Matthew - Commentaries by Favell Lee Bevan Mortimer

Peep of Day, Lesson 27: The Lord's Prayer

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Matt. 6:9-13, Luke 11:1-13

WHEN Jesus was in the world, He loved to think of His Father in heaven. He liked to be alone, so that He might pray to His Father. Sometimes the tears ran down His cheeks while He prayed.1

One night Jesus prayed all night alone on the top of a high hill. 2Sometimes Jesus prayed to His Father while His disciples stood near and listened.

Once when Jesus had been praying with them they said, ‘Lord, teach us to pray.’ Then Jesus taught them a little prayer. It was this: ‘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, forever. Amen.’

I know that many little children say this prayer night and morning. Perhaps your mothers have taught you to say it. But did you know who said it first? It was Jesus, the Lord. So it is called ‘the Lord’s prayer.’

It is a very beautiful prayer, for Jesus said it; but it is hard for children to understand it. What is the meaning of ‘Hallowed be Thy name’?

Let God’s name be praised.

What are ‘debts’?

Debts are what we owe to God because we have sinned. Ask God to forgive your sins, or your debts.

Do you ever pray to God when you are alone?

You may pray to Him in any place in the house or in the garden or anywhere else.

You may pray to Him at any time in the night or in the middle of the day.

You may ask Him for anything you want, just as you ask your father or mother. 3

What will you ask Him for? Will you ask Him to give you food and clothes and a house to live in?

Yes, ask Him for all these things, but most of all ask Him for His Holy Spirit.

It is better to have the Holy Spirit than to have all the toys, all the money, all the flowers, all the birds, and all the beautiful things in the world.

Why is it better?

Because the Holy Spirit will make you love God, as the angels do, and will make you live forever and ever.

Will you say this little prayer to God? ‘O Lord, give me Thy Holy Spirit, for Christ’s sake.’

Questions

Why did Jesus choose to be alone sometimes?

Did Jesus ever pray to His Father when His disciples were with Him?

What did they ask Jesus to teach them?

What prayer did Jesus teach them?

What is the meaning of ‘Hallowed be Thy name’?

What must you ask God for, to make you good?

Will God give you the Spirit if you ask Him?

When we should pray:

A verse from the Bible for you to learn:

“Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice.” Psa. 55:17.

Peep of Day, Lesson 18: The Temptation

Matt. 4:1-11

AT last Jesus grew up to be a man. He knew that He must go from place to place and teach people about God.

But first He went alone, led by the Spirit, into a place called a wilderness. He had no house to sleep in there, no friend to speak to and no food to eat. In the night it was cold, in the day very hot.

There were no men, but there were lions, wolves, and bears.1 At night they roared and howled, but Jesus trusted in His Father.

He ate nothing for forty days and forty nights. God kept Him alive. When Jesus was alone, He spoke in His heart to His dear Father. 2

At last someone came and spoke to Him.

Who was it?

Not a man, not a bright angel, not God; it was Satan. I do not know what he looked like. He came to tempt Jesus to do wicked things. He came to tempt Jesus not to obey God His Father.

Satan knew that Jesus was hungry He said to Jesus, ‘Turn these stones into bread!’ But Jesus would not do that, for God had promised to feed Him Himself.

After that, Satan took Jesus to the top of a great building, that was much higher than a church. It is frightening to be at the top of a very high place; it makes one tremble to look down from the top.

Satan said to Jesus, ‘Throw Thyself down from this place; Thy Father will send His angels to keep Thee from being hurt, for He has promised to take care of Thee.’

Would Jesus have done right, if He had thrown Himself down? No. Jesus knew that His Father would be displeased if He threw Himself down; and Jesus always did the things that pleased His Father.

Then Satan took Jesus to the top of a very high hill. He showed Him the most beautiful things in the world: trees and gardens, houses and ships, and fine clothes and feasts. He said, ‘Look at these fine things.’ Satan promised to give them all to Jesus. He would give Jesus the whole world. All Jesus had to do was to kneel down and worship Satan. But Jesus said, ‘I will pray to My Father, and not to you.’

Jesus loved His Father better than all the things in the world. Adam and Eve listened to Satan and disobeyed God, but Jesus did everything His Father told Him. Adam was disobedient; Jesus was obedient.

Then Satan went away; and angels came from heaven and fed Jesus.

Satan goes about, trying to make children do bad things. A lion could only eat your body, but Satan wants to have your soul and body in hell. Satan hates you. He is your enemy. But God is stronger than Satan. 3Say to God, ‘Keep me from doing what Satan tells me to do,’ and God will keep you.

Questions

When Jesus grew to be a man, where did He go by Himself?

Were there animals in the wilderness?

How many days was Jesus there?

What did He eat?

Who came to Him at last?

Why did Satan come?

What did Satan ask Jesus to do first?

Why would Jesus not turn the stones into bread?

What did Satan ask Jesus to do when he had taken Him to the top of a high building?

Why would Jesus not throw Himself down?

What did Satan show Jesus from the top of a hill?

What did Satan say Jesus must do, if He would have all these fine things?

Would Jesus do this?

Who fed Jesus after Satan went away?

What harm does Satan want to do to children and to everyone?

The devil is cruel:

A verse from the Bible for you to learn:

The devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8.

Peep of Day, Lesson 30: Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11, 14-17

WHICH was one of the greatest miracles that Jesus ever did? It was making Lazarus alive again; because he had been dead for four days.

Many of the wicked people who hated Jesus heard of it, but then they hated Him more than ever. They said, ‘We must kill Him soon, or everyone will believe that He is the Son of God.’ Jesus knew that they wanted to kill Him, so He went and hid Himself in a place they did not know about. They looked for Him, but they could not find Him.

But could Jesus always stay in that quiet place, where He was living with His disciples?

No, He came down to this world to die for sinners. He only waited till the time came for Him to die. Then He said to His disciples, ‘We must go up to Jerusalem, and I shall be mocked and beaten and killed, but I shall come out of My grave after three days.’

The disciples did not like to hear this, but they chose to go with Jesus wherever He went. Jesus walked along the road and at last He came near Jerusalem. Then He stopped and said to His disciples, ‘I shall ride into Jerusalem on an ass.’ Jesus had no ass of His own; He always walked from place to place. But Jesus could put it into a man’s heart to lend Him one.

He said to two of His disciples, ‘Go along the road a little way, and you will see an ass and a young ass tied, and a man standing near. Bring the ass and the young one to Me, for I know that the man will let them come.’

So the two disciples went. When they had gone a little way, they saw an ass tied up, and a young one with it. They began to untie the ass, but a man standing near them said, ‘Why do you untie the ass?’

They said, ‘The Lord has need of them.’ Then the man let them go. I suppose that man loved the Lord Jesus and liked to lend Him his things.

The two disciples brought the asses to Jesus. They took off some of their clothes and put them on the young ass, and Jesus sat on it.

Many people came out of Jerusalem to see Jesus, for they heard that He had made Lazarus alive again. The people began to praise Jesus and to call Him King. They took off some of their clothes and laid them down on the road for the ass to walk on. And they pulled branches off the trees that grew near and laid them on the road too.

So Jesus came to the great town of Jerusalem. All the people came into the streets to look at Him. Even the little children began to praise Him, and to call Him King.

The proud men that hated Jesus were very angry at hearing all these praises. They did not like to hear Jesus praised. They came to Him and said, ‘Why dost Thou let these children call Thee King?’

But Jesus liked to hear the children sing His praise. So He would not tell them to be silent. Jesus loved little children, and these little children loved Jesus.

Questions

What did some of the people in Jerusalem wish to do to Jesus?

Did Jesus walk or ride into Jerusalem?

Where did the disciples find an ass?

Why did so many of the people come to see Jesus when He was riding on the ass?

What did the people lay upon the road?

How did the little children make the proud men angry?

The people who should praise God

A verse from the Bible for you to learn:

Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children: let them praise the name of the Lord. Psa. 148:12, 13.

Peep of Day, Lesson 16: The Wise Men

Matthew 2

THERE were some wise and rich men who lived a long way from Bethlehem. They knew that God had sent His Son to be a babe, but they did not know where to find Him. So God put a beautiful star in the sky, and God made it move towards the place where Jesus was.

So the wise men left their houses, and set out on a long journey, but first they said, ‘let us bring some presents for the Son of God, for He is a king.’

They took some gold, and some sweet-smelling stuff (to burn). They looked at the star as they went. At last it stopped over a house in Bethlehem. The wise men were very glad indeed. They longed to see the Son of God.

They went in, and there they saw Mary and her child Jesus. They fell down and began to praise Him, and to call Him the Son of God and the King. They took out their presents, and gave them to Him. Mary was poor, but now she had some money to buy things for her little baby.

Questions

Who came from far away to see Jesus?

Who told them that God had sent His Son to be a baby?

How did they find the way to Bethlehem?

What did they bring with them?

Where did the star stop?

What did the wise men do when they saw Jesus?

The Great King:

A verse from the Bible for you to learn:

“God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises.” Ps. 47:7.

Peep of Day, Lesson 50: The Ascension

Matt. 28:16-20, Luke 24:46-53, Acts 1:4-14

JESUS used to come and see His disciples after He was made alive again. But He did not stay with them for long.

He told them He was soon going up to His Father. ‘When I am gone, you must tell people about Me. You must tell the people who crucified Me that I will forgive them if they will believe on Me. The Holy Spirit will come down from heaven, for My Father has promised to send Him down soon. Wait at Jerusalem till He comes. I will always be with you, though you do not see Me. Some day I shall come back again.’

The disciples asked Jesus when He would come back, but Jesus would not tell them.

One day Jesus and His disciples walked together to the top of a hill. Jesus began to pray with His disciples and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was doing this, He was taken up to heaven, and a cloud hid Him at last from the eyes of His disciples.

They still looked up and saw the cloud go higher and higher till they could see it no more. But still they went on looking. Then they heard some persons speaking to them. When they looked to see who it was, they saw two angels standing beside them.

The angels were dressed in white shining clothes. They said, ‘Why do you look so long at the sky? Jesus will come again someday.’ The disciples then went back to Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps you think they were very unhappy, now that Jesus was gone? No, they were not. They knew He had gone to get a place in heaven ready for them, and that they would live with Him there forever. This made them glad.

Questions

Can you tell me a verse about loving Jesus?

Did Jesus live always with His disciples after He was alive again, or did He only come to see them sometimes?

What did Jesus tell His disciples to do when He went back to His Father?

Did He tell them when He would come back?

What was Jesus doing just before He went away in the cloud?

Who spoke to the disciples as they were looking at the cloud?

Were the disciples unhappy when Jesus was gone?

Why were they not unhappy?

How Jesus left His disciples, after He had risen from the dead:

A verse from the Bible for you to learn:

And it came to pass, while He blessed them, He was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. Luke 24:51.

Peep of Day, Lesson 45: The Resurrection

Mark 16:1-6. Luke 24:3-10. Matt. 28:9, 10

ONE morning very early, when Jesus had been dead only two days, the women came into the garden. It was not yet quite light, for the sun was just rising.

As the women walked along with their ointment, they said to each other, ‘How shall we get into the grave? The men put a large stone in front of it, and the stone is so big that we cannot roll it away.’ The women did not know what to do.

At last, when they came to the grave, they found that the stone was rolled away already. The women were quite surprised. Then they were afraid that some wicked people had rolled it away and stolen the body of Jesus. This made them very sad. They looked into the grave, and saw that Jesus was not there.

But soon they saw two beautiful angels standing by them. Their faces were bright like the sun, their clothes whiter than snow.

The women trembled when they saw the angels; but the angels spoke sweetly and kindly to them, saying, ‘Do not be afraid; we know that you are looking for Jesus. He is not here now; He is alive. Do you not remember how He said that He would come to life again after He had been crucified?’

‘Come,’ said the angels, ‘and look at the place where Jesus lay. Run quickly, and tell His disciples that Jesus is alive, and that they shall see Him very soon.’

The women were very glad indeed. They ran as quickly as they could to tell the disciples. But as they were running, who do you think they saw?

It was Jesus Himself! He did not look as He once had looked. There were no tears on His cheeks; they were all wiped away.1

He was not weak and faint as when He carried His cross. He could never die again. 2

How pleased the women were to see Him! They knelt down on the ground and held His feet, so that He might not go away. They called Him their Lord and their God. Still they felt a little afraid, but Jesus told them not to be afraid.

Jesus said, ‘Go, tell My brothers that I shall soon see them again.’

Whom did Jesus call His brothers?

His disciples. He had forgiven them for having run away when the wicked men took Him.

The women ran, as Jesus had told them, to the disciples. They said, ‘We have seen angels! We have seen the Lord Jesus! He is walking about, and you will see Him soon.’ But the disciples would not believe the women.

Questions

When did the women come to the grave?

Why did they come?

Who rolled away the large stone?

How did the angels look?

Were the women pleased when they saw them?

What did the angels tell the women?

Who did the women run to tell what they had seen?

Who did the women see as they went along?

What did the women do when they saw Jesus?

Did Jesus forgive His disciples for having left Him alone?

Did the disciples believe that the women had seen Jesus?

Christ’s words after He rose from the dead

A verse from the Bible for you to learn:

“I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore.” Rev. 1:18.

Peep of Day, Lesson 44: The Grave

John 19:38-42. Luke 23:55, 56. Matt. 27:60

THERE was one rich man who loved Jesus; his name was Joseph (not Mary’s husband; this was another Joseph). Joseph had a garden, and in the garden, he had a grave. Perhaps he meant to be buried there himself when he died.

But now Joseph thought, ‘I should like to put the Lord Jesus in my grave.’ It was a very nice grave, and no one had ever been put there yet.

So Joseph went to Pontius Pilate and said, ‘I want the dead body of Jesus. May I take it down from the cross, and keep it myself?’

And Pilate said, ‘Yes, you may have it.’

Then Joseph was glad. He brought some nice, white, clean linen.

What do you think that was for?

To wrap Jesus in. And he brought some spices (sweet-smelling things from plants). Nicodemus came with him, and they took the nails out of Jesus’ hands and feet and took his body down from the cross. Then Joseph wrapped a cloth round His head, and another cloth round His waist, and he put sweet spices on Him. Then some men carried Jesus along to Joseph’s garden.

In the garden there was a large rock, and a hole in the rock, like a hole in the wall. They walked into this large dark hole, and they laid Jesus down alone. Now He was at rest; He felt no pain or sorrow. The wicked people were not near; and there lay the Lord in His quiet grave. The men took a very large stone and stopped up the hole, so that nobody could come in. No beast or bird could touch the Lord Jesus. There were trees and flowers near Him in this nice garden. There were angels there watching over Him, though no one could see them.

Where were the women who loved Jesus?

They had been looking at Him on the cross. How they must have cried when they saw Him bleed, and when they heard Him cry out to God!

The women had seen Joseph and Nicodemus take down the body from the cross. They had followed the men into the garden. They had seen it put so carefully into the grave.

They said to each other, ‘Let us get more spices, and make sweet ointment to put on the Lord Jesus.’ Joseph had put some spices on Jesus’ body, but they wanted to put more spices on it. So they went home and made nice ointment.

Questions

Who put Jesus into his own grave?

Where was the grave?

Who did Joseph ask when he wanted Jesus’ body?

What did Joseph wrap it in?

What did he put round Jesus’ head and waist?

What was put in front of the grave?

Did anyone see where Jesus was laid?

What did the women make when they went home?

What happened to Jesus’ body after He was crucified?

A verse from the Bible for you to learn:

And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb. Matt. 27:59, 60.

Peep of Day, Lesson 42: The Cross, Part 3

John 19:25-30. Matt. 27:45-54

JESUS’ mother, Mary, stood near the cross. She came to see her Son die. She was very sorry. She felt her heart full of pain at the sight.1

She loved her dear, good Son, who had been kind to her ever since He was a baby. He had never done one thing wrong, and she knew He was the Son of God. Jesus was sorry to see His mother’s grief.

John had come to the cross, and he was standing near Mary. Jesus wished John to take care of His mother, now that He was going to leave her. So He said to His mother, ‘Behold your son!’ And He said to John, ‘Behold your mother!’

John knew what Jesus meant, and he took Mary to be his mother. So after that Mary always lived with him. Jesus loved His mother, and thought of her even when He was dying.

Jesus was full of pain, and it was very hot. He said, ‘I thirst!’ The soldiers took a sponge and dipped it in vinegar. Then they put it on a reed and gave it to Jesus.

Jesus just tasted the vinegar and said, ‘It is finished!’ Then He died. His spirit went to His Father, but His body was still hanging on the cross.

It was three o’clock in the afternoon when Jesus died. He had been nailed to the cross all day. Before Jesus died God had made it very dark, to show He was angry with the wicked people. And God made the earth shake. The people were frightened; and when Jesus was dead, some of them said, ‘This must have been the Son of God.’

Questions

Where was Jesus' mother, Mary, when He was on the cross?

Who stood near Mary?

Who took care of her after Jesus was crucified?

What did the soldiers give Jesus to drink?

What did Jesus say just before He died?

What frightened the people just before He died?

How they treated Christ when He was thirsty on the cross:

A verse from the Bible for you to learn:

In My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink. Psa. 69:21.

Peep of Day, Lesson 39: Death of Judas

Matthew 27:3-5

WHERE was Judas all this time? The wicked people had given him the money, thirty pieces of silver. But Judas could not be happy.

'Ah!' thought he, 'I have killed my good Master! What a wicked thing I have done!'

Judas felt that he could not like the money. He could not bear to keep it, because he had done such a wicked thing to get it. So Judas went to look for the wicked men. They had been sitting up all night talking against Jesus, but now they were in God's house the Temple.

Judas brought the thirty pieces of silver in his hands and threw them down on the floor near the wicked men. Judas said, 'I have done a very wicked thing.'

But the men did not care for that. All they wanted was to get Jesus killed. They picked up the pieces of silver from the floor. Then they went to buy a field with the money.

And where did Judas go?

He went out to the field to kill himself. He did not go and ask Jesus to forgive him, but he went and hanged himself.1 O what a horrible sight it must have been! But it was more horrible to think where Judas' soul had gone.

It had gone to hell—to Satan.

It was very wicked of Judas to hang himself, instead of praying to God to forgive him.

Judas is in the wicked place now; 2and Jesus will judge him at the last day and say, 'Depart, you cursed one!'

Questions

Was Judas happy when he got the thirty pieces of silver?

What did he do with them?

How did Judas kill himself?

Where is Judas now?

The misery of the wicked:

A verse from the Bible for you to learn:

There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked. Isa. 57:21.

Peep of Day, Lesson 38: Pontius Pilate

John 18:22-40. Matt. 26:67, 68. John 19:1-16

ALL night long, Jesus stood in the great room. He heard all Peter said, and that must have made Him sad. The wicked people were like lions and tigers, but Jesus was like a lamb. They looked at Him as if they hated Him. 1Once when He spoke, a servant slapped His face, but Jesus bore this meekly.

The judge was not up yet, because it was night. So the wicked people were forced to wait till the morning. That night the servants came round Jesus and beat Him and pushed Him and laughed at Him. They even spat in His face.

When the morning came, the wicked people said, 'Now we will bring Him to the judge.'

So they went out of their fine house and took Jesus with them.

The judge sat upon a high seat in the street. His name was Pontius Pilate. The judge did not know Jesus. The judge said, ‘What has He done?’

The wicked people said, ‘He calls himself a king.’

Then Pilate said to Jesus, ‘Art Thou a king?’

Jesus said, ‘Yes, I am.’ But Pilate was sure that Jesus had done nothing wrong, so he did not want to punish Him.

Then the wicked men made a great noise and said, ‘You must crucify Him!’

‘No,’ said Pilate, ‘I will beat Him, and that will be enough.’ So Pilate gave Jesus to some soldiers. They took Him into a house and beat Him with knotted ropes (this way of beating is called scourging) and the blood ran all down His back. Then the cruel soldiers laughed at Him because He said He was a king. They took off His own clothes, and put some fine clothes on Him, such as kings wear, purple and red.

Then they said, ‘We must put a crown on His head.’ So they took prickly thorns, sharp like pins, and twisted them together to make a crown. They put it on His head.

They said, ‘He must have a scepter’ (for kings hold in their hands a rod called a scepter). So they put a reed in His hand for a scepter. Then they took it from Him and beat Him on the head. And they knelt down to Him laughing; they said, ‘O king! O king!’

Pilate saw the soldiers tormenting Jesus, and he brought Him into the street, where the wicked people were. He showed Jesus to them and said, ‘Behold, look at your King!’

Pilate hoped they would be sorry for Him, because blood was on His forehead from the thorns, His back had been scourged, and He was dressed in fine clothes to mock Him. But the wicked people were cruel like tigers.

‘No,’ they said, ‘crucify Him, crucify Him!’ All the people cried out, ‘Crucify Him!’ though Jesus had always been so kind to them.

‘Will you crucify your king?’ asked Pilate.

‘He is not our king!’ the people said.

There was a very great noise in the street, from the people all speaking at once. Then Pilate thought he would please the wicked people, so he said, ‘Take Him and crucify Him.’ Then the people were glad. But first the soldiers took the fine clothes off Jesus and put His own clothes on Him again.

How wicked it was of Pilate to let Him be crucified! Pilate thought Jesus was good, yet he let Him be killed to please the people.

Questions

Did Jesus stand a long time before the wicked people?

How did one of the servants behave to Him?

When did the wicked men take Him to the judge?

What did the servants put over His face?

Where was the judge sitting?

What was the judge’s name?

Did the judge wish to hurt Jesus?

What did the wicked people say that Jesus had called Himself?

Was Jesus a king?

What is scourging?

Why did the soldiers laugh at Him?

What clothes did they put on Him?

What did they put on His head?

What did they put in His hand?

What is a scepter?

Why did Pilate tell the wicked people to look at Jesus?

Did the people make a great noise?

What did Pilate at last say should be done to Jesus?

Why did Pilate allow Jesus to be crucified?

How Jesus was treated before He died

A verse from the Bible for you to learn:

I hid not My face from shame and spitting. Isa. 50:6.

Peep of Day, Lesson 37: Peter's Denial

Matthew 26:57-75

THE wicked, proud men who hated Jesus sat up all night. They sent their servants with some soldiers to fetch Jesus. They were in a fine house, seated on seats round the room, talking together and longing for Jesus to be brought.

They said one to another, ‘We will have Him killed when He comes. We will take Him to the judge.’

At last Jesus came in with the wicked servants. The proud men were glad to see Him. They made Him stand up in the middle of the large room. Then they spoke roughly to Him. ‘Art Thou the Son of God?’ they said.

‘Yes,’ said Jesus, ‘I am; and one day you will see Me coming in the clouds with the angels.’

Then the wicked men were angry. ‘Do you hear what He says?’ they cried out. ‘He calls Himself the Son of God. He must be taken to the judge to be killed.’

Jesus stood meekly all this time and hardly spoke a word. But what happened to the disciples?

They ran away.

Did Peter run away? Peter said he would die with Jesus. But he ran away too. At last Peter thought, ‘I will go and look for Jesus. I should like to see what the wicked men are doing to Him.’

So Peter came to Jerusalem and into the fine house. He came into the hall first. The wicked servants were sitting round a fire in the hall. A door was open, and through the door Peter could see Jesus. There He was, standing before the wicked men. Peter hoped that nobody would know that he was one of Jesus’ disciples. He was afraid that he too would be killed. But, as Peter was sitting by the fire warming himself, a maid said to him, ‘You are one of Jesus’ disciples.’

Peter was frightened and said, ‘No, I am not. I do not know the man you speak of.’

Then Peter got up and went outside the door, but another maid said to him, ‘I am sure you are one of the disciples of Jesus.’

‘No,’ said Peter, ‘I am not.’ So Peter went back again to the fire and began talking with the servants.

But some of them remembered having seen Peter in the garden, and they came to Peter and said, ‘We are certain that you are one of the disciples.’ And one of them said to him, ‘I saw you in the garden.’

Then Peter began to swear, and to say that he was not one of the disciples. But while Peter was speaking so wickedly, he heard a cock crow.

Peter remembered what Jesus had said, and he looked at Jesus. Then Jesus turned round His face and looked at Peter. It was such a look! Jesus did not speak, but His look seemed to say, ‘Is this Peter, My friend, who said he would die with Me? Is this his love for Me? Is he saying that he does not know Me?’

Peter felt very sorry; he felt as if his heart would break. He went out of the house and began to cry very much indeed. Peter really did love Jesus; only Satan had tempted him to be so wicked as to say that he did not know Jesus.

If Peter had prayed in the garden instead of going to sleep, he would have behaved better. But Christ had often prayed for Peter, so that Satan might not get his soul at last.1

Questions

Did the proud men go into the garden themselves, or did they send their servants?

What had they been doing all night?

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, where did He stand?

Did they ask Him if He was the Son of God?

Did He say that He was?

What did the wicked men say must be done to Jesus?

Where was Peter all this time?

Could Peter see Jesus?

Did Peter wish people to know that he was one of Jesus’ disciples?

Why not?

Did anyone ask Peter who he was?

What did Peter say?

How many times did people ask Peter who he was?

What did Peter hear that made him feel how bad he had been?

What did Peter do after Jesus looked at him?

Did Peter really love Jesus?

Who had often prayed for Peter?

Did Satan get Peter's soul at last?

How Peter repented of his sin

A verse from the Bible for you to learn:

And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly. Luke 22:61, 62.

Peep of Day, Lesson 36: The Garden

Matt. 26:30-57. John 18:12

WHEN Jesus came to the garden, He told all His disciples to stay where they were till He came back. But He took three of them with Him.

Who were they?

Peter, James and John. He took them further on in the garden. Then He said to them, 'I feel very sad indeed. I am going to pray. Do you stay here. Do not go to sleep, but pray while I am praying.'

Then Jesus went a little way off by Himself, and fell upon the ground and began to pray to His Father to help Him. He ended His prayer by saying, 'O Father, not as I will, but as Thou wilt.'1 He prayed very earnestly, and He felt so unhappy that the blood came out of His skin and fell onto the ground. Then He got up and went back to Peter and James and John, but He found them asleep. He woke them and told them to pray.

Then He went back and prayed again to His Father. He asked His Father to help Him in His great sorrow. When He came back to His disciples, they had fallen asleep again.

Then Jesus prayed again, and His Father sent an angel from heaven to comfort Him. I do not know what the angel said, but I know the angel loved Him. The angel could speak sweet words to Him and tell Him how His Father loved Him. The angel did not stay long; he soon went back to God.

Then Jesus came again to His disciples and found them asleep again. But Jesus woke them and told them to get up. 'Judas,' He said, 'is near.'

While Jesus was saying this, many people came walking into the garden. These were the servants of the wicked men in Jerusalem. They had swords and sticks and lights in their hands. And Judas went in front of them to show them where Jesus was. But Judas came up to Jesus in a very sly way. He gave Him a kiss, pretending to love Him.

Jesus knew what Judas was doing, and He said, 'Friend, why do you come here? And why do you kiss Me?'

Jesus did not run away, but He went up to the wicked men and said, 'Who are you looking for?'

They said, 'For Jesus.'

He said, 'I am He.'

When He said that, God made all the wicked people fall on the ground on their backs. Then Jesus could have run away. But He chose to stay, so that He might die for His people.

The wicked people soon got up. God let them get up; but Jesus said to them, 'If you want to have Me, you must let My disciples go away.'

It was kind of Jesus to think of them, and they were frightened and glad to get away. They did not wish to stay to die with Jesus.

But Peter took a sword and cut off one of the wicked men's ears. Peter wished to fight; but Jesus said, 'Put up your sword. If I were to pray now to My Father, He would send thousands of angels to help Me.' 2 Then Jesus touched the man's ear, and made it all right again.

Why did not Jesus pray to God to send the angels?

Because He chose to die to save people from their sins. If the angels had come and taken Jesus back to heaven, then we should all have gone to hell.

Peter and all the rest of the disciples ran away and left Jesus all alone with the wicked men. They took ropes and tied His hands and feet, and they led Him away into Jerusalem. Jesus went along as meekly as a lamb.

'What, could ye not watch with Me one hour?'

Matt. 26:40

Questions

How many disciples did Jesus take with Him to another part of the garden?

What did Jesus tell them to do while He was praying?

What did Jesus pray to His Father about?

Did Peter and James and John pray while Jesus was praying?

How many times did Jesus come back to Peter and James and John?

Who came from heaven to comfort Him?

Who came into the garden at last?

Why did Judas kiss Jesus?

Did Jesus know why Judas kissed Him?

What did Jesus call Judas?

Did Jesus run away from the wicked men?

Who made the wicked people fall down on the ground?

Did they get up again soon?

Did the disciples run away?

What did Peter cut off with his sword?

Did Jesus wish Peter to fight for Him?

What did Jesus do to the man's ear?

Where did the wicked people take Jesus?

What was Jesus like, when He went so meekly with them?

The meekness of Jesus when He died.

A verse from the Bible for you to learn:

"He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth." Isa. 53:7.

Peep of Day, Lesson 35: The Last Supper, Part 3

Matthew 26:26-36. John 14:14; 18:1-3

AFTER supper Jesus took some bread and broke it in little bits. He gave a piece to each of the disciples and said, 'This is My body. I am going to die; eat this, and think of Me.'

Then Jesus poured some wine into a cup and told them all to drink out of it. He said, 'This is My blood; I shall soon bleed and die. Drink this, and think of Me.'

Jesus said, 'I shall not eat a supper with you again before I die. I am going to My Father. I must leave you, but I shall come back again.' Then they all sang together.

Afterward Jesus got up from the table and went downstairs into the street, and the disciples followed Him. It was dark, but Jesus talked to them as they went along. He said, 'I am going to die tonight, and you will all leave Me.'

But Peter said, 'I will not leave Thee. I will go to prison with Thee. I will die with Thee, but I will never leave Thee.'

Jesus said to him, 'Yes, you will, Peter. You will say that you do not know Me. You will say that you are not My friend. This night, Peter, you will say so before the cock crows.' (Cocks crow in the morning, when daylight comes.)

Jesus talked kindly to His disciples. He said, 'Do not be sorry because I am going away. I shall go back to My Father, and I shall soon come back to you. When I am in heaven, I shall get ready a place in heaven for you. I command you to love one another, and I will send the Holy Spirit to comfort you.'

At last Jesus came to a garden. He had often been to that garden with His disciples, and wicked Judas knew the place. Where was Judas now?

He was with the proud, wicked men.

You will soon hear how he came to the garden, and how he brought the servants of the wicked men with him. Those wicked men meant to send their servants to catch Jesus.

Questions

What did Jesus break into pieces and give to His disciples?

What did He give them to drink?

What was the bread like?

What was the wine like?

Where did Jesus go after supper?

What did He tell His disciples as He walked along the road?

What did Peter say he would do, if Jesus was killed or taken prisoner?

What did Jesus tell Peter that he would say?

Where would Jesus go after He was killed?

Would Jesus forget His disciples when He was in heaven?

What did Jesus say He would send into their hearts?

Where did Jesus take His disciples?

What Jesus said He would do for His disciples in heaver

A verse from the Bible for you to learn:

I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:2.

Peep of Day, Lesson 32: Judas

John 12:6, Matthew 26:3, 4, 14-16

JESUS had twelve disciples. Did they all love Him?

Peter loved Jesus, and John loved Him, and all the rest loved Him1 except one. His name was Judas. He did not love Jesus, but only pretended to love Him. He was like the devil. 2

Did Jesus know how wicked Judas was?

Yes, He saw into his heart. But the disciples thought Judas was good,3 for Judas used to kiss the Lord Jesus. He used to speak kindly to Him and talk about God like the rest.

But Judas loved something; he loved money. He wanted to get a lot of money. He was covetous, and he was a thief. The disciples had a bag, and when they had money they put it in the bag. All the disciples put their money in the same bag. But there was very little money in the bag, for they were very poor. Judas used to take care of the bag. He used to steal some of the money out of it and keep it for himself. But no one found him out or thought he was a thief, except Jesus, and He knew it well.

Judas was always thinking, ‘How shall I get money?’ One day, when the proud men were sitting together, Judas came in. Judas said to them, ‘You want to find Jesus when He is alone. Will you give me some money, and I will show you where He goes at night?’

The proud people said, ‘Yes, we will.’

Judas said, ‘How much money will you give me?’

They said, ‘Thirty pieces of silver.’

Then Judas said, ‘Some night I will bring you to Jesus when He is alone.’

The wicked people were very glad to hear this.

‘Now,’ they thought, ‘we shall soon catch Him and kill Him.’

Judas went back to Jesus, but he did not tell the disciples what he had done. But Jesus knew what he had done. Jesus could see all his thoughts. He knew all that Judas did, both by day and by night. Yet Jesus did not tell Judas that He knew his wicked plans.

Questions

Did all Jesus’ disciples love Him?

Did the other disciples know that Judas did not love Jesus?

Did Jesus know it?

Was Judas a thief?

What did Judas love better than anything else?

What did Judas promise He would do for the wicked people if they would give him money?

How much money did they promise to give Him?

Did Jesus know that Judas meant to show the wicked people where He was at night?

God can see all things.

A verse from the Bible for you to learn:

The darkness hideth not from Thee: but the night shineth as the day. Psa. 139:12.

Peep of Day, Lesson 28: Jesus Foretells His Death

Matt. 16:21-28.

JESUS knew everything that would happen,1 and He knew that He must soon die. He used to tell His secrets to His disciples. So He took them to a place by themselves and said, 'I shall soon leave you. Wicked people will take Me and bind Me with ropes and beat Me and laugh at Me and nail Me to a cross, but I shall soon be alive again.'

The disciples could not bear to hear Jesus talk of dying, for they loved Him very much. They all looked very sad, and Peter said, 'Thou shalt not die'. But Jesus said, 'I must die to save sinners, and to please My Father.' The Father had desired Jesus to die, and He would not disobey His Father. 2

Most of the people who wished to kill Jesus, lived in a city called Jerusalem. Jesus used to go to Jerusalem very often, and He used to preach there.

Why did some people hate Jesus?

Because He told them of their wickedness.3 He used to say to them, 'You do not love God, who is My Father, but you are proud and vain. 4You wish to kill Me. You tell lies. You are unkind to poor people. You pretend to love God, but while you are saying your prayers, you are thinking how good you are. Your hearts are full of wickedness. You are the children of the devil.' 5

Jesus wished them to turn from their wickedness. He was sorry to see that they hated His Father, and that they would not turn from their wicked ways. 6

The wicked people were angry with Jesus. They said that God was not His Father. 7But Jesus said, 'He is My Father, and I came down from heaven, where He lives, 8and I shall go back to Him some day.' 9

At last the people took up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus did not choose to die yet, so He easily got away and went to a place where they could not find Him. He stayed there with His disciples for some time. 10

Questions

Did Jesus know that the wicked people would soon kill Him?

Who did Jesus tell that He would die?

Were they sorry?

Why did many people hate Jesus?

Who is the father of liars?

How did the wicked people try to kill Jesus?

Did Jesus let them kill Him?

Why did He hide in a place far away?

Where Jesus came from, and where He went:

A verse from the Bible for you to learn. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father. John 16:28.

Peep of Day, Lesson 26: The Kindness of Jesus

Matthew 15:21-28. Mark 10:13-16.

I TOLD you that the disciples were sometimes unkind, but Jesus was always kind.

Once a poor woman came crying after Jesus, saying, ‘O Lord, I have a daughter who is very sick.’ Jesus did not answer her at first. The disciples were unkind. They wished Jesus to send her away. She cried so loud that they said to Jesus, ‘Send her away.’

The woman fell down at Jesus’ feet, and said. ‘Lord, help me!’ And Jesus had pity on the woman. He said, ‘I will do what you wish.’

The woman was glad to hear this, and she went home and found that her daughter was no longer sick.

Another time the disciples were unkind to some little children. Some poor women brought the children to Jesus, but the disciples were standing around, and they would not let the women come near. ‘Go away,’ they said; ‘you must not bring the babies here to trouble us.’

But Jesus heard them speak, and He was very angry with the disciples. Jesus would not let the children go away. He said to the disciples, ‘Suffer little children to come unto Me; do not send them away.’

Then He took the children in His arms, and put His hands on them, and prayed to His Father, and blessed them. O happy little children, to be taken into Jesus’ arms!

Jesus loves children, and when the Holy Spirit makes them good and meek and gentle, they are Jesus’ lambs. Jesus is their Shepherd, and He will take them to heaven when they die.1

Questions

Were the disciples as kind as Jesus?

How did they behave to a woman who wanted Jesus to help her?

What did they say to the women who brought their children to Jesus?

What did Jesus say to the disciples when they were sending the children away?

What did Jesus do to the children when they came to Him?

Are there any children in heaven?

What Jesus said to His disciples when He called the children to Him

A verse from the Bible for you to learn:

But Jesus called them unto Him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Luke 18:16.

Peep of Day, Lesson 25: The Loaves and Fishes

Matthew 14:13-22

ONCE Jesus went into the wilderness with His disciples, and many people came after Him. Then Jesus preached to the people, and told them about His Father, and how He Himself had come down from heaven to save people from Satan. They listened to Him from morning till night.

When it was getting late, the disciples came to Jesus. They asked Him if He was going to send the people home. But Jesus knew that the people had nothing to eat all day, and He did not like to send them home tired and hungry. So He said to His disciples, ‘Can you not feed them?’

‘No,’ they said, ‘we have only five loaves and two small fishes, and see how many people there are!’

But Jesus said, ‘Make them sit down on the grass, and bring the loaves and fishes to Me.’ So the disciples made them all sit down.

There was a huge crowd of people. There were five thousand men, besides women and little children. How tired the little children must have been! It was time for them to have their supper and go to bed.

We shall hear how Jesus fed all these people.

They sat down on the green grass. Jesus took the loaves and fishes. First, He lifted up His eyes to His Father, and thanked Him for the food.

He took a piece of bread and gave it to Peter. He said, ‘Feed all those people sitting there.’ He gave another piece to John and said, ‘Feed those people.’ He gave a piece of bread and fish to each of the disciples and told each to feed some people.

One little piece of bread would not be enough for all the children in this room. But Jesus made the bread to be enough for all the people. Everyone had enough, and they threw on the grass a great many little pieces. But Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Take some baskets and pick up the crumbs.’ And they filled twelve baskets full of little bits of bread. Then Jesus told the people to go home.

How wonderful was the work Jesus had done! Yet you know that He feeds you, my little children, and all the people in the world.

How does He feed you?

He gives you bread.

What is bread made from?

From flour.

What is flour made from?

From wheat.

Who makes wheat?

God makes it grow in the fields.

Jesus is God; He makes the wheat grow;1 so you see that Jesus feeds you. If He did not make wheat and the other food grow in the fields we would die.

But He will not forget us. He even remembers the little birds. They are not clever enough to plow, or to sow corn, or to reap, or to put corn into barns, yet God does not let them starve.2 The birds cry to God, and He hears them, and lets them find food. 3Now God loves us much better than He loves the little birds, because we have souls. So He will certainly hear us when we pray to Him.

If your mother had no bread in her house, and if she could not get money to buy some, yet God would hear her if she loved Him. He would not let her starve. 4Will you not ask God for bread every day, and say, ‘Give me this day my daily bread?’

We ought to thank God for the food we eat. Before we eat breakfast, or dinner, or supper, we should say, ‘I thank Thee, O Lord, for this nice food.’

Questions

Did many people come to hear Jesus preach?

Why did Jesus not like to send them home at night?

How many loaves and fish did Jesus feed them with?

Who gave the people the bread and fish?

Did the people leave any of the bread?

Where were the little pieces of bread put?

What does God make grow in the fields?

Could your mother give you bread if God did not make the corn grow?

Does God feed any other creatures besides men, women, and children?

Why does God take more care of you than of the birds?

How God feeds people and animals:

A verse from the Bible for you to learn:

He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that He may bring forth food out of the earth. Psa. 104:14.

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