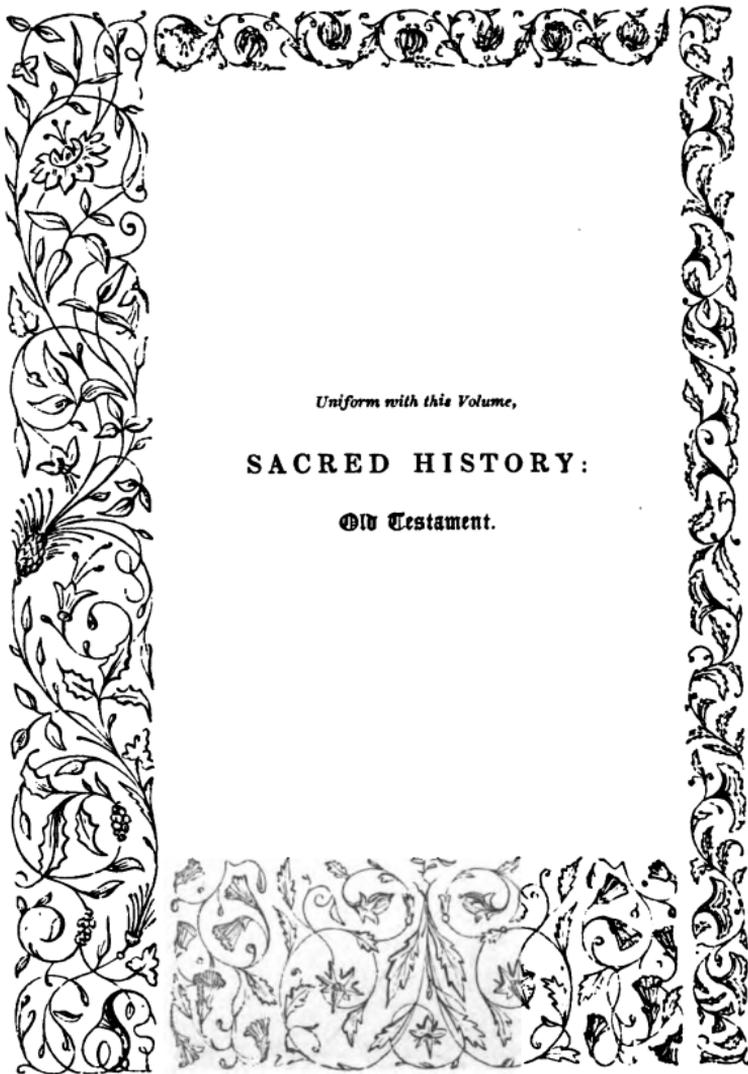
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Uniform with this Volume,

SACRED HISTORY:

Old Testament.



SACRED HISTORY.

The New Testament.

1. ZACHARIAS AND ELIZABETH.

IN the reign of King Herod there lived in a small town situated among the mountains of Judea, a pious priest, named Zacharias: his wife's name was Elizabeth. Although they lived among very wicked people, they were good, and tried to please God in every thing they did. They had no children; and they prayed to God to give them a son. But their prayers were not answered until they were very old.





They also prayed with all the good people who then lived in Judea, that they might see the Divine King, who was promised to the Israelites; for the prophets had foretold, many hundred years before, that He should be born at that time.

The priests took it by turns to serve in the temple at Jerusalem; and it came to the lot of Zacharias to burn incense before the Lord in the sanctuary. He put on his priestly garments, and holding the golden censer in his hand, he went behind the curtain which hid the altar from the people. The incense began to ascend, and all the people were praying without. Suddenly an angel appeared standing on the right side of the altar of incense. When Zacharias saw the angel, he was afraid; but the angel said unto him,

2





“ Fear not, Zacharias ; for thy prayer is heard ; and thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness ; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink ; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just ; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Zacharias, seized with fear and surprise, could scarcely believe what the angel told him, and he said, “ Whereby



shall I know this?" The angel replied :
" I am Gabriel, that stand in the pre-
sence of God ; and am sent to speak unto
thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.
And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and
not able to speak, until the day that
these things shall be performed, because
thou believest not my words, which shall
be fulfilled in their season."

The angel then went away, and Za-
charias became dumb. He was a long
time before he recovered from his sur-
prise. The people, who were on the out-
side, wondered why he stopped so long in
the sanctuary. When, however, he came
out, they saw that something wonderful
had happened to him ; for he made signs
unto them, but did not speak. He made
them understand that he had seen a
vision in the temple.



As soon as the days of his ministry were at an end, he returned to his home full of hope and joy.

The time appointed by God for the fulfilment of the great mystery of our redemption had now come. The Son of God, the Saviour of the world, comes down from heaven, to fulfil the hopes of all nations; but before He appears, He makes known His coming. He sends His angel to tell Zacharias of the birth of His forerunner John, who was to prepare His way, and teach those people, who longed for the Saviour, to welcome Him with love and gratitude.

The history of our Lord and Saviour begins with this mysterious vision of Zacharias in the temple. Let us read it with a sincere heart, and a humble desire to profit by its divine lessons. We shall find in it a source of the greatest comfort, and the strongest motives to make us give up ourselves en-



tirely to the service of that Saviour who has done so much for us.

2. THE VIRGIN MARY.

AT Nazareth, a little town of Galilee, there lived, humble and retired, a poor young virgin. Though she had descended from the royal race of King David, she worked for her own living. Her name was Mary. She was espoused to a carpenter named Joseph, who was as poor as herself; but he was a good man, and full of love to the blessed Saviour. Although Mary had none of the riches of this world, she was rich in virtue and goodness: she was innocent, sincere, and very humble.

Mary believed the prophecies which foretold the birth of the Divine Saviour, and she longed for His coming. About six months after Zacharias had



seen the vision, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to Mary. He appeared suddenly to her, and said, "Hail, thou that art highly favoured; the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." When Mary saw the angel, and heard his words, she was afraid, and she could not understand what he meant. But the angel encouraged her with these words: "Fear not, Mary; for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David. And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of His kingdom there shall be no end."

This was wonderful news to a person so humble as this poor virgin, who had no am-



bition but quietly to serve that God, whom she loved with all her heart.

Mary was so astonished that she asked the angel how these wonderful things could come to pass. The angel explained the mystery; and told her that her Holy Child should "be called the Son of God." He also said that her cousin Elizabeth would have a son. Mary was comforted by the words of the angel; and humbly replied: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." The angel then departed from her.

3. MARY VISITS ELIZABETH.

SOON after this Mary arose, and went quickly to the city in which her cousin Elizabeth dwelt, to tell her the joyful tidings; and to unite with her in praising the Lord for His mercy.



When Mary reached the city, she entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted her cousin Elizabeth. On hearing her speak, the pious Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost, Who made known to her the cause of Mary's visit. Full of respect and holy joy, she exclaimed, "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? And blessed is she that believed; for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord."

Mary rejoiced at these words. She raised her heart towards heaven, and poured forth this hymn of praise, which has been used ever since in the Church of Christ:

"My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my



Saviour. For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden. For, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is His name. And His mercy is on them that fear Him, throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with His arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away. He, remembering His mercy, hath holpen his servant Israel; as He promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever."

How simple and beautiful are these words, in which Mary celebrates the infinite good-



ness and mercy of God! She speaks of the wonders of His providence; and her soul was filled with love to Him.

After remaining three months with her cousin, Mary returned home.

4. THE BIRTH OF JOHN.

THE time foretold by the angel had now come, when the son of Zacharias was to be born. Zacharias and Elizabeth received this child as a gift from God, and they were filled with gratitude to Him. When the relations and neighbours of Elizabeth heard of God's goodness to her, they came to rejoice with her. On the eighth day the child was to be circumcised, and to have a name. The friends called him Zacharias, after his father; but his mother said, "Not so; but he shall be called



John." They replied, "There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name." They then made signs to Zacharias, to know what name he would give his son. Zacharias could not speak, for he had been dumb ever since he disbelieved the angel's words. He then wrote, "His name is John." And the friends were all very much surprised. Directly after writing this, Zacharias was able to speak, and he praised God. He not only recovered his speech, but God enabled him to prophesy. Inspired by the Holy Ghost, this good man uttered this beautiful hymn, which is also sung at church :

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David; as He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been since

12





the world began: that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant; the oath which He sware to our father Abraham, that He would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways; to give knowledge of salvation unto His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

These wonderful things were talked of





all over the country ; and the people who heard of them felt great fear. And they said, " What manner of child shall this be ? "

The hand of God was upon this child, and He made him grow in wisdom and virtue. God was preparing him for the great work He had appointed him to do. John dwelt in the solitary deserts, and lived upon locusts and wild honey. At length the time came for him to declare the coming of the Messiah. He told the people that Jesus was this Messiah ; and that He was the Lamb of God, who was to take away the sins of the world.

5. THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST.

FOR some time Mary lived happily at Nazareth. But when Joseph saw what was likely to happen to her, he was full



of trouble ; for Mary had not told him what the angel said to her. Joseph resolved not to live any longer with Mary. But whilst he was thinking of putting her away, God sent an angel to tell him, in a dream, not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife ; for that she was to be the mother of the Saviour. The angel said, "Thou shalt call His name **JESUS**," which means a saviour ; "for He shall save His people from their sins." When Joseph heard this, he was comforted ; and he obeyed the commands of God ; for he was a good man. Mary and Joseph lived together very happily. While they were waiting for God to fulfil His promise, the Emperor Augustus made a law that all the world should be taxed. Every person was to go to his own city to be taxed. Joseph and Mary were both of





the race of David ; and they went to Bethlehem, where King David was born. When they reached the town, it was so full of people that they could not find any room in the inn ; so that they were obliged to lodge in a stable.

It was there (oh, never forget, my dear children, but remember always with gratitude and humility,) — it was there that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born. It was thus He came into the world, that we might learn to be humble. Let us give all praise to the eternal God.

The blessed Virgin Mary took her holy Child, wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in the manger.

Thus, four thousand years after the world was made, the Son of God was born, as a man, in the greatest poverty. His birth was in the night, when all was still, and without any pomp.

Here we see that Jesus, who was greater



than all kings, had only a poor stable for His palace, and a manger for His cradle. Jesus Christ, who made every thing, and was worshipped by the angels in heaven, was surrounded in His birthplace by vile animals. Such was the holy will of His Father. It was not what the Jews expected, but was what God had foretold by His prophets.

The pomp and grandeur of this world are nothing in the sight of God. In the kingdom which Jesus Christ came to establish on earth, nothing is precious but virtue and goodness. Seek, then, these blessings from your Saviour, that you may live with Him in heaven.

6. THE SHEPHERDS VISIT BETHLEHEM.

It was at midnight, when the people of Judea had retired to rest, that some poor shepherds were watching their flocks in the fields. Whilst they were watching in the dark night, the angel of God ap-



peared suddenly to them. At the same moment a bright light from heaven shone around them ; and they were afraid. The angel then said to them, " Fear not ; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people ; for unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a SAVIOUR, who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you ; ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

When the angel had done speaking, a great number of angels appeared ; and they praised God in these words, " Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men." The angels then went away into heaven.

The shepherds were full of joy ; for they had never before seen such a won-





derful sight, nor heard such heavenly music. They said to each other, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us." They then left their flocks, and went in great haste to the inn where Mary and Joseph lodged. And they found a lovely Babe lying in a manger. The shepherds looked at the young Child with wonder. When they had seen Him, they told all that the angel had said to them. All the people wondered when they heard these things; but Mary thought seriously about them. The shepherds then went back to their flocks, praising God for all that He had shewn them.

Let us, like Mary, fix this sacred history in our hearts. Those children who love Jesus will like to hear it, because it tells them



about their Saviour, who loves little children so tenderly.

7. JESUS PRESENTED IN THE TEMPLE.

At the end of forty days Mary went to Jerusalem, to present Jesus in the temple. She gave, according to custom, two young pigeons as an offering to God; for she was too poor to give a lamb. This little offering was, however, pleasing to God, because Mary gave it with a sincere and grateful heart. The priests and people saw the Infant Jesus in the temple; but their evil hearts knew not that He was the Saviour of sinners. Some of the people were, however, very good; and prayed that they might see the Saviour, who was to come at that time. Among these good people there was one named Simeon. He was a just man, and hoped every day to see the Saviour of mankind



come into the world ; for the Holy Ghost made known to him, that before he died he should see the Lord's Christ.

On the same day that Jesus was taken to the temple, the Spirit of God directed Simeon to go there. When Simeon saw the Infant Jesus, he knew directly that He was the Saviour he had expected so long. He then took the Holy Child in his arms, and praised God in these words : " Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word ; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people ; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel."

Joseph and Mary were astonished when they heard these words. Simeon then turned to them, and blessed them. He said to Mary, " Behold, this Child is set for the falling and rising again of many



in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

We shall soon see how this prophecy was fulfilled, and the tender, affectionate heart of Mary was almost broken.

Whilst Simeon was speaking, a widow, named Anna, came into the temple. She was very old, and had spent her life in fasting, and praying to God. She joined with Simeon in praising God; and she told the people that Jesus was the Messiah foretold by the Prophets.

Here we see that those who seek the Saviour with a sincere and humble heart are sure to find Him.



8. THE WORSHIP OF THE WISE MEN.

WHEN the Saviour of the world was born, only a few pious people knew it. They rejoiced at His coming. The greater number of the people of Israel knew nothing about it. God, however, resolved that all the people should know that His Son was born. One day there came to Jerusalem some great people from the East. Some say they were kings. They asked the people, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen His star in the East, and are come to worship Him."

It was soon known all over Jerusalem that these great men had come to see a new-born king. When King Herod heard it, he was in great trouble, for he was afraid of losing his crown. He then



called the chief priests and scribes together, and asked them "where Christ should be born." They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet."

Herod then sent for the wise men, and asked them about the star which they had seen. After they had told him, he sent them to Bethlehem, and said to them, "Go, and search diligently for the young Child; and when ye have found Him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship Him also."

These words of Herod were false, and were said only to hide his wicked cruelty. He did not mean to worship Jesus; but he wished to find out where He was, that he might kill Him.

The wise men now set off for Bethlehem, which was near Jerusalem. As they went, they saw the star again, which



had appeared to them in the East, and they were very glad. It was shining brightly in the heavens; and it went before them, till it came and stood over the place where Jesus was.

They then entered the house, and found the young Child with His mother. When they saw Jesus, they fell down and worshipped Him. The wise men then opened their treasures, and presented gold, frankincense, and myrrh, unto Jesus. They offered these things, because they knew that He was their King and Saviour.

The next morning they meant to go back to King Herod. But God knew Herod's wicked thoughts, and He warned them in a dream not to do so. The wise men obeyed God, and returned home by another way.





9. THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT.

HEROD waited impatiently for the wise men to return. When he found they did not come, he was very angry. He then cruelly ordered all the infants of two years old and upwards, living in Bethlehem, to be murdered. By this cruel order he made sure of destroying the Child which made him so fearful. But God knew all the plans of this wicked man, and how to defeat them. He sent an angel to speak to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, and take the young Child and His mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

Joseph arose in haste, and taking Jesus, with His mother, he fled by night into Egypt.





They must have felt sorry to leave their country ; but they cheerfully did as God commanded them ; and set out on their journey, trusting in Him who watches over and protects the innocent.

The murderers sent by Herod soon reached Bethlehem. They went all round the country, and dragged the innocent babes from their mothers' arms, and killed them without pity. The screams of these little children were heard on all sides. Their poor mothers cried aloud, and thus fulfilled this prophecy : " In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not."

The wicked Herod thought that by doing this he should secure the crown to himself.





But what a delusion ! The Child Jesus lived in Egypt secure from his wicked malice ; and a few years after this cruel deed, the wicked Herod lost his crown and his life.

When Herod was dead, the angel of the Lord appeared again to Joseph, and told him to go back to his country. As soon as Joseph came to the borders of the land of Israel, he heard that Herod's son, named Archelaus, was the king. This frightened him, and made him turn aside into Galilee.

Thus, after a long absence, Joseph and Mary returned to the village of Nazareth, which was their native place. Here they lived in peace and happiness, supported by their own industry, and carefully bringing up the Holy Child Jesus.

Let us stop for a moment, and consider this lovely picture of the holy family. What can be more touching than to see Jesus, the





Creator of heaven and earth, Mary, His blessed mother, and Joseph, who was found worthy to be the foster-father of the Infant Jesus;—what, I say, can be more touching than to see them living in poverty and obscurity,—far from that world which was not worthy to know them or to possess them! to see them loving each other, and practising all goodness, and thus glorifying their Father in heaven. O that all Christian families lived like them, and tried to imitate this holy family! The earth would then furnish us with all the joys of paradise.

10. JESUS OBEYS HIS PARENTS.

JESUS lived with His parents at Nazareth. He grew, and increased in strength. The grace of God was seen in Him, and in all that He did. Though He was but a little child, He was filled with divine wisdom.



Every year His parents went to Jerusalem to keep the feast of the Passover, for God had commanded the people of Israel to observe this feast, that they might never forget His goodness in saving their forefathers from Pharaoh the king of Egypt.

When Jesus was twelve years old they took Him to Jerusalem with them. It was the first time Jesus had been to Jerusalem. What must have been His delight when He first saw the holy city, and the beautiful temple rising above it!

At the end of the feast Joseph and Mary left Jerusalem to return home with their neighbours. But Jesus stayed behind, and His parents did not know it. He liked the temple better than any other place. Joseph and Mary travelled on a whole day, and thought that Jesus was



in the company. When they found that He was not with their friends, they were in great trouble. How unhappy must they have felt, when they could hear no tidings of Him! They could not tell what had become of Him; for Jesus had never disobeyed them, nor left them without permission. They turned back to Jerusalem in great sorrow. When they reached the city, they looked every where for Him, but could not find Him. After seeking for Him in vain three days, they went into the temple. There they found Jesus sitting among the doctors, asking questions. All eyes were fixed upon Him; and they were astonished to hear His wise answers. His parents were amazed and delighted when they saw Him; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why hast Thou dealt thus with us? behold,



Thy father and I have sought Thee sorrowing." Jesus replied, "How is it that ye sought Me? wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?"

They did not understand what He meant by these words, but His mother treasured them up in her heart. Jesus then went back with them to Nazareth.

Jesus lived in the humble dwelling of His parents; and He did all that they bade Him to do. Oh, what a lesson this is for you, children! Follow His holy example. Let the history of His youth be your guide: it is given in these few words; "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." Try to become like Him. Take His life as your pattern; and pray to Him to help you to follow His steps. Never be so wicked as to disobey your parents; but love them as Jesus did His.



11. JOHN THE BAPTIST PREACHING IN
THE WILDERNESS.

JESUS was now a man; and the time was come for Him to make Himself known as the Saviour of men. He was now to begin the work which He came down from heaven to do. John was to prepare the hearts of the people of Israel for the coming of the Saviour.

John lived in the desert to prepare himself for his wonderful work, until God commanded him to begin preaching. He then went towards the river Jordan. His coat was made of camel's hair, and he had a leathern girdle round his loins. He lived upon locusts and wild honey, which he found in the desert. The clear stream, which reflected the face of heaven, quenched his thirst. John began to preach to the people, saying, "Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at





hand." When the people heard him, many of them confessed their sins. They were sorry for their wicked lives, and promised to be better. John then baptised them in the river Jordan.

This preaching of John was talked about all over the country ; so that the people came flocking from all parts of Judea to hear him ; a great many confessed their wickedness, and were baptised.

Among these crowds of people the Baptist saw some who did not repent. John knew that they were hypocrites, and he said to them, "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: and think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones



to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees ; therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire."

A great number of persons were moved by his preaching, and began to turn from their evil ways. They said unto him, "What shall we do then?" John replied, "He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none ; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise."

The publicans, or tax-gatherers, then came to him, and asked the same question. He replied, "Exact no more than that which is appointed you." To the soldiers he said, "Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely ; and be content with your wages."

The people were so aroused by the





preaching of St. John Baptist, that they thought he was the Messiah; but he confessed before all, "I am not the Christ. I indeed baptise you with water unto repentance; but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptise you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: whose fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor, and gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

12. THE BAPTISM OF JESUS; AND HIS
TEMPTATION IN THE WILDERNESS.

WHILST the people were going in crowds to John, Jesus came from Galilee to the river Jordan, to be baptised by him. John knew who He was, and he felt that he was not worthy to baptise his Saviour,





and he said, " I have need to be baptised of Thee, and comest Thou to me ?" But Jesus replied, " Suffer it to be so now : for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness." John then baptised Jesus in the river Jordan.

When Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens opened, and the voice of God the Eternal Father was heard saying, " This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And that all the people might know that it was Jesus who was meant, the Holy Spirit came down upon Him in the form of a dove.

Thus did God declare that Jesus Christ was His Son; and that He had sent Him on His mission.

After this, the Holy Ghost led our Saviour into the lonely wilderness. In this solitary place He spent forty days, fasting and praying. All this time He





took nothing to eat; and at the end of the forty days He was hungry. The devil took this opportunity to tempt Jesus to break God's law; and he said to Him, "If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." Jesus knew Satan's wicked designs, and He answered, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." When Satan found He could not succeed, he tried another temptation. He then took Jesus to the top of one of the pinnacles of the temple, and said to Him, "If Thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down; for it is written, He shall give His angels charge concerning Thee; and in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone."

Jesus thought of nothing but doing



the will of God His Father ; and He resisted the temptation, saying, “ It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”

Satan was, however, so determined to overcome Jesus, that he tried a third temptation. He took Him to the top of a very high mountain, shewed Him all the kingdoms in the world, and promised to give them to Him, if He would only fall down and worship him. This wickedness of Satan moved our blessed Saviour ; and He said, “ Get thee hence, Satan ; for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.” These words overawed Satan, and he went away. The angels then came to minister unto Jesus.

We renounced all the wicked works of the devil when we were baptised ; we must also overcome all the temptations of Satan by the word of God. With the help of God's





grace we may do it ; for God never suffers us to be tempted above our strength. Jesus is our Saviour ; we must also take Him as our model. We must, like Him, resist all the suggestions of the enemy of our souls. Let us fight with the armour of faith ; we shall then be the true disciples of Christ.

13. THE FIRST DISCIPLES CHOSEN.

JESUS now left the wilderness, and went towards John. As soon as John saw Him again, he was filled with holy joy, and said, “ Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is He of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me : for He was before me. And I knew Him not : but that He should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come



baptising with water. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon Him. And I knew Him not : but He that sent me to baptise with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, the same is He which baptiseth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God."

The next day Jesus passed by again ; and John said to his disciples, " Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world." When his disciples heard these words, they wished very much to know more about Jesus ; and they followed Him. Jesus looked round, and saw them coming after Him ; He then turned round, and said, " What



seek ye?" They replied that they wished to see where He lived. Jesus asked them to "come and see." They followed Him joyfully, and spent that day with Jesus.

One of these disciples was named John, the other Andrew. Some time after this Jesus made them His Apostles, and they were among His dearest friends.

Andrew had a brother, Simon Peter, and he went to seek him, and to tell him the happy news. When Andrew met his brother, he said to him, "We have found the Messias." He then led him to Jesus.

The Saviour knew Peter's name before He saw him. When he came, Jesus said to him, "Thou art Simon, the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas." After this, Peter became one of His disciples.



The next day Jesus was going to Galilee, and met Philip. Jesus saw the hearts, and knew the secret thoughts, of every body who came near Him. He saw that Philip's heart was upright and sincere ; and He said to him, " Follow me." Philip was drawn by the Saviour's love and kindness, and followed Him. He had a friend named Nathaniel, whose heart was full of sincere piety, and a strong desire to know the Messiah. Philip made haste to find his friend. Nathaniel had been sitting under the shade of a fig-tree ; and perhaps he had been praying to God for the promised Saviour. Soon after he left the fig-tree, Philip saw him, and said, " We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathaniel was full



of Jewish prejudices, and he asked, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip then told him to come and see; and Nathaniel went, to convince himself. When Jesus saw him coming, He said, "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile." Nathaniel was surprised to hear Jesus speak so to a man He had never before seen; and he said to the Saviour, "Whence knowest Thou me?" Jesus saw to the bottom of his heart, and replied, "Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig-tree, I saw thee." Nathaniel now felt sure that Jesus was God, or He could not have seen him under the fig-tree, which was a long way off; and he cried out, "Master, Thou art the Son of God; Thou art the King of Israel." Jesus then said to him, "Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig-tree, believest thou? Thou shalt see greater things than

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these. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

"Son of man!" this is the name which Jesus the Son of God chose to take. He did so, no doubt, to teach us to be humble, and to shew us how great His love for us was, which made Him become man, that He might save us.

14. THE MIRACLE AT CANA.

THERE was a marriage at Cana, a town of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and His disciples were also asked, and they went. When the guests wanted some wine, Mary said to Jesus, "They have no wine." She told the servants to do every thing that Jesus should bid them. There were six large stone water-pots standing in the hall of



the house; each pot would hold two or three firkins. Jesus told the servants to fill them with water, which they did. He then said, "Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast;" and they did as He bade them. When the governor tasted it, he found it was beautiful wine; and he said to the bridegroom, "Thou hast kept the good wine until now."

This was the first miracle our Saviour performed. All the people who saw the water turned into wine were astonished.

This miracle shews the power and bounty of our Saviour.

15. JESUS CASTS THE BUYERS AND SELLERS OUT OF THE TEMPLE.

The feast of the Passover was kept at



Jerusalem every year. A great number of people went from all parts to worship God in the temple. Jesus also went to this solemn feast. The buildings of the temple were very grand. Some of the people had no respect for this holy place ; but offered the beasts for sale in the temple which were to be used as sacrifices. When Jesus went into the temple, He saw some selling animals, some doves, and others changing money. He was very much displeased when He saw His Father's temple so wickedly profaned ; and being moved by a holy zeal for His Father's glory, He made a whip of small cords and drove them all out of the temple. He overturned the money-tables ; turned out the men who sold oxen and doves, and said to them, " It is written, My house shall be called the house of





prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." They were all afraid of Jesus, and went away without resisting Him. This sacred place was soon cleared of these bad men, who disturbed the worship of the people. We here see what power Jesus had over wicked men: they seemed to feel that He was more than man.

Some of the Jews were angry with Jesus when they saw what He had done. They began to ask questions: "What sign shewest Thou unto us, seeing that Thou doest these things?" Jesus answered and said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The priests did not understand His words. They thought that He meant that He would rebuild the stone temple in three days; and they said in a tone of reproach, "Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt Thou rear it up in



three days?" The Jews then went away very angry.

When Jesus said He would raise the temple in three days, He meant, that if the Jews killed Him, He would rise again from the grave in three days. How truly did He fulfil these words! We may learn from what Jesus did to the buyers and sellers in the temple, that it is very wicked to trifle in God's house. If we spend our time in church thinking about pleasure or business, Jesus will be angry with us, as He was with these Jews.

16. JESUS AT JACOB'S WELL.

JESUS left Jerusalem, and returned to Nazareth. He was obliged to go through the country of Samaria. When He came near a town called Sychar He was tired; Jesus then sent His disciples into the town to buy some food, whilst He sat





down to rest Himself on a well that was there. This well was one which Jacob had made to water his flocks from. Whilst Jesus was sitting there, a woman came to draw some water; when Jesus saw her, He said to her, "Give me to drink." The woman was surprised to hear a Jew ask her for drink; for the Jews hated the people of Samaria so much that they would not speak civilly to them, nor drink out of the same vessel with them. Jesus blamed this unkindness. He condemns all sin and error; but His loving heart pities those who commit it. Jesus spoke to the woman kindly, and said, "If thou knewest the gift of God, and Who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink, thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water." These words



surprised her still more, for she did not know what they meant, and she replied, " Sir, Thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep ; from whence, then, hast Thou this living water ? Art Thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children and his cattle ? " Jesus said to her, " Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again : but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst ; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. " The woman then said, " Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. "

As a thirsty man wishes for refreshing drink, so does he, who is not very wicked, desire to become good, wise, and happy. In





these beautiful words Jesus promises to satisfy this thirst of our souls by the teaching of the Holy Ghost. If we follow Him, He will open in our hearts a fountain of truth, holiness, and happiness. What can we wish for more than this!

Jesus now shewed this woman that He knew the secrets of her heart; she was very much afraid when she found that a stranger knew all her sins. Filled with shame, she said, "Sir, I perceive that Thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus then said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour cometh when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship





Him. God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

What an important lesson is this for us! The soul of man is the true temple of God. We must worship God from the very bottom of our hearts, for He is present every where. We must be sincere in what we say in our prayers; for God hears all we say: our words must come from the heart, and we must try to live as we pray. All other worship is hypocrisy.

The woman told Jesus that she knew the Messiah was to come, and that He would teach all things.

Jesus replied, "I that speak unto thee am He." Just at this moment the disciples came with the food they had bought, and they wondered to see Jesus talking with this woman.

The poor woman was full of joy at what Jesus had told her. She put down



her water-pot, and ran as fast as she could to the town to tell her neighbours what she had heard. She was the first person who had the happiness of hearing from the lips of Jesus Himself that He was the Messiah. God always teaches the truth to those who seek it sincerely.

The disciples now offered some food to Jesus ; but He said, " I have meat to eat that ye know not of. My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work."

Jesus gave up all to do the will of His heavenly Father. If we would be His disciples, we must follow His example and do so too.

When the people of the town heard what the woman said, they went out and begged the Saviour to come into the city and stop with them. Our Saviour was

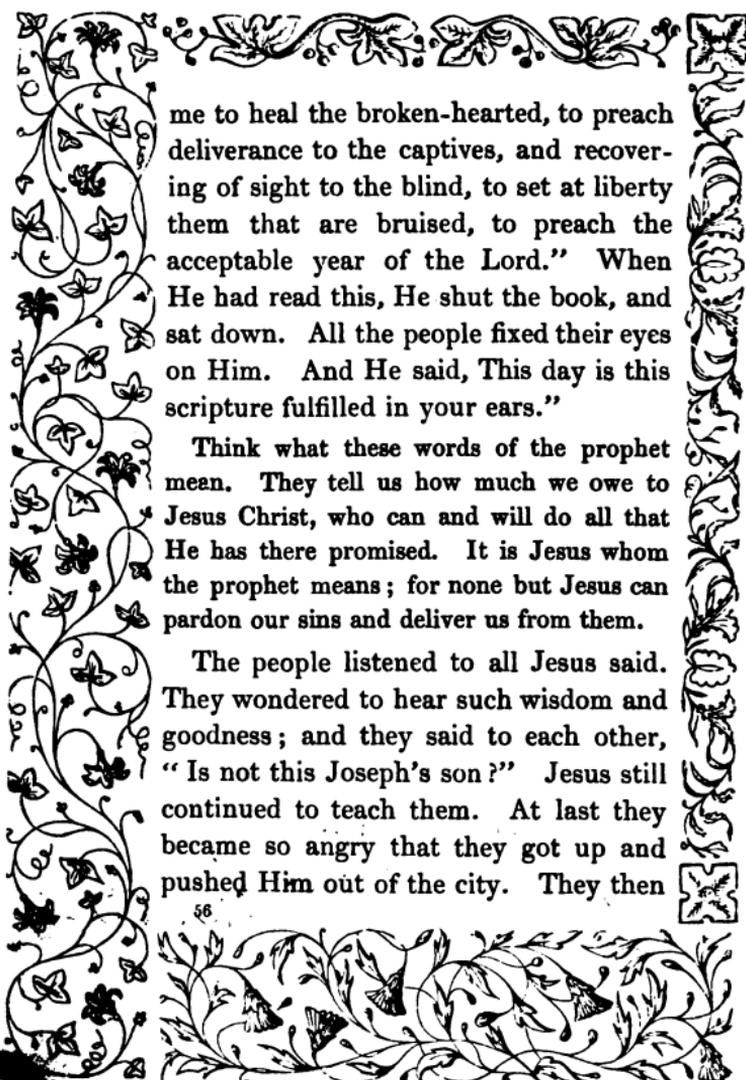


always wishing to do men good ; so He went and stayed with them two days. He spent this time in teaching them divine truth ; and many of them believed Him to be the Saviour.

Happy are all those who believe, love, and obey Jesus, without having seen Him.

**17. JESUS PREACHES FOR THE FIRST TIME
AT NAZARETH.**

THE Saviour went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. On the Sabbath-day He went into the synagogue and stood up to read. They gave Him the book of Isaiah the prophet. He opened it and read these beautiful words : “ The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath appointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor ; He hath sent

A decorative border of intricate floral and vine patterns surrounds the text. The border features various leaves, flowers, and scrolling vines, with a small square decorative element at the top right and bottom right corners.

me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." When He had read this, He shut the book, and sat down. All the people fixed their eyes on Him. And He said, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."

Think what these words of the prophet mean. They tell us how much we owe to Jesus Christ, who can and will do all that He has there promised. It is Jesus whom the prophet means; for none but Jesus can pardon our sins and deliver us from them.

The people listened to all Jesus said. They wondered to hear such wisdom and goodness; and they said to each other, "Is not this Joseph's son?" Jesus still continued to teach them. At last they became so angry that they got up and pushed Him out of the city. They then



led Him to the edge of a high rock, on which the city stood, and tried to throw Him off; but Jesus passed through them all and went away. Thus the wicked people of Nazareth rejected their Saviour.

18. THE MIRACULOUS DRAUGHT OF FISHES.

ONE day Jesus stood by the lake of Genesareth; and a great number of people came to see and hear Him. There were two ships close by the shore; one belonged to Peter and his brother Andrew, and the other to James and John; they were busy mending their nets. When Jesus saw the people crowd about Him so much, He got into Simon's boat, and asked him to push it away from the land. Simon obeyed joyfully; and Jesus then preached to the people. When He had finished, He told Peter to go further from





the land and let down his nets. Peter said, " Master, we have toiled all night and have taken nothing ; nevertheless, at Thy word I will let down the net." They then put the net into the sea, and caught so many fish that the net began to break. As soon as they saw this, they made signs to the other ship to come and help them.

The net was pulled up so full of fish, that both ships were laden until they began to sink. When Peter saw this he was afraid ; he threw himself at the feet of Jesus and said, " Depart from me ; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." James and John were as much astonished as Peter when they saw so many fishes. Jesus said to Peter, " Fear not : from henceforth thou shalt catch men." The men now rowed their boats to the land ;



they then left their boats and nets, and followed Jesus.

We see the power of God in all the actions of Jesus. How kind He shewed Himself in all the miracles He performed!

After this Jesus went with James and John into Peter's house. His mother was ill in bed of a bad fever. Jesus was very kind to her; for He went to her bedside and touched her hand, and cured her in a moment. She then rose up very thankful, and prepared some food for Jesus and His disciples, and she waited upon them herself. This wonderful cure was soon talked of all over the town; and before the night came, all the sick people in the place were brought to Peter's house. When Jesus saw them He laid His hands upon them and cured them.

Jesus now began to travel to every city



and village to preach and heal the sick. He told the people to “repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

19. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.

WHEN the people saw the miracles which the Saviour wrought, they followed Him in crowds. Jesus went up into a mountain and began to teach them. The disciples stood close to Him ; but the people were round the mountain. All eyes were fixed on Jesus, and there was a deep silence. He then taught them in these words : “Blessed are the poor in spirit : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn : for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek : for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness : for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful : for



they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart : for they shall see God. Blessed are the peace-makers : for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad ; for great is your reward in heaven : for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

After this, our blessed Saviour explained the commandments of God ; especially that which teaches us to love our neighbour. He said, " Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets : I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law,





till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of the least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment. But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council; but whoso-





ever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing. Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: but I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other



also. And if any man will sue thee at the law and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you ; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven : for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the pub-





licans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”

He then told them that they must not only avoid impure actions, but that evil looks and corrupt desires were sinful.

We must avoid the great sin of taking false oaths. All our words are to be the truth.

“Swear not at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne: nor by the earth, for it is His footstool: neither by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. But let your communication be yea, yea, nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.”

The Saviour also teaches us how to pray, to fast, and give alms to the poor, in these words:—“Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them; otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. There-



fore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth : that thine alms may be in secret : and thy Father which seeth in secret, Himself shall reward thee openly. And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are : for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret ; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward





thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do ; for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them : for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask Him. After this manner therefore pray ye : Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil : for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you : but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father



forgive your trespasses. Moreover when ye fast, be not as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance : for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face ; that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret ; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”

Jesus continued His discourse. He warned rich men not to love riches. He taught poor men to trust in God's providence, saying :—“ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal : but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal : for where your treasure is, there



will your heart be also. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit





unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin. And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (for after all these things do the Gentiles seek :) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow : for the morrow





shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

“ Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.

“ Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under





their feet, and turn again and rend you.

“ Ask, and it shall be given you ; seek, and ye shall find ; knock, and it shall be opened unto you : for every one that asketh receiveth ; and he that seeketh findeth ; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone ? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent ? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him ? Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them : for this is the law and the prophets.

“ Enter ye in at the strait gate ; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many



there be which go in thereat : because
strait is the gate, and narrow is the way
which leadeth unto life, and few there be
that find it.

“ Beware of false prophets, which
come to you in sheep’s clothing, but in-
wardly they are ravening wolves. Ye
shall know them by their fruits. Do men
gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles ?
Even so every good tree bringeth forth
good fruit ; but a corrupt tree bringeth
forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot
bring forth evil fruit, neither can a cor-
rupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree
that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn
down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore
by their fruits ye shall know them.

“ Not every one that saith unto me,
Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom
of heaven ; but he that doeth the will of
my Father which is in heaven. Many
will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord,





have we not prophesied in Thy name?
and in Thy name have cast out devils?
and in Thy name done many wonderful
works? And then will I profess unto
them, I never knew you: depart from
me, ye that work iniquity.

“Therefore whosoever heareth these
sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will
liken him unto a wise man, which built
his house upon a rock: and the rain de-
scended, and the floods came, and the
winds blew, and beat upon that house,
and it fell not; for it was founded upon a
rock. And every one that heareth these
sayings of mine, and doeth them not,
shall be likened unto a foolish man, which
built his house upon the sand: and the
rain descended, and the floods came, and
the winds blew, and beat upon that house;
and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”



Jesus finished His discourse, and all those who heard Him were astonished ; for they had never before heard such words.

These lessons of our Saviour are intended for us, as well as for those who heard them. Happy shall we be if we make them the rule of our conduct. We must not only know the lessons which Christ teaches, but we must obey them, if we wish to go to heaven.

**20. JESUS HEALS THE SICK, AND RAISES
THE DAUGHTER OF JAIRUS TO LIFE.**

ONE day, as our Saviour was sitting in a house teaching the people, a poor man was brought in his bed to be cured of the palsy. There was a great crowd of people round the house, so that those who brought the sick man could not get



in to Jesus. But they were so anxious to have him cured, and they had such faith in the Saviour, that they carried the sick man to the top of the house, and let him down through the roof into the room where Jesus was sitting. When Jesus saw the faith they had in Him, He was pleased. He looked on the poor sick man with pity, and spoke kindly to him, saying, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee." The proud and envious Scribes and Pharisees were offended with Jesus, because He forgave the poor man's sins. Jesus knew their wicked thoughts, and said to them, "Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? for whether is easier to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith He to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go to thine





house." Directly our Lord had said these words, the poor man was cured ; and he got up, took his bed, and carried it home. When the people saw this, they were astonished ; and they glorified God, and said, " We have seen strange things to-day."

After this, Jesus went out of the house ; and as He was walking along the street, He saw Matthew sitting at the receipt of custom ; and He said to him, " Follow me ;" and Matthew rose up and followed Jesus, and invited Him to his house.

Whilst Jesus was talking with His disciples, one of the rulers, named Jairus, came to Him, to ask Him to cure his little girl, who was very ill. Jairus fell down at the feet of Jesus, and prayed Him to go and lay His hands upon her, and heal her. Jesus listened to his prayer, and He arose and went with him ; a very great crowd of people followed



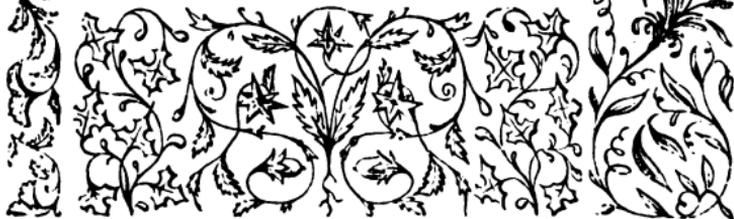
them. There was a woman in the crowd, who had been ill for many years. She had seen many doctors, and had spent a great deal of money in medicine, but it was all in vain, for nothing did her any good. As Jesus was walking along, she went close to Him, and touched the hem of His garment ; for she believed that if she could only touch His garment she should be cured ; and the moment she touched it she felt quite well. She thought no one observed her ; but how can any thing be hid from Jesus ? He turned round and said, " Who touched me ? " The people all declared they had not done it. Peter and the other disciples said, " Master, the multitude throng Thee and press Thee ; and sayest Thou, Who touched me ? " Jesus replied, " Somebody hath touched me ; for I perceive





that virtue is gone out of me." When the poor woman saw that Jesus knew all, she was seized with fear ; and casting herself at the feet of Jesus, she confessed what she had done. The Lord looked kindly upon her, and said, " Daughter, be of good comfort ; thy faith hath made thee whole ; go in peace."

Whilst Jesus was speaking, one of the servants of Jairus came to him and said, " Thy daughter is dead ; trouble not the Master." When Jesus heard this, He said, " Fear not ; believe only, and she shall be made whole." On reaching the house, He found it full of mourners, weeping for the loss of this young girl, who was about twelve years old. Jesus said to them, " Weep not ; she is not dead, but sleepeth." The people then mocked Jesus, because He said the child





was not dead, for they did not understand His words. Jesus ordered all of them to go away. He then went into the chamber with the father and mother, and with Peter, James, and John. The body of the little girl, who once flourished like a rose, was now pale and cold. The parents wept over her with the greatest sorrow. The tender heart of Jesus was full of compassion: He went up to the body, took hold of the hand, and in a kind gentle voice said, "Damsel, I say unto thee, arise." As soon as Jesus had said this, the child rose up and walked.

Jesus then told them to give her some food; and He ordered them not to tell any one what had been done. But the noise of this great miracle soon spread through all the country.

How good and kind it was of Jesus to raise this child to life! He will, one day,



raise us all from our graves, as He did this little girl from her death-bed. Oh! let us love and praise Him for His goodness! Let us pray that we may awake in His likeness!

21. HEALING THE PARALYTIC.

At the feast of the Passover Jesus went to Jerusalem. On the outside of the city there was a pool of water, which was surrounded by a building called Bethesda, which means, the house of the merciful. This building was full of blind, lame, and other sick people, who waited for the moving of the water; for sometimes an angel came down from heaven, and troubled the waters. The first person who went into the pool after this, was cured of whatever disease he had; so that the sick waited in the building to see when the water moved, that they might be ready to jump in first.



Among these sick people there was a poor man who had lost the use of his limbs thirty-eight years. Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had been sick a long time; and He kindly asked the man, "Wilt thou be made whole?" The poor man replied, "Sir, I have no one, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool; but, while I am coming, another steppeth down before me." Jesus then said to him, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." Although this poor man had been a cripple so many years, he was now able to walk, and he rose up, took his bed, and walked home.

As soon as Jesus had cured him, He went away, before the man could ask His name. It was on the Sabbath-day. When the Jews saw him carrying his bed, they said to him, "It is the Sabbath-



day; it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed." The poor man told them that He who had cured him said, "Take up thy bed and walk." They then asked him who the man was that had told him to do so; but he could not tell them, as he did not know Jesus.

A short time after, Jesus saw the man in the temple. He said to him, "Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon thee." When the man knew that Jesus had cured him, he went and told the Jews. These wicked men hated Jesus; and when they heard that He had cured a man on the Sabbath-day, they tried to kill Him.

The Lord's day is sanctified by doing works of mercy, and not in neglecting them. And the true way of keeping the Sabbath is to worship God, and to do good to men.



22. OUR SAVIOUR CHOOSES HIS TWELVE
APOSTLES.

WHEN Jesus returned to Galilee, a very great multitude followed Him, because they had heard of His wonderful miracles. The people came from all parts: some were deaf and dumb; some blind, and lame, and paralytic; and others had evil spirits. They all tried to touch Jesus, that they might be cured. Jesus pitied them, and healed them all. He felt great compassion for these poor people, who were ignorant and wicked. They were scattered like sheep without a shepherd. The sight of their misery moved the tender heart of the Saviour; and He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest."



Jesus had been preaching in all the cities and villages; and when He had ended His long and weary journeys, He went up into a mountain, and spent the whole night in prayer. In the morning, He called His disciples, and chose twelve of them. These He called "apostles." Their names were, "Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphæus, and Simon called Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot. These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received,



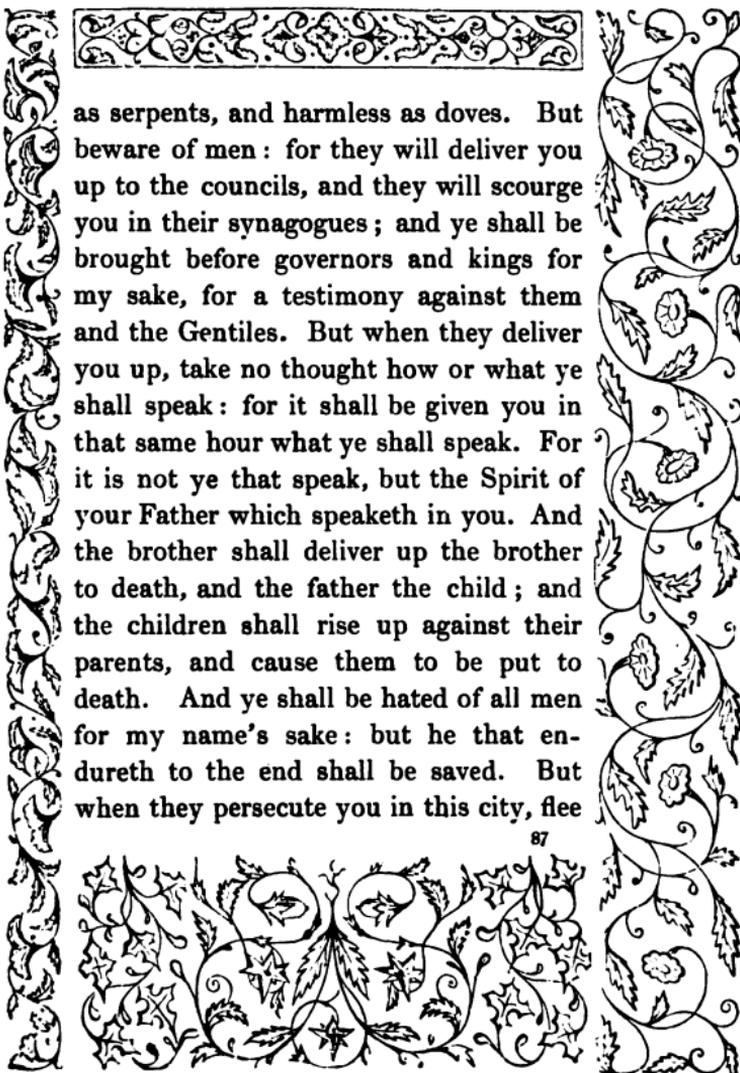


freely give. Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat. And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, inquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. And when ye come into an house, salute it. And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.

“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise



as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men : for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues ; and ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak : for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child ; and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake : but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. But when they persecute you in this city, flee





ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel till the Son of man be come. The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? Fear them not, therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the house-tops. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without





your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not, therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows. Whosoever, therefore, shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of



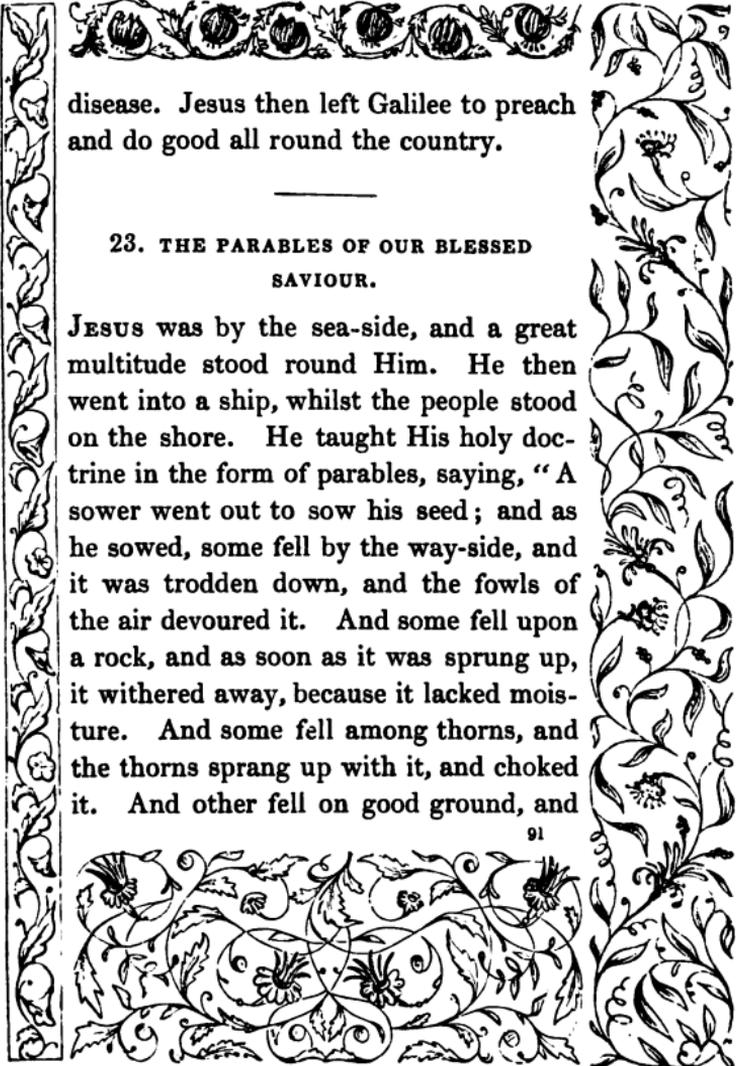


me. He that findeth his life shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

“He that receiveth you receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth Him that sent me. He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”

After Jesus had finished these words, He sent out His apostles, by two and two, into all the towns and villages, to tell men to repent of their sins. He also gave them power to heal all kinds of





disease. Jesus then left Galilee to preach and do good all round the country.

**23. THE PARABLES OF OUR BLESSED
SAVIOUR.**

JESUS was by the sea-side, and a great multitude stood round Him. He then went into a ship, whilst the people stood on the shore. He taught His holy doctrine in the form of parables, saying, "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell by the way-side, and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock, and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and



sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when He had said these things, He cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And His disciples asked Him, saying, What might this parable be?"

Jesusthen explained this parable to them. And He said, "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God : but to others in parables ; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. Now the parable is this : The seed is the Word of God. Those by the way-side are they that hear ; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe, and be saved. They on the rock are they which, when they hear, receive the word with joy ; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns, are they which, when they have heard, go





forth, and are choked with cares, and riches, and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground, are they which, in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."

In another parable He taught them about the kingdom of heaven on earth, that is, the Church, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field. But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came, and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto



him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest; and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."

Jesus then explained this parable, saying, "He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; the field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; the enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of





man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

O how dreadful is the state of the wicked in the next world! They will be separated for ever from the society of the good. Shut out of heaven, they will weep and be always unhappy! If we wish to escape this dreadful end, we must use all our efforts to keep from sin. All who love Jesus, and follow Him, by avoiding evil, and keeping His commandments, will be saved from this misery, and live in heaven for ever with the Lord. God is so merciful and good, that



He is always ready to give us His grace to help us to do what is right. Let us then pray always for this grace, and give up all our wicked thoughts, words, and works.

24. THE PARABLES CONTINUED.

“THE kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard-seed, which a man took and sowed in his field: which indeed is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.”

This parable is an image of the holy Church of Jesus Christ, which from small beginnings has spread itself over the whole world, and has received all the kingdoms of the earth into its bosom, by holy baptism.

“The kingdom of heaven,” said Jesus again, “is like unto leaven, which a wo-



man took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened."

We have been baptised into the kingdom of Jesus Christ; and our whole souls ought to be full of the Divine Spirit of our Saviour. All our thoughts, all our words and actions, ought to be holy and heavenly.

"The kingdom of heaven," continued Jesus, "is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field."

We must not think any thing too precious to sacrifice for our salvation and sanctification.

"Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt; for the tree is known by his fruit."

Pious words and good resolutions are of



no use if they do not lead to good works. They are of no more value than a fruit-tree which bears no fruit.

“ And He spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, That likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece,



doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

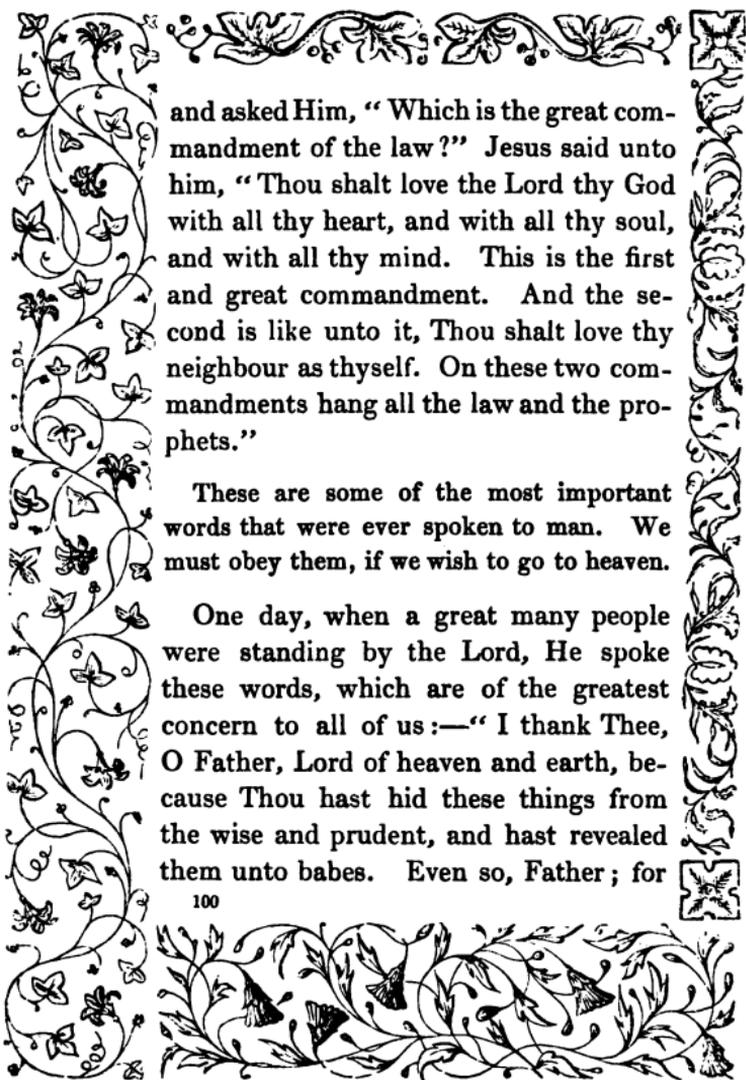
It is thus that the Lord Jesus seeks lost sinners, and brings them back to Himself; and it is thus that the angels in heaven rejoice when a man turns from his wicked ways into the paths of goodness. Oh, how much we ought to love our Saviour, and try to do what He bids us!

**25. REMARKABLE SENTENCES SPOKEN BY
OUR LORD.**

A DOCTOR of the law came to our Lord,

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and asked Him, "Which is the great commandment of the law?" Jesus said unto him, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

These are some of the most important words that were ever spoken to man. We must obey them, if we wish to go to heaven.

One day, when a great many people were standing by the Lord, He spoke these words, which are of the greatest concern to all of us:—"I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father; for



so it seemed good in Thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father; and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him." "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

A certain man thought that our Lord was going to found an earthly kingdom, and that he should become a great man; and he came to Jesus, and said unto Him, "Lord, I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest." The Lord replied, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head."





Another said to Him, "Lord, I will follow Thee ; but let me first go bid them farewell which are at home at my house." Jesus saw that he was not firm, but that his friends kept him back ; and He said to him, " No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

As the Lord Jesus was sitting in the temple, he saw many rich people putting their money into the treasury. He saw also a very poor widow woman put in two mites, which make a farthing. And He called His disciples, and said, " Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in than all they which have cast into the treasury ; for all they did cast in of their abundance ; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."



The Lord Jesus judges of the actions of men by the motives with which they are done. He respects a small alms, or a little sacrifice, if given with a pure heart, and with the desire of pleasing Him alone, much more than He does the greatest charity and the practice of the most austere virtues, when they come from an evil heart, or are done to seek the praises of men. How cheering it is to know that our simple and common duties are holy and pleasing to God, if they are done from love to Him! In all our actions let us do all to the glory of God.

A person asked Him, "Lord, are there few that be saved?" Jesus replied, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate; for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the Master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying,





‘Lord, Lord, open unto us!’ and He shall answer, and say unto you, ‘I know you not whence ye are.’ Then shall ye begin to say, ‘We have eaten and drunk in Thy presence, and Thou hast taught in our streets.’ But He shall say, ‘I tell you, I know you not whence ye are: depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.’”

St. Peter came one day to Jesus, and said to Him, “Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?” Peter thought he had said a great deal when he asked if he should forgive his brother “seven times.”





But the Lord answered, "I say not unto thee until seven times, but until seventy times seven."

Our Saviour here teaches us that we must freely, and with a sincere heart, forgive men all that they have done against us, and that we must never "bear malice or hatred in our hearts." This is God's command; and nothing is more displeasing to Him than a malicious and revengeful spirit.

26. THE DEATH OF JOHN BAPTIST.

HEROD, the son of that wicked king who had slain the infants at Bethlehem, was governor of Galilee. He heard what a wonderful man John the Baptist was, and he sent for him. When John came, he told Herod of his sins, especially of the wickedness of marrying his brother's wife. Herod knew that St. John was a



very holy man ; and he was afraid of him, and did many things that John told him ; but he would not listen to what John said against his marrying.

From this time Herodias, the wife of Herod's brother Philip, hated John, and determined to have her revenge on him. She made Herod put this holy man into prison.

Soon after Herod had done this, he kept his birthday, and made a grand feast, to which he asked all his nobles. The daughter of Herodias came to the feast, and danced before all the company. Herod and his friends were so much pleased with her dancing, that he foolishly promised to give her any thing she asked for, even if it was half his kingdom. The girl did not know what to ask for ; so she went to her mother, and said,



“What shall I ask?” The wicked woman replied, “The head of John the Baptist.” The young girl then made haste back to Herod, and said, “I will that thou give me, by and by, in a charger, the head of John the Baptist.” When Herod heard this, he was very sorry; but he dare not break his oath. So he sent his guards to the prison to take off the head of the holy prophet, which they did; and they brought the bleeding head in a charger to the girl; and she took it to her mother.

It was very wrong of Herod to make such a rash vow; but he was not obliged to keep it, for in doing so he was guilty of the most dreadful crime. He took away the life of this good man to please a wicked woman, who hated him because he had reprov'd her evil ways. In dying this violent death, the





holy forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ has obtained the glorious crown of martyrdom. He teaches us, by his example, that we should rather die, than sacrifice the sacred interests of virtue and religion.

27. THE LORD JESUS BLESSES LITTLE CHILDREN.

THE Lord Jesus was always followed by a great crowd of people, who came to hear Him, and to be cured by Him. One day some people brought little children, that He might put His hands upon them; but His disciples would have sent them away. When Jesus heard them, He was not pleased with the disciples, for He loved little children; and He said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of heaven. Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not re-





ceive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." And He took the little children in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them.

One day the disciples were quarrelling about which of them should be the chief. The Lord knew their thoughts; and, in order to teach them better, He took a little child, and set it in the midst of them, and said, "Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever, therefore, shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name, receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe





unto the world because of offences : for it must needs be that offences come : but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh. Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee : it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee : it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell-fire. Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones ; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.”

Oh, what great love does the Lord Jesus Christ here shew to little children ! They are the special objects of His tender care. It is to



them that He shews the most touching proofs of His goodness ; and He tells His disciples that they must be open, simple, and innocent as little children. We must try, then, to preserve these precious virtues ; for Jesus loves us ; and we ought so to love Him, that we would rather die a thousand times than offend Him, by doing what is wrong.

28. THE TRANSFIGURATION.

OUR blessed Saviour took the three disciples whom He loved most — Peter, James, and John—up a high mountain. When they were at the top, the Lord Jesus knelt down to pray ; and, as He prayed, His face shone as bright as the sun, and His raiment became as white as snow, and shone like a bright light. And the disciples saw two men, sur-



rounded with heavenly glory, talking with the Lord Jesus. These men were Moses and Elias. The disciples were filled with holy fear at this wonderful sight. St. Peter said, with great delight, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles—one for Thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias." While he was speaking, a bright cloud came over them; and a Voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased: hear ye Him." When the disciples heard this Voice, they were afraid, and fell on their faces to the ground. But Jesus went to them, and touched them, saying, "Arise, and be not afraid." And when they looked up, they saw the Lord Jesus by Himself, looking as He always did.

As they came down from the mountain, our Lord said to them, "Tell the



vision to no man until the Son of man be risen again from the dead." The disciples did not know what He meant by rising from the dead.

After this, Jesus spoke to them more plainly about His death; for He said, "The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men, and they shall kill Him, and the third day He shall be raised again." And they were very sorry.

Upon the mountain our blessed Saviour shewed His disciples the glory which He had in heaven as the Son of God. Let us pray, and strive to love and obey Him, and follow His steps here upon earth: then we shall see Him thus in heaven.

29. THE PRODIGAL SON.

OUR Lord loved to teach by parables.

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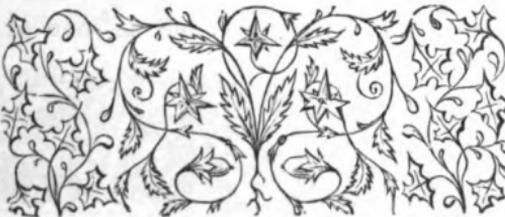




One of the most beautiful which He gave was this:—"A certain man had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my



father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son; make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: for this





my son was dead, and is alive again ;
he was lost, and is found. And they
began to be merry.”

What fatherly kindness ! It is thus God
acts towards truly penitent sinners.

“ Now his elder son was in the field ;
and as he came and drew nigh to the
house, he heard music and dancing. And
he called one of the servants, and asked
what these things meant. And he said
unto him, Thy brother is come ; and thy
father hath killed the fatted calf, because
he hath received him safe and sound.
And he was angry, and would not go
in : therefore came his father out, and
entreated him. And he answering said
to his father, Lo, these many years do I
serve thee, neither transgressed I at any
time thy commandment ; and yet thou
never gavest me a kid, that I might make
merry with my friends : but as soon as





this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found."

We must not be unkind and envious of others, as this brother was; but rather be tender and merciful, as our heavenly Father is.

30. THE GOOD SAMARITAN.

A **LAWYER** one day asked our Lord what he must do to be saved. The Lord told him that he must love God with all his heart, and mind, and soul, and strength; and that he must love his neighbour





as he loved himself. The lawyer then asked who was his neighbour. Jesus answering said, "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way ; and, when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was ; and, when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow,



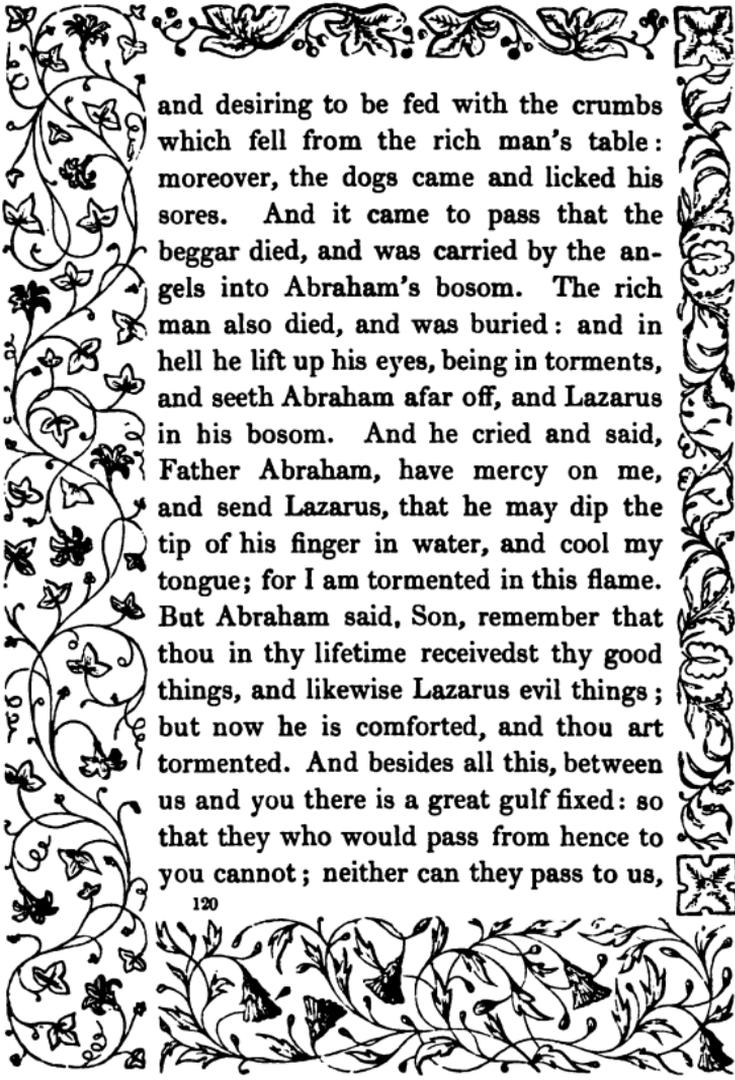


when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him ; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him."

The true love of our neighbour is to help him who is in need, even if he lives in error. Our Saviour says, " Go, and do thou likewise."

31. THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS.

"THERE was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day. And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate full of sores,

A decorative border of intricate floral and vine patterns surrounds the text. The border features various flowers, leaves, and scrolling vines, with a repeating floral motif at the top and bottom center.

and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table : moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died, and was buried : and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things ; but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed : so that they who would pass from hence to you cannot ; neither can they pass to us,



that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: for I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham; but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

It is much better to be poor and pious in this life, than to be rich and selfish; for, after suffering a few slight troubles here, the pious man will be taken to Paradise, where he will enjoy the greatest happiness for ever; whilst the selfish, after a few vain pleasures, which cannot make him happy, will be sent to a place of misery and punishment. If





God gives us riches, we must use them in doing good—in feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and in building churches and schools; we shall then have God's blessing. But if, instead of doing these things, we spend all our money in fine clothes, in houses, and in pleasure, we shall be punished in the next world as this rich man was.

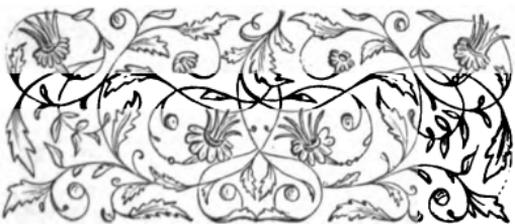
32. VARIOUS INSTRUCTIVE EVENTS.

WHEN our Lord Jesus Christ was at Capernaum with His disciples, the men who collected the tribute-money came to St. Peter, and said, "Doth not your Master pay tribute?" Peter replied, "Yes," and went into the house to tell his Master. The Lord Jesus said to him, "Lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and take up the fish that



first cometh up ; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money ; that take, and give unto them for me and thee." Peter did as Jesus told him ; and he found the money in the fish's mouth, which he took to the collector. The Lord Jesus always acted justly towards the rulers of this world, and obeyed their authority.

Jesus set out on His way to Jerusalem ; and He sent His disciples into a village of the Samaritans, to prepare a place for Him ; but the people would not let Him stop there. When the disciples St. James and St. John saw this, they were very angry, and said, " Lord, wilt Thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them ?" Jesus turned round to rebuke them, and said, " Ye know not what manner of





spirit ye are of. For the Son of Man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." They then went on to another village.

If our zeal makes us cruel and unkind, it displeases our Saviour; for He has told us that we must love and pray for those who are unkind to us. If we do not, we cannot be His disciples.

After this our Lord Jesus and His disciples went on to the village of Bethany, in which lived two sisters, Martha and Mary. Martha received the Saviour into her house. Her sister Mary sat down at the feet of Jesus to listen to His words; but Martha was so anxious to make the house comfortable, that she was vexed Mary did not help her. And she went to the Saviour, and said, "Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her, therefore, that she





help me." Jesus answered, "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful; and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Although it would be wicked to neglect the duties of this life, we must never so attend to them as to leave no time to listen to the Word of God, and to observe His commandments. This is the "one thing needful," because upon it our salvation depends. If this is neglected, nothing else can do us any good; for we shall be lost and unhappy for ever and ever.

33. LAZARUS RAISED FROM THE DEAD.

LAZARUS, the brother of Mary and Martha, was very ill. His sisters knew that the Lord Jesus could cure him; and they sent to tell Him that Lazarus was



sick. Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters; and when He heard this, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." The Saviour did not go to Lazarus at once; but on the third day He said to His disciples, "Let us go into Judea again: our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go that I may awake him out of sleep." Our Lord Jesus knew that he was dead, and that He could bring him to life.

When He came near to the little town of Bethany, where Mary and Martha lived, He was told that Lazarus had been in the grave four days. As soon as Martha heard that the Lord was coming, she went to meet Him; and she said, "Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." The Lord Jesus said to her:



“Thy brother shall rise again.” Martha saith to Him: “I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said unto her: “I am the Resurrection and the Life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?” Martha said: “Yea, Lord; I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.”

Martha then went and told her sister Mary that the Saviour was come. Mary rose up from her seat, to go to the Lord Jesus. When she saw Him, she fell down at His feet, weeping, and saying: “Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.” The merciful Jesus was so full of love and goodness,



that He wept when He saw Mary and the Jews weeping. And He said: "Where have ye laid him?" Jesus went to the grave full of grief. The grave was a cave in a rock, and was covered with a great stone. The Lord then told them to take the stone away; and He looked up to heaven, and said, "Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard me. And I knew that Thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by, I said it, that they may believe that Thou hast sent me." Jesus then cried with a loud voice, saying: "Lazarus, come forth." At the word of the Lord Jesus, Lazarus came to life, and walked out of the cave.

How wonderful to see a dead man brought to life by a word! We must remember that the Lord Jesus Christ was the Son of God; and that He will some day raise all the dead to life, as He raised Lazarus.





34. MARY ANOINTS THE SAVIOUR'S FEET.

SOME of the Jews who saw Lazarus raised to life believed Jesus Christ to be the Messiah ; but some of them were so wicked as to go and tell the Pharisees what He had done ; and they sought to kill Him. The Lord Jesus knew this, and He went to a place called Ephraim. Six days before the passover, He went again to Bethany. And they made Him a supper at the house of a man named Simon, who was a leper. Lazarus sat at the table ; and Martha waited upon them. Then Mary took a box of precious ointment, and poured it over the feet of the holy Jesus, and wiped them with her hair. When the wicked Judas saw what Mary had done, he said : " Why was this waste of the ointment made ? for it might have been sold for three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor." Judas

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was a hypocrite, and did not care for the poor ; but he wanted to get the money for his own use. The Lord Jesus said : “ Let her alone ; why trouble ye her ? she hath wrought a good work on Me. For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will, ye may do them good ; but Me ye have not always. She hath done what she could : she is come beforehand to anoint My Body to the burying. Verily I say unto you, where-soever this Gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.”

It was love and gratitude to the blessed Saviour that made Mary do this ; and the Lord rewarded her. He never forgets those who love Him.



35. THE SOLEMN ENTRY OF THE LORD
JESUS CHRIST INTO JERUSALEM.



AFTER this, Jesus went towards Jerusalem. When He came to the Mount of Olives, He said to two of the disciples: "Go unto the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her; loose them, and bring them unto me. And if any man say aught unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them." The disciples did as the Lord told them; and they brought the ass to Him. They then put their garments upon the ass, and set Jesus on it. In doing this our Lord fulfilled this prophecy, which had been spoken many hundreds of years before: "Tell ye the daughter of Sion, behold, thy King com-



eth unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass."

The blessed Jesus rode on towards Jerusalem ; and a great many people, who had seen His miracles, went after Him. And they were so full of joy, that some of them spread their garments in the way — others climbed into the palm-trees, and cut off branches, to strew along the road. The whole multitude cried out, as they went along, "Hosanna to the Son of David! blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

When the Lord Jesus came near to the city, He looked on it with pity, and wept, because He knew that it would soon be destroyed for its wickedness ; and He said, " If thou hadst known, even thou, in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the



days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side; and shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation."

All this happened about forty years after.

It was thus the Saviour entered into Jerusalem; and all the city was moved; and the people asked, "Who is this?" Those who came with Him said: "This is Jesus, the Prophet of Nazareth of Galilee."

Jesus then went into the temple, and drove out all the men who sold doves and oxen in it. It was as wicked to buy and sell in the temple as it would be to do so in a church. Many blind and lame persons, knowing that the Lord



Jesus could cure them, came to the temple; and He healed them. The little children also came round the Saviour, and sang, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

When the chief priests and Scribes saw the wonderful things done by Jesus, and heard the little children sing His praise, they were very angry; and they said, "Hearest Thou what these say?" The Lord said: "Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings Thou hast perfected praise?"

The great God in heaven listens to the praises and prayers of little children. Oh, how good and happy they ought to be! and how often ought they to sing holy hymns to their Saviour, who loves them so much!





36. REMARKABLE PROPHECIES OF OUR
SAVIOUR.

As Jesus left the temple, one of His disciples shewed Him the buildings of the temple. And the Lord said : " Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down." The disciples did not understand what He meant ; and when He sat down on the Mount of Olives, they said, " Tell us when shall these things be ? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world ?" And Jesus answered and said unto them, " Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars : see that ye be not



troubled ; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom ; and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you ; and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations ; and then shall the end come. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation spoken





of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whoso readeth, let him understand), then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains. Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house; neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath-day; for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there, believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall shew great

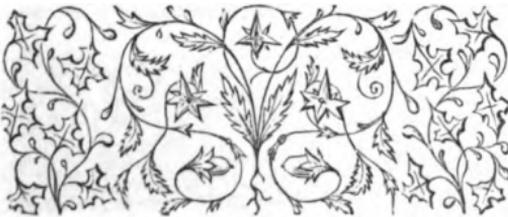




signs and wonders ; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert ; go not forth : Behold, He is in the secret chambers ; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken ; and then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven ; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of



Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet; and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Now learn a parable of the fig-tree: when his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh; so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days





that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh. Who, then, is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Bless-





ed is that servant whom his lord, when he cometh, shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, that he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellow-servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

We here see how miserable the wicked are in the next world. What a dreadful thing it is to die unprepared!

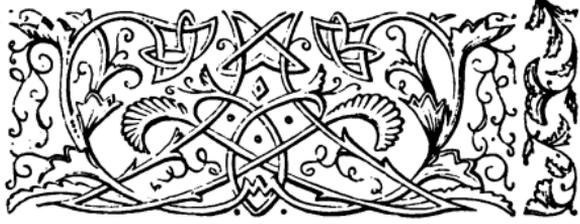
37. PROPHECIES CONTINUED.

Jesus said, "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which





took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them; but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so, lest there be not enough for us and you; but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage; and the door





was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But He answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch, therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh."

Lamps are of no use without oil to put in them : no more are our outward acts, unless they are done from love to God. Good resolutions cannot save us : they are of no use unless they lead to good actions.

"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received





the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents : behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant : thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things : enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents : behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good





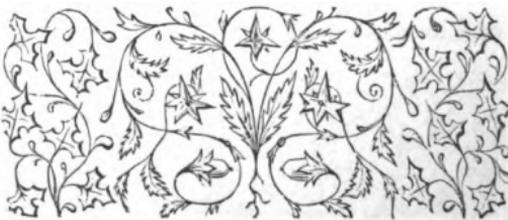
and faithful servant ; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things : enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed : and I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth : lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed : thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance ; but from





him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness : there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory. And before Him shall be gathered all nations ; and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats ; and He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world : for I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat ; I was thirsty, and ye gave me





drink ; I was a stranger, and ye took me in ; naked, and ye clothed me ; I was sick, and ye visited me ; I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee an hungred, and fed Thee? or thirsty, and gave Thee drink? When saw we Thee a stranger, and took Thee in? or naked, and clothed Thee? Or when saw we Thee sick, or in prison, and came unto Thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels : for I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat ; I was thirsty, and



ye gave me no drink ; I was a stranger, and ye took me not in ; naked, and ye clothed me not ; sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto Thee ? Then shall He answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment ; but the righteous into life eternal.”

Every word came to pass that our Lord and Saviour foretold about Jerusalem ; and so will all the awful things that He here says about the day of judgment. Let us pray that we may be placed among the sheep, on His right hand, in that fearful day.



38. THE LAST SUPPER.

THE Lord Jesus Christ knew that the time had now come when He was to be put to death. One of His disciples—the wicked, covetous Judas—had agreed to betray Jesus to the chief priests, if they would give him thirty pieces of silver. This wicked man did all secretly; but the Lord Jesus knew what he had done. The feast of the Passover was now come; and Jesus sent two of His disciples into the village to prepare it, saying, “Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water: follow him into the house where he entereth in. And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guest-chamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? And he shall shew you a



large upper room furnished : there make ready." The two disciples went to the town, and found all things just as the Lord told them. When every thing was ready, the Lord Jesus sat down to supper with His twelve apostles. His tender heart was sad ; and He said to the disciples, "Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me."

After supper, our Lord Jesus Christ rose up from the table. He then took a towel, and bound it round Him ; and pouring some water into a basin, He began to wash His disciples' feet.

He did this to teach us to be humble and kind, as He was.

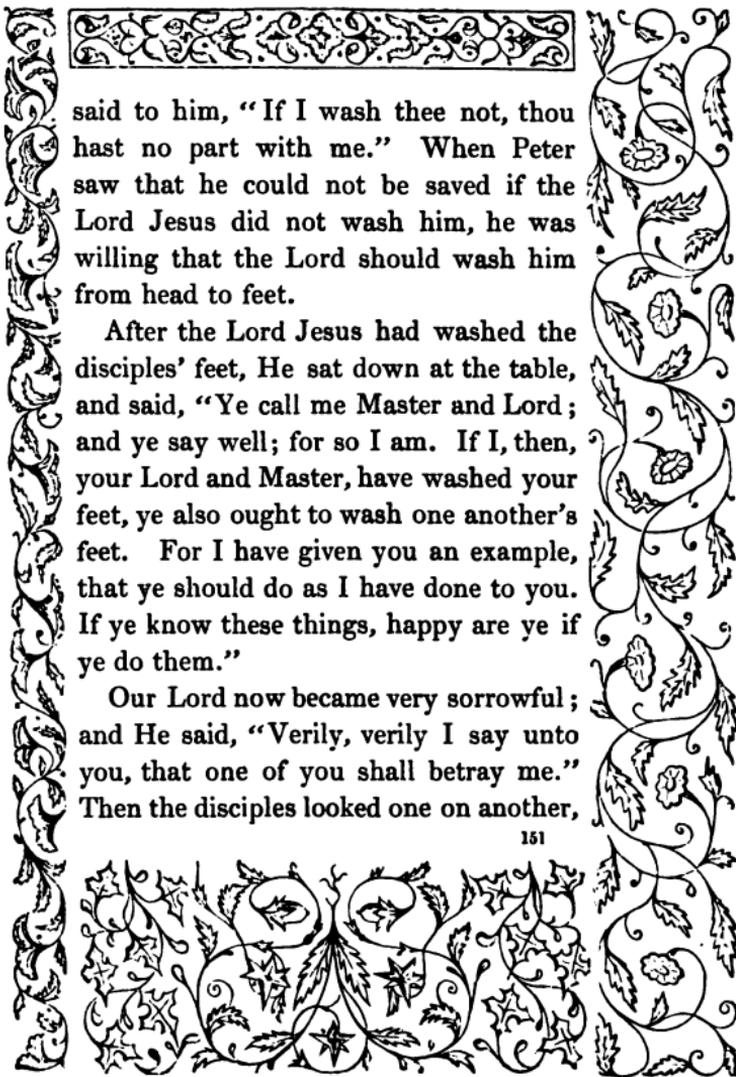
St. Peter loved his Lord and Master, and he could not bear to see Him washing his feet ; and he said, "Thou shalt never wash my feet." The Lord Jesus

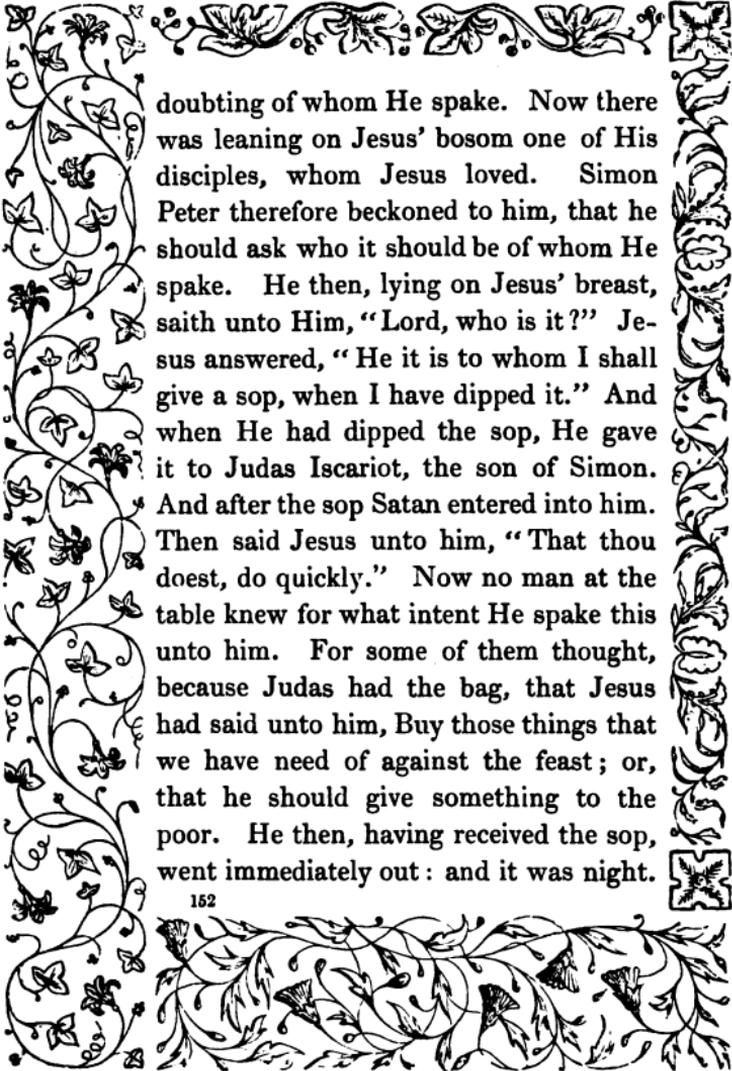


said to him, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." When Peter saw that he could not be saved if the Lord Jesus did not wash him, he was willing that the Lord should wash him from head to feet.

After the Lord Jesus had washed the disciples' feet, He sat down at the table, and said, "Ye call me Master and Lord; and ye say well; for so I am. If I, then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

Our Lord now became very sorrowful; and He said, "Verily, verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me." Then the disciples looked one on another,



A decorative border of intricate floral and vine patterns surrounds the text. The border features various leaves, flowers, and scrolling vines, with a repeating floral motif at the top and bottom center.

doubting of whom He spake. Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom He spake. He then, lying on Jesus' breast, saith unto Him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "He it is to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it." And when He had dipped the sop, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, "That thou doest, do quickly." Now no man at the table knew for what intent He spake this unto him. For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor. He then, having received the sop, went immediately out: and it was night.



Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him. If God be glorified in Him, God shall also glorify Him in Himself, and shall straightway glorify Him."

The Lord Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave to His disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My Body, which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me." And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; for this is My Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

It was in this way that our blessed Saviour instituted the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, for the strengthening and refreshing of the souls of His faithful people. The holy Church has always kept this sacred feast, in



which all faithful Christians receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

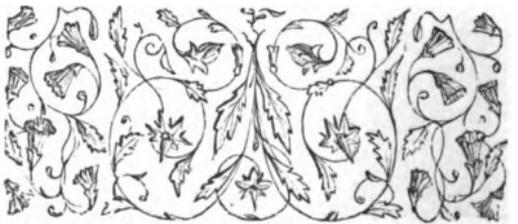
Our blessed Lord then told His disciples that they were to love one another as He loved them. "By this," said He, "shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

We learn from these words that we cannot be true Christians if we do not love each other; so that all those who are spiteful and bear malice will be shut out of heaven.

39. THE LAST WORDS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

THE kind and merciful Saviour knew that His apostles would be very unhappy when He was taken away from them. He therefore spoke these comforting words :

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“ Let not your heart be troubled : ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions : if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself ; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto Him, Lord, we know not whither Thou goest ; and how can we know the way ? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life : no man cometh unto the Father but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also : and from henceforth ye know Him, and have seen Him. Philip saith unto Him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith



unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou, then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall



give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever : even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him : but ye know Him ; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless : I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more ; but ye see me : because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me : and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto Him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that Thou wilt manifest Thyself unto us, and not unto the world ? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words : and my





Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice because I said, I go unto the Father; for my Father is greater than I. And now





I have told you before it come to pass, that when it is come to pass, ye might believe. Hereafter I will not talk much with you; for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me. But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence."

40. THE LAST WORDS OF OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST, CONTINUED.

"I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit He taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.



Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches : he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit ; for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered ; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit ; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you : continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love ; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my



joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants ; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth : but I have called you friends ; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain : that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own :

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but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not Him that sent me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin; but now they have no cloak for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin; but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is





written in their law, They hated me without a cause. But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of me; and ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning. These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. But these things have I told you, that, when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you. But now I go my way to Him





that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest Thou? But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you."

The Lord sent the Holy Ghost to the Apostles on Whitsunday. He also sends Him unto our hearts when we are baptised and when we are confirmed, if we are sincere, and wish to be His children.

"And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.



Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me; for He shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that He shall take of mine, and shew it unto you. A little while, and ye shall not see me; and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father." Then said some of His disciples among themselves, "What is this that He saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me; and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father?" They said therefore, "What is this that He saith, A little while? we cannot tell what He saith." Now Jesus knew that they were





desirous to ask Him, and said unto them, "Do ye inquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me; and again, a little while, and ye shall see me? Verily, verily, I say unto you, that ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice; and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman, when she is in travail, hath sorrow, because her hour is come; but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it





you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name : ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs ; but the time cometh when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father. At that day ye shall ask in my name : and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you ; for the Father Himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world ; again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.” His disciples said unto Him, “ Lo, now speakest Thou plainly, and speakest no proverb. Now are we sure that Thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask Thee : by this we believe that



Thou camest forth from God." Jesus answered them, "Do ye now believe? Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

41. OUR LORD'S PRAYER FOR HIS APOSTLES
AND FOR THE CHURCH.

THESE words spake Jesus, and lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour is come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee: as Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many



as Thou hast given Him. And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent. I have glorified Thee on the earth : I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Thou me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was. I have manifested Thy name unto the men which Thou gavest me out of the world : Thine they were, and Thou gavest them me ; and they have kept Thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever Thou hast given me are of Thee. For I have given unto them the words which Thou gavest me ; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from Thee, and they have believed that Thou didst send me. I pray for them : I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast

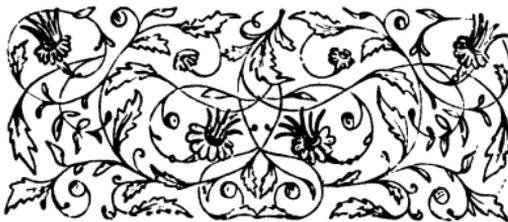


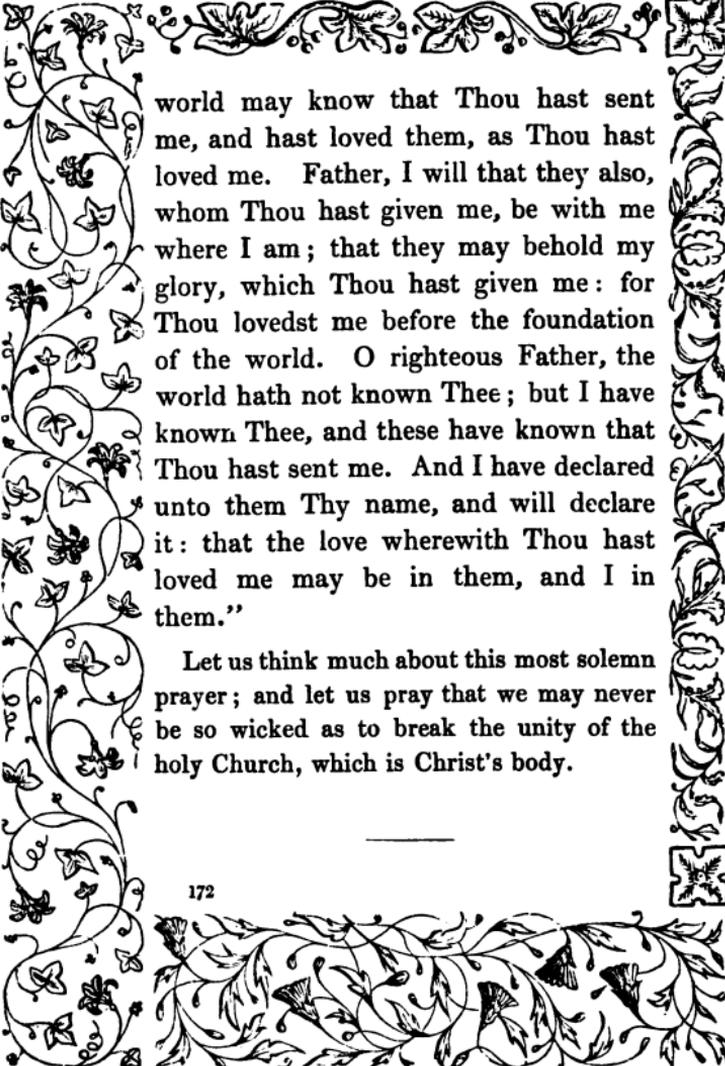


given me; for they are Thine. And all mine are Thine, and Thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Thy name: those that Thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that Thou shouldst



take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through Thy truth : Thy word is truth. As Thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word ; that they all may be one ; as Thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us : that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me. And the glory which Thou gavest me I have given them ; that they may be one, even as we are one : I in them, and Thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one ; and that the



A decorative border of intricate floral and vine patterns surrounds the text. The border features various flowers, leaves, and scrolling vines, with a repeating floral motif at the top and bottom center.

world may know that Thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which Thou hast given me: for Thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee; but I have known Thee, and these have known that Thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them Thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith Thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Let us think much about this most solemn prayer; and let us pray that we may never be so wicked as to break the unity of the holy Church, which is Christ's body.



42. THE SUFFERING AND BETRAYAL OF
OUR HOLY SAVIOUR IN THE GARDEN.



WHEN our Lord had spoken these solemn words, they sang a hymn, and then went out to the Mount of Olives. As they were going, the Lord Jesus said to them, "All ye shall be offended because of me this night; for it is written, I will smite the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee." St. Peter was angry when the Lord told him that he would forsake Him; and he said, "Though all men shall be offended because of Thee, yet will I never be offended."

St. Peter would not have said so if he had known his own weakness. But our Lord knew what he would do; and He warned him, saying, "Verily I say unto





thee, that this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice."

Peter could not believe that he should be so ungrateful—for he loved his Saviour; and he replied, "Though I should die with Thee, yet will I not deny Thee." All the disciples said the same; but before the next day they forsook their Lord and Saviour.

When they came to the garden of Gethsemane, the Lord Jesus said to the eleven apostles, "Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder." He then took Peter, James, and John, and went into the garden. His pure and loving heart was full of sorrow; and He spoke these sad words, which should make all sinners weep, saying, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death." The Lord Jesus then went a little way from the disciples,



and fell down on His face, and prayed to His heavenly Father, saying, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt."

After this prayer He came to the three disciples, and found them sleeping; and He spoke in a kind and gentle manner, saying, "What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." The Lord then went and prayed as before; and when He returned, the disciples were again asleep.

With a heart full of the deepest sorrow, because of our sins, our Saviour prayed the third time, saying, "O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, Thy will be



done." The punishment which our Lord Jesus Christ bore for our sins, and the agony He suffered, were so great, that His precious Blood ran from His body like great drops of sweat. And an angel came to comfort Him.

Oh, how dreadful is sin! and how full of love and mercy our blessed Saviour is, to suffer so much that we might go to heaven! Should we not hate sin very much when we see what misery it caused to that Saviour, who loves us more than Himself? Let us think of this when we feel any naughty, wicked tempers.

When our Lord rose from prayer, He went to His disciples, and said, "Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me."

As soon as He had said this, the wicked Judas came with a number of



men bearing torches, swords, and staves. It was about midnight, but Judas knew where to find our Lord; and he had promised to deliver Him to the chief priests and Pharisees for thirty pieces of silver; for Judas loved money more than he did that kind and gracious Lord, whose miracles of love he had so often seen. Our Lord Jesus Christ knew that these men were come to take Him, to put Him to death. But so ready was He to die for us, that He went up to them, and said, "Whom seek ye?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." He said, "I am He." At these words the men went backward, and fell to the ground. Again the Lord asked the same question; and after telling them that He was the person, He said, "If therefore ye seek me, let these go their way"—meaning the disciples.

Judas then went up to our Lord, and



said, "Hail, Master!" and kissed Him. The loving Saviour said to him, "Friend, wherefore art thou come? Betrayest thou the Son of Man with a kiss?" These kind and gentle words were enough to melt a heart of stone; but Judas was too wicked to feel them.

The men then seized our Lord and Saviour, and bound His sacred Hands and Feet with cords, as if He had been a thief. St. Peter could not bear to see his Saviour treated thus, so he drew his sword, and cut off the right ear of the high priest's servant. Our Lord, always ready to do good, touched the man's ear, and healed it. And He rebuked St. Peter, saying, "Put up again thy sword into his place; for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray



to my Father, and He shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?" In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, "Are ye come out as against a thief, with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me. But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him, and fled.

Our blessed Saviour could have destroyed His enemies in a moment; but He knew that if He did not die on the cross, no man could ever go to heaven. He therefore willingly suffered, that we might be saved.





43. ST. PETER DENIES HIS LORD, AND THE
WICKED MEN MOCK HIM.



THE meek and holy Saviour was now led to the house of the high priest. St. Peter followed Him a long way off, and went into the hall to warm himself by the fire. As he stood there, one of the servants said to him, "Thou wast also with Jesus of Nazareth." But Peter said, "I know Him not." A little while after, two other servants said the same. Then Peter declared with an oath, saying, "I know not the Man." As soon as he had denied the Lord Jesus the third time, he heard the cock crow. He then remembered that Jesus had said, "Before the cock crow thou shalt deny me thrice;" and he went out and wept bitterly.

What a lesson does this teach us! If we would be faithful to our Saviour, we must



pray to God to help us, or we shall fall as St. Peter did ; and perhaps we may never have grace to repent of our sin.

The chief priest, and the scribes, and Pharisees all met together to put the Lord Jesus to death. Now many false witnesses came, to accuse our Lord of things which He had not done. They knew that He never did any thing wrong, so they were obliged to get witnesses who would not speak the truth. But our Lord Jesus was calm, like an innocent man ; and He made no answer to His wicked enemies. The high priest stood up and said to Him, " Answerest thou nothing ? What is it which these witness against Thee ? " The Lord did not answer him. The high priest then said, " I adjure Thee by the living God, that Thou tell us whether Thou be the Christ the Son of God. " Jesus replied, " Thou hast said : nevertheless I say unto you, Here-



after shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of Power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." When the high priest heard this he rent his clothes, saying, "What further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard His blasphemy. What think ye?" They answered and said, "He is guilty of death." Then these wicked men blindfolded our Lord and Saviour, and struck His holy Face, before which the angels in heaven bow down. And some of them spat upon Him, and beat Him with their fists. The high priest ought to have been the first to worship the Lord Jesus as his Saviour, and to teach the people to do so, instead of which he was the first to condemn Him. The Lord Jesus was not angry with them; but He bore it all with meekness and patience, that He





might save us, and teach us how to behave to our enemies.

Little children, who, in baptism, were made lambs of Christ's flock, must learn to follow their Saviour's example when they are treated unkindly, and not give way to anger or revenge.

44. OUR LORD TAKEN BEFORE PILATE.

WHEN the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders plotted to put the Lord Jesus to death. And when they had cruelly tied His hands, they led Him away to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. Now when the wicked Judas saw that his Lord was condemned, he was sorry for what he had done. And he took back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and said, " I have



sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood." These cruel men replied, "What is that to us? See thou to that." Judas then saw how very wicked he had been to betray his Lord. He could not bear the stings of his guilty conscience; so he threw down the thirty pieces of silver in the temple, and went out and hanged himself.

We here see the misery of a wicked man, and the danger of loving money. Judas had been daily with our Lord Jesus Christ. He had heard all His holy words, and had seen His wonderful works, and he had received nothing but love and kindness from the Lord; but the love of money put all these things out of his mind, and led him to betray his Lord and only Saviour. Oh, let us fly from this sin; for the Scriptures tell us that the love of money has destroyed the souls of many.

The chief priests took the money which



Judas had thrown down, and bought a field, called the Potter's Field, to bury strangers in. This had been foretold by the prophet Zechariah many hundred years before.

Our blessed Lord now stood before Pilate. And Pilate asked the Jews what they had to say against Jesus.

His wicked enemies told lies, and said, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Cæsar, saying that He Himself is Christ a king." They also said many other wicked things against Him; but the Lord Jesus did not answer them. Pilate then asked Him if He was the king of the Jews. Our Lord replied, "Thou sayest. My kingdom is not of this world." Pilate again asked, "Art Thou a king then?" Jesus answered, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I



into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth My Voice." Pilate told the Jews that he could find no fault in Jesus, and he sent Him to Herod. Now those two bad men hated each other; but they made up their quarrel, and joined together to persecute Jesus, their God and Saviour. When Herod found that the Lord Jesus had done nothing wrong, he sent Him back.

Every year at the feast of the passover it was a custom to set some prisoner at liberty. Pilate wished to let the Lord Jesus go; so he went out to the Jews and asked them if he should release Jesus, or Barabbas. This Barabbas was a very wicked man, and had been put in prison for stealing and murder; but still the cruel Jews said they would ra-

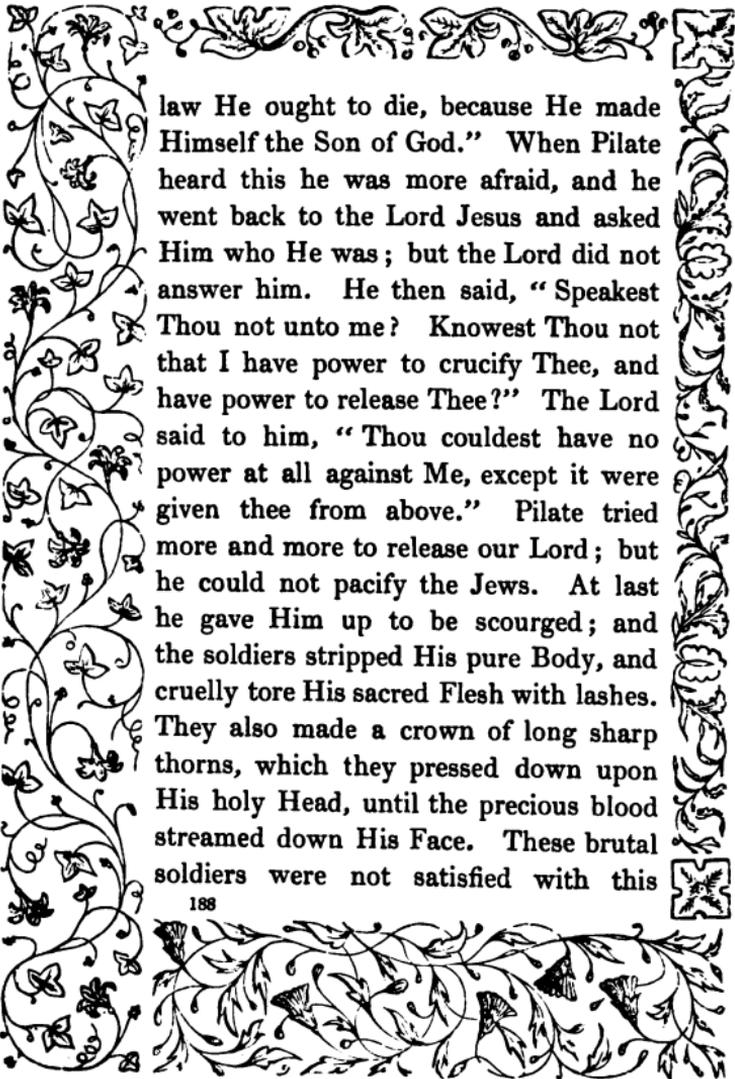




ther let him go, than the Lord Jesus Christ.

These wicked and cruel men loved a murderer, more than they did that kind and holy Saviour, who came down from heaven to die for their sins.

Pilate was afraid to condemn Jesus, because his wife had a dream, and she sent to him, saying, "Have thou nothing to do with that Just Man : for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of Him." But Pilate was so afraid of offending the Jews that he dare not let Jesus go. He then asked them what he should do with Jesus ; and they all cried out, "Let Him be crucified." Pilate said, "Why, what evil hath He done?" They knew He had done no evil ; but they cried out, "Let Him be crucified. We have a law, and by our

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law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard this he was more afraid, and he went back to the Lord Jesus and asked Him who He was ; but the Lord did not answer him. He then said, " Speakest Thou not unto me? Knowest Thou not that I have power to crucify Thee, and have power to release Thee?" The Lord said to him, " Thou couldest have no power at all against Me, except it were given thee from above." Pilate tried more and more to release our Lord ; but he could not pacify the Jews. At last he gave Him up to be scourged ; and the soldiers stripped His pure Body, and cruelly tore His sacred Flesh with lashes. They also made a crown of long sharp thorns, which they pressed down upon His holy Head, until the precious blood streamed down His Face. These brutal soldiers were not satisfied with this



cruelty; for they put on Him a purple robe, and a reed in His right hand, and bowed before Him in mockery, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And beside all this, they were so wicked as to strike Him on the head, and to spit upon Him.

Thus did these wicked men treat the most holy and tender Saviour. When we read this most awful account, we must never forget, that it was for the sins of all of us that our Lord Jesus suffered such cruelty. It was because we do not love God; but do, and say, and think wicked things, and give way to proud and naughty tempers, that our Saviour was flogged, spit upon, and nailed to the cross. Oh, let us pray to our Saviour to make us sorry for our sins, and to help us to do every thing which He tells us to do.





45. OUR LORD JESUS CRUCIFIED.

AFTER mocking our Lord, they took off the purple robe and put on His own clothes, and led Him away to crucify Him. They made the Lord Jesus carry His cross; but His sufferings had made Him so weak that He could not carry it far. So they made a man named Simon bear it after Him, unto a place called Golgotha. As they went through the streets of Jerusalem, a great many men and women followed Him; for they pitied Him, and wept. But the Saviour turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me; but weep for yourselves and for your children." Our Lord knew that Jerusalem would soon be burnt down, because of their wicked treatment of Himself. So He



told the women they had much more reason to weep for themselves than for Him.

When they came to Golgotha they stripped the Lord Jesus, and gave Him vinegar and gall to drink ; and then laid Him down upon the cross, and nailed His blessed Hands and Feet to it with long iron nails. After this the wicked wretches lifted up the cross, so as to put the bones out of joint. Our blessed Lord hung thus upon the cross in the greatest agony ; but He made no complaints. Over His head Pilate wrote these words, " **JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.**"

Whilst our Lord Jesus was hanging on the cross, the soldiers cast lots for His garments, as it had been foretold they would do. His coat was without



a seam. Our good and merciful Saviour thought more about His cruel enemies than He did about His own sufferings: and He prayed to His Father, saying, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." But nothing could touch the wicked hearts of the cruel Jews. They felt no pity for the Lord Jesus; but mocked Him, saying, "Save Thyself, and come down from the cross." "He saved others; Himself He cannot save."

The Lord Jesus was crucified between two thieves; and one of them railed at Him, and said, "If Thou be Christ, save Thyself and us." But the other thief believed in the Lord Jesus; and he said to this wicked man, "Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? and we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man hath done nothing



amiss." He then turned to the Lord Jesus, and said, " Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom." Our Lord was full of love and mercy, and He said to the penitent thief, " Verily I say unto thee, To-day shalt thou be with Me in paradise."

Some who loved Jesus stood weeping by His cross. The blessed Virgin Mary, and Mary Magdalene, and Mary the wife of Cleopas stood there, with the holy Saint John. It almost broke the heart of the Virgin Mary to see her dear and blessed Son so cruelly treated. It was then that a sword pierced through her soul, as the good old Simeon told her, when he took the infant Jesus in his arms. Jesus looked down from the cross and saw them. And He said to His sorrowful mother, " Woman, behold thy son." He then said to St. John, " Behold thy mother;" and from that time





St. John took the blessed Virgin to his own home. Whilst our Lord Jesus hung upon the cross, the sun became dark, and there was an earthquake. This was enough to convince the Jews that He was the Son of God.

Jesus now cried with a loud voice, and said, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" He then said, "I thirst." And one of the men filled a sponge with vinegar and gave it to Him to drink. The Lord Jesus then said, "It is finished!" and cried out, "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit;" and He died. As soon as Jesus was dead, the veil in the temple was torn in half, and many graves opened, and the dead came to life and went into Jerusalem.

How much the Lord Jesus must love us poor sinners, to suffer all this for us! Let



us pray that we may so love Him, that we may never do any thing that will displease Him.

46. OUR LORD RISES FROM THE DEAD.

In the evening the Body of our Lord was taken down from the cross; and a soldier ran a spear into His side, and there came out blood and water. A rich man, named Joseph, loved the Lord Jesus, and wished to bury Him; and he went to Pilate and asked him for the Body of Jesus. Pilate told him he might have it. Joseph took the body of his Saviour with great respect and care, and wrapped it in a clean white cloth. Another rich man, whose name was Nicodemus, brought some very expensive spices to put on the Saviour's precious Body. They then carried it with great





care, and put it into a new tomb, which was cut out of a rock in Joseph's garden; and they rolled a great stone over the mouth of the cave.

The next day the chief priests and Pharisees went to ask Pilate to have the grave watched, because the Lord had said that He would rise again on the third day. They then went and sealed up the stone, and set men to watch it, for fear the disciples should take the Body away. But they could not prevent Christ rising from the dead; for very early on Sunday morning there was an earthquake, and an angel came down from heaven and rolled the stone away, and sat upon it. He was clothed in white, and his face shone like lightning; and when the watchmen saw him, they fell down, almost dead with fear.

The holy women, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, went to the tomb before



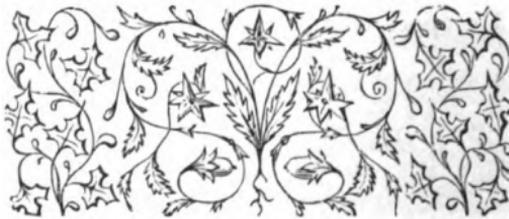
daylight, and found the stone rolled away. They then went in, but could not find the body of the Lord Jesus ; but they saw two angels, who told them that the Lord was risen from the dead. Mary made haste to tell St. Peter and St. John. When they heard it, they ran to the sepulchre, and found the linen clothes lying by themselves. The disciples then went home very much astonished at what they had seen. As Mary stood crying in the garden, the Lord appeared to her ; but she did not know Him, until the Lord called her by her name. As soon as she knew Him, she fell down at His feet to worship Him ; and the Lord said, "Touch me not ; for I am not yet ascended to my Father : but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God." After this He appeared to two of the disciples as





they were walking, and told them all that the Scriptures said about Himself; but they did not know Him until He took bread and blessed it; they then knew that it was the Lord, and He vanished out of their sight.

“ Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when He had so said, He shewed unto them His hands and His side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you : as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost :





whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them ; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe. And after eight days again His disciples were within, and Thomas with them : then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith He to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands ; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side ; and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas



answered and said unto Him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed : blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book : but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God ; and that believing ye might have life through His Name."

When the watchmen told the chief priests all that had happened, they were so afraid that the people would believe in the Lord Jesus, that they bribed the men to tell lies, and to say that the disciples had stolen His body.

Our Lord conquered Satan and death, and rose from the grave on the morning of Easter Sunday. This is the reason why the Church has always kept that day as the



greatest festival. If the Lord Jesus had not risen from the dead, we should never rise out of our graves ; but He has said that He will raise us up at the last day. What a comfort it is to think of this when we lose our dear friends, and to know that we shall one day see them again ! How can we sufficiently love that Saviour who gives us this and every other blessing !

47. OUR LORD ASCENDS TO HEAVEN.

THE Lord Jesus Christ dwelt on the earth forty days after He rose from the dead. He told His disciples many things about the kingdom of God ; and promised to send them the Holy Ghost down from heaven. One day He said to them, " All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations ; baptising them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the



Holy Ghost : teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you : and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." The Lord bade them stop at Jerusalem, until the Holy Ghost came down upon them.

We are all baptised into the Name of the Most Holy and Blessed Trinity.

At the end of the forty days He took the apostles to Bethany, and said to them, " Ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you : and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." When He had spoken these words, He lifted up His hands, and blessed them. And He was taken up into heaven, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.





The disciples were amazed when they saw the Lord go up into heaven. And as they stood looking up after Him, two angels appeared, and said to them, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven."

They then turned back to Jerusalem, full of holy joy; and they went often into the temple to praise and bless God. The apostles, the blessed Virgin Mary, and many others, spent their time in praying to God.

Ascension or Holy Thursday has always been kept sacred by the Church of Christ, in remembrance of the Lord Jesus going into heaven, where He now dwells, and where He sees all we do, and hears all we



say. He is gone to prepare a place for all who love and obey Him. Those who follow Him on earth will live for ever with Him in heaven.

**48. THE HOLY GHOST DESCENDS ON THE
APOSTLES.**



At the feast called Pentecost, Jerusalem was full of strangers from all parts of the world. They went there to worship God. The apostles were all together in a house; and on a sudden they heard a loud sound, like a very high wind, which filled the house. At the same moment they saw cloven tongues like fire resting upon them. And they were filled with the Holy Ghost, so that they could speak languages which they had never learned. The apostles then began to preach, and the people from all parts of the world were astonished to hear them speak in their different languages.



St. Peter stood up and said, "Ye men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him, in the midst of you. Him ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He hath shed forth This, which ye now see and hear. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, Whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."

When the people heard these words, their consciences were pricked, and they said to the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" St. Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptised every





one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you and your children." God the Holy Ghost so moved the hearts of these people, that three thousand of them believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, and were baptised that very day. After this they went every day into the temple to pray, and received the sacrament, and heard the apostles preach. The rich sold their houses and lands, and gave the money to the apostles, that they might give it to the poor. They all loved each other, and were very happy; and they praised God for His goodness.

We here learn how the first disciples loved one another. And so ought we to love those who have been baptised into the Church. In Baptism, God the Holy Ghost enters into





our hearts, and makes us all brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ ; we ought, therefore, to love all, and try to do them good.

49. WONDERS WROUGHT BY THE HOLY
APOSTLES.

THE Lord Jesus had said that God the Holy Ghost should guide the apostles into all truth. This promise was now fulfilled ; for He inspired the holy apostles, so that they knew every thing that God wished them to say. God the Holy Ghost also gave them power to work miracles. One day as St. Peter and St. John were going into the temple to pray, they saw a poor man lying at the gate begging. This man had been a cripple all his life, and could not walk. When he saw the apostles, he



asked them to give him something. St. Peter looked at him, and said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." He then took hold of his hand, and the poor man got up and walked, and went into the temple leaping for joy, and praising God. When the people saw this they were very much astonished. St. Peter then told them that the same Jesus, whom they had crucified, was now in heaven, and had healed this man. The chief priests and scribes were very angry, when they heard the apostles preach about the Lord Jesus. And they put St. Peter and St. John in prison until the next day, when they brought them out into the council, and asked them by what power or by what name they had cured the lame man. "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye



rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, if we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by Him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the Stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the Head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." The rulers then said that they would punish them, if they preached any more about the Lord Jesus, and sent them away. St. Peter and St. John went to tell the other apostles what had been done to them. And they all knelt down and prayed to God. The holy



apostles wished every body to believe in the Lord Jesus. They did not care for any persecution, if they could only tell the people about their Saviour. Many thousands became Christians, and sold their lands, and gave the money to the apostles, that they might give it to poor Christians.

But there was a wicked man and woman, who tried to deceive the apostles, by telling a lie. They sold some land, and gave part of the money to the apostles, and said that they had given all. But St. Peter said to the man, "Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived





this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out and buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in,





and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.”

See what a wicked thing it is to tell lies ! This man and woman were struck dead for doing so. And God tells us in the Bible that liars shall not go to heaven.

The Holy Ghost gave the apostles power to do many miracles. A great many sick people were cured by a word from the apostles. This so vexed the high priest, that he had these holy men put in prison ; but God sent an angel in the night, to open the prison-doors, and let them out.

No harm can happen to those who love and serve God, because He takes care of them.



50. THE FIRST MARTYR SLAIN.

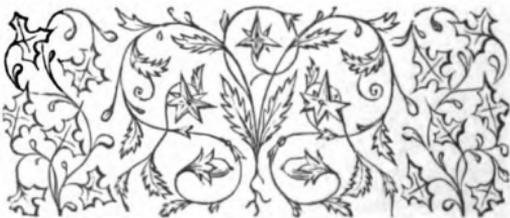
MANY of the Jews hated the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ, and they tried to put a stop to it; but the more they opposed it, the further it spread. There was one very holy man, named Stephen, who was full of the Holy Ghost, and of love to the Lord Jesus. He did great wonders and miracles among the people, so that many became Christians. The Jews hated Stephen, and they took him before the judge. When he was there, every body in the place looked at him with wonder, for his face looked like an angel's. St. Stephen then told them how wicked they had been to crucify the Lord Jesus. "When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into





heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out of the city, and stoned him : and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep."

St. Stephen was the first Christian who died for his love to the Lord Jesus. He must have felt very happy when he saw the Lord Jesus in heaven, and knew that he was





going to be with Him for ever. St. Stephen did not feel angry with his murderers; but he prayed for them, as our Saviour did when He was on the cross. How happy all good people are, even if the world treats them unkindly! But the wicked are not happy in this world; and in the next they will be very, very unhappy. Let us pray to the Lord Jesus to make us good, that no wicked men may frighten us to do wrong.

51. THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL.

THE young man Saul, who was at the stoning of St. Stephen, was one of the greatest enemies to the Christians. He went into their houses, and dragged them away to prison. The poor Christians were so cruelly persecuted that they were obliged to flee for their lives. Saul had



no mercy on any of them ; but tried to destroy them all. One day he went to Damascus, with orders from the high priest to seize all the Christians he could find, and to bring them bound to Jerusalem. But as he went along the road, he was struck down to the ground in a moment ; and he saw a great light brighter than the sun, and heard a voice, saying, " Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" Saul was very much frightened, and he said, " Who art Thou, Lord?" And the voice said, " I am Jesus whom thou persecutest : it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." At these words he trembled with fear, and said, " Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" The Lord answered, " Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." The men who were with Saul heard the voice, but they saw no man, and they were very much afraid. When



Saul rose up from the ground he could not see; and the men led him into Damascus. "And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, and hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to Thy saints at Jerusalem; and here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on Thy name. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a





chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel; for I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptised. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. But all that heard



him were amazed, and said, Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ." After this wonderful conversion Saul was called Paul. St. Paul now became quite a different man; for he loved his Saviour and all Christians with all his heart. He gave up every thing, and wished only to live to the glory of God, and the good of men. He was once proud and cruel; but now he became as humble and gentle as a child. He went into all parts of the world to preach the Gospel, even at the risk of losing his life. He was flogged, shipwrecked, and put in prison, because



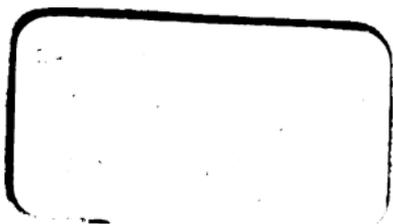
he preached the Gospel; but nothing could stop him—and at last he was taken to Rome, and was killed there.

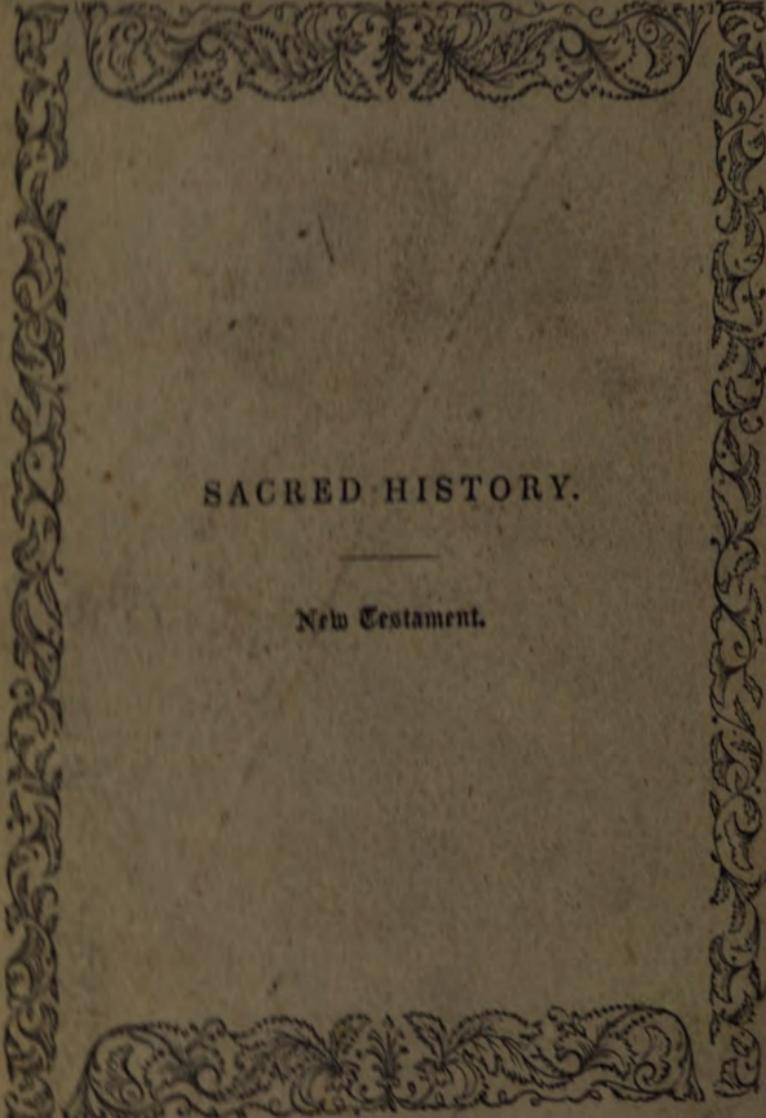
All the holy apostles and martyrs, and all the blessed saints who were treated cruelly and put to death because they loved and worshipped the Lord Jesus, are now very happy and blessed; but those who hated them, and would not do as they told them, are miserable. No people are really happy but good, religious people; but they are always so, because they know that their Saviour loves them, and will take them to heaven.

THE END.

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