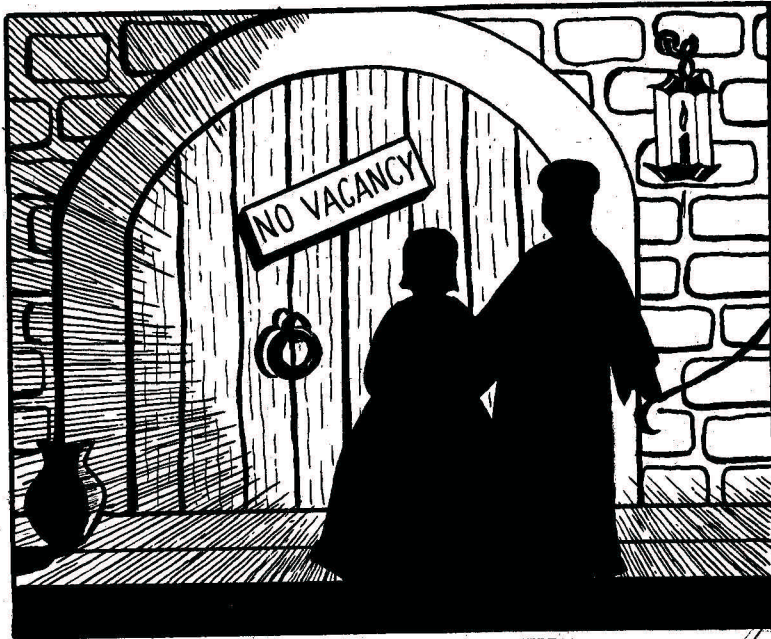


Suggested Hymns:

1. "There Was One Who Was Willing. . ."
2. "Seeking for Me".



"NO ROOM IN THE INN"

Luke 2:7

WHY PREACH ON THE BIRTH OF CHRIST?

1. Not to observe "Christmas".
 - (a) Not even the month is known.
 - (b) Be careful in observing special days, Gal. 4:10-11.
2. Because it is a glorious Bible theme.
3. "Good tidings" for "all the people". Luke 2:10.

THE BIRTH WAS IN A STABLE.

1. The eighty-miles trip to Nazareth, Luke 2:1-7.
2. They fulfilled prophecy, Micah 5:2.
3. God's hand over-ruled the decision of Augustus and the parents' desire to register as David's relatives.

4. "No room", "No Vacancy", in present day words. WHY DID NOT THE INN-KEEPER MAKE ROOM?

If we can know that, we can know why people today do not have room in their hearts for him.

1. He was *ignorant* of approaching birth of the Messiah.
 - (a) "If thou knewest the gift of God. . ." John 4:10.
 - (b) "There's always room for one more", we often tell a *desired* guest, and make room, some how.
2. Joseph and Mary were *poor*, made the *poor* offering in dedicating Jesus, 22-24; Lev. 12:6-8.
 - (a) A rich man could have bought out a roomer.
 - (b) Riches tend to shut Christ out, James 2:6; Rev. 3:17-20.
 - (c) Often humble preachers find no room.
3. They had no *social* rating, Luke 1:48; Matt. 13:55.
 - (a) Compare their clothing,
 - (b) Observe their timidity and humility because the expected infant had no earthly father.
 - (c) Observant Anna comforted them, 36-38.
4. Joseph had no *political* pull, Herod being ready to slay the infant, Matt. 2:13-16.
5. Less desirable guests occupied his rooms.

APPLICATIONS

1. Jesus seeks entrance into our hearts, Rev. 3:20.
2. He will not break in.
3. We often have to dislodge undesirable guests.

Suggested Hymns:

1. "Who at My Door Is Standing?"
2. "Let The Savior In."

THE VISIT OF THE WISE-MEN:

The Destruction of The Innocent

Matt. 2:1-18

1. "IN DUE SEASON" CHRIST WAS BORN, Rom. 5:6.
 - (1) Jews far and near had expected a king.
 - (2) "In the days of king Herod", 1.
 - (a) Cruel and suspicious, 7,16.
 - (b) Likely Divine wisdom that the Babe Jesus was contemporary with Herod.

2. "WISE-MEN CAME FROM THE EAST", 1.
- (1) Likely from Persia, about 800 to 1000 miles.
 - (a) Could have been descendants from Jews who had been exiled.
 - (b) Possibly proselyted Gentiles, Acts 2:9-11.
 - (2) Their number and names not given.
3. HOW THEY FOUND THE BABE:
- (1) Shepherds were guided by an angel, Luke 2:8-13.
 - (2) The Wise-men by "his star", 2; Num. 24:17; Rev. 2:28.
 - (a) "Jesus is the Star of Hope", Matt. 4:15-16; 2 Peter 1:9.
 - (b) Possibly a meteor miraculously directed, Matt. 2:2, 9, 10.
 - (3) Found him more than 40 days after his birth, Luke 2:22-24; Lev. 12:2-5; Matt. 2:7, 13, 16.
4. THEY CAME TO WORSHIP HIM, 2:11.
- (1) They presented three gifts, (11) which represented:
 - (a) Homage from afar, possibly 1800 miles.
 - (b) Homage likely from Gentiles, Gen. 12:3; Isa. 2:3.
 - (c) Homage from antiquity, oldest nations, from the nearest to the cradle of humanity.
 - (d) Homage from science and astronomy.
 - (e) Homage from wealth, Isaiah 60:11.
5. RESULTS OF THEIR VISIT:
- (1) Herod and all Jerusalem disturbed, 3.
 - (2) They were wiser by coming, Isaiah 35:8.
 - (a) They saw the KING in humble surroundings.
 - (b) The king wanted to kill the little KING, 12-15.
 - (3) Prompted the flight into Egypt, 13-15, 19-21.
 - (4) Provided funds to flee from danger.

Suggested Hymns:

1. "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
2. "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing".

LOST FROM CHRIST

Luke 2:41-51

INTRODUCTION

1. Jesus and his parents attend the passover, 41.
2. At twelve Jesus is in his Father's house, 42.
3. The story affords us many lessons.

HOW DID MARY GET LOST FROM CHRIST?

1. She carelessly *left* him, 43.
2. Mary was human *only*, John 2:4; 19:26.
 - (a) Contradicts Roman Catholics.
 - (b) If she was divine she would have known where he was, and what he was doing.
 - (c) She grieved just as an average woman.

A DAY'S JOURNEY "Supposing" HE WAS WITH THEM, 44.

1. She took his being with them a certainty.
2. She made no effort to investigate before pitching camp for the night, 44, 45.
3. Many today suppose Jesus is in their camp.
 - (a) They suppose their parents were right.
 - (b) Suppose their preacher knows, and is right.

HOW MARY FINALLY FOUND JESUS, 45, 48.

1. Sought for him among various camping groups, 44.
 - (a) First, she sought him in her own camp.
 - (b) Sought him in the camps of relatives.
 - (c) She searched the camps of friends.
 - (d) This is the way great men have sought for him.
 - (1) Luther sought for him among the Catholics.
 - (2) Campbell sought for him in the Presbyterian Church, and found him not.
 - (e) Stone found him not among his acquaintances.
2. Mary and Joseph returned to Jerusalem seeking him.
 - (a) This was the right place. She found him, 46.
 - (b) Failing to find Christ in any of the denominations Campbell, Stone and others of the Restoration returned to Jerusalem seeking him.
 - (1) The church started there, Isaiah 2:2-4; Acts 1:8.
 - (2) If we'll start in Jerusalem, do and teach what the apostles did, we'll have Christ, John 2:9.

Suggested Hymns:

1. "I Have Found a Friend in Jesus".
2. "Trust and Obey".

CHRIST IS THE EXAMPLE FOR CHRISTIANS

John 13:15

WE ARE ALL IMITATORS, Rom. 14:7; 3 John 11.

1. Will it be Satan and evil? 3 John 11.

2. Will it be Christ and worthy saints? Text: I Cor. 11:1, Heb. 13:7.

3. "Christian" means imitation of Christ, I Peter 2:21.

HE IS OUR EXAMPLE TO OBEDIENCE.

1. To parents, Luke 2:51.
2. In submission to baptism, Matt. 3:14-15; Luke 7:29-30.
3. In offering himself, Matt. 26:39; Heb. 5:8-9; 10:7.

HE IS OUR EXAMPLE UNTO HUMILITY, Text.

1. He had urged humility, Matt. 18:1-6.
2. We should practice humility, I Peter 5:5-6.

HE IS OUR EXAMPLE IN PRAYING.

1. Frequency, day and night, Matt. 4:1-3.
2. How to pray, Matt. 6:9-13.
3. How to win through prayer, (John 6:16; Mark 6:45-46) —how to escape temptation to be crowned King of a world-empire.

HE IS OUR EXAMPLE IN SPEECH.

1. "... Yea, yea; nay, nay". Matt. 5:37.
2. Pharisees tried to find error in him, Mark 12:13.
3. But "no guile was found. . ." I Peter 2:22.
4. "By thy words thou shalt be condemned, Matt. 12:37.

HE IS OUR EXAMPLE IN PATIENCE.

1. "Reviled not again", I Peter 2:23.
2. "In your patience ye shall win. . ." Luke 21:19.

HE IS OUR EXAMPLE FOR COURAGE AND ZEAL.

1. Cleansed the temple twice, John 2:13-16; Matt. 21:12, 13.
2. In suffering for others, John 10:17-18.

HE IS OUR EXAMPLE IN FIGHTING SATAN.

1. Quoted scripture, "It is written", Matt. 4:4, 7.
2. The word of God is our sword, Eph. 6:17.
3. Let his word "dwell in you richly", Col. 3:16.
4. The world must see Christ in our lives daily, if we are to conquer Satan, Rom. 13:14.

Suggested Hymns:

1. "I Want to Be More Like Jesus".
2. "A Wonderful Savior Is Jesus My Lord".

CHRIST THE UNWELCOME VISITOR

Luke 9:51-56

1. *Unwelcome in The Inn in Bethlehem*, Luke 2:7.

- (1) Hearts too crowded with sorry roomers.

- (2) His poverty and unpopularity often kept him out.
- (3) Poverty and unpopularity of the church keep some out, I Cor. 1:26; 2 Tim. 4:10.

2. *Unwelcome in His Home Town*, Luke 4:16-20.

- (1) Thought they knew him too well, Matt. 13:54-57.
- (2) He had surpassed their sons, Luke 2:45-47.
- (3) "Is not this the carpenter's son?" Luke 4:22.
- (4) He pointed out their errors, Luke 4:24-30.

3. *Unwelcome in Simon's House*, Luke 7:36-46.

- (1) Courtesies were withheld, Luke 7:44-46.
- (2) Do we not treat him as badly as did Simon?
 - (a) As to choice of visitors?
 - (b) As to choice of literature?
 - (c) As to recreation, games, pleasures?

(3) Simon's guests were critical of Jesus, 49.

(4) Do we welcome him conditionally?

4. *Unwelcome in a Samaritan Village*, Text.

(1) They had room, but their prejudices arose because he was going to Jerusalem, 53.

(2) Race, nationalism, clan, prejudice many.

5. *Unwelcome in Gadara*, Luke 8:37.

- (1) His visit had interfered with their business.
- (2) Material gain valued more than a visit by him.
- (3) If Christ costs something many will not reform.

6. *What Jesus Did, Finding Himself Unwelcome:*

- (1) Left Nazareth for Capernaum, Luke 4:30, 31.
- (2) Told Simon how he was made unwelcome, Luke 7:44-46.
- (3) Went to another village for lodging, Luke 9:56.
- (4) Returned home from Gadara, Luke 8:37.
- (5) Stood on the outside of the hearts of the Laodiceans and knocked for readmittance, Rev. 3:19-20.

Suggested Hymns:

1. "Joy to The World".
2. "Let Him In".

CHRIST, THE VISITOR IN THE HOME

Luke 10:37-42

AS A MAN CHRIST WAS A SOCIAL BEING.

1. We are sure to influence those with whom we associate, Rom. 14:7; I Cor. 15:33.
2. Christ our example, John 13:15; I Peter 2:21.

3. No human ever so influenced a host as did Christ, and all for the good to the home.
4. Paul knew the advantage of being host even to strangers, Heb. 13:2.

HE WAS NOT CLANISH: VISITED ALL CLASSES.

1. The *poor*, Simon Peter, Matt. 8:14-17.
2. The *rich*, Zacchaeus, Luke 19:2-10.
3. *Sinners* and *publicans*, Mark 2:16; Luke 5:30.
4. *Mourners*, John 11:9-16.
5. The *sick*, Matt. 8:5-10.
6. *Enemies*, the Pharisee, Luke 7:36-50.

HE WAS ALWAYS EASILY ENTERTAINED.

1. Took a humble seat, John 2:1-11; Luke 14:7-11.
2. Did the work of a servant, John 13:1-20.
3. Place no extra burden upon the host, Luke 10:38-42.

HE TOOK CARE OF EMBARRASSING SITUATIONS.

1. He made plenty of wine, the best, John 2:1-11.
2. Took the sinful woman's part in Simon's house, Luke 7:39-50.
3. Took embarrassment from Mary, Mark 14:3-9.
4. Justified the disciples in violating the tradition of Pharisees in not washing their hands. Luke 11:37-41.
5. In his *mixing* with people he never got "mixed". Always came out a more outstanding character than when he accepted the invitation; though in some instances he was misunderstood, and the envious often hated him, Matt. 27:18.

HE NEVER TOOK TIME FOR QUESTIONABLE THINGS.

1. We should not go where he would not.
2. If we can't use the salt of Christian influence we had better stay away.

Suggested Hymns:

1. "Give Me Jesus".
2. "Come into My Heart, Lord Jesus".

CHRIST AN EXAMPLE TO BUSINESS MEN

Luke 14:25-32

HE PRACTICED ORDER AND SYSTEM.

1. He had the disciples to seat the multitudes orderly, to be counted easily, and served with the greatest ease, Luke 9:14.
2. Elders must be given to order, I Tim. 3:2.

3. Work and work of the congregation must be done "decently and in order", I Cor. 14:40.

CHRIST WAS AN ECONOMIST.

1. He first used what food the multitudes had, Matt. 14:17-18.
2. Ordered that nothing be wasted, John 6:12.
3. Eliminated the non-profitable, Luke 13:6-9.
4. Encouraged greater production, John 15:2.

HE WAS AN ACCURATE AND CAREFUL COMPETITOR.

1. Counted the cost before undertaking the task, Luke 14:28.
2. Estimated the strength of an opponent, Luke 14:31-32.

HE ENCOURAGED MAKING ONE BUSINESS SECURE.

1. Invested *all* his blood in the church, Acts 20:28; 2 Cor. 8:9; John 10:11.
2. The parable of the Hidden Treasure, Matt. 13:44.
3. The Pearl of Great Price, Matt. 13:45, 46.
4. "Seek ye first his kingdom. . .", Matt. 6:33.

HE WAS A SUCCESSFUL ADVERTISER.

1. Tried to satisfy laborers:
 - (a) As to ability, Matt. 25:15.
 - (b) As to wages, Matt. 20:4.
 - (c) Made them partners, Matt. 19:26-30.
2. Satisfied customers, Matt. 5:40-41.

HE WOULD AVOID COSTLY LAWSUITS.

1. "Agree with thine adversary quickly," Matt. 5:25.
2. Christians must avoid lawsuits among themselves, I Cor. 6:1-5.

CHRIST WAS A CAREFUL INVESTOR.

1. Put your money out to interest, Matt. 25:27.
2. Do your safest banking in heaven, Matt. 6:19-21.

Suggested Hymns:

1. "Fairest, Lord Jesus".
2. "Give of Your Best to The Master".

ATTENTION! "HEAR YE HIM!"

Matt. 17:5

(Parallel Sermon on Luke 8:18)

1. *Introduction:* Christians are soldiers, and Christ is the Captain. (Heb. 2:10; 2 Tim. 2:3-4) The call to "Attention" makes every loyal soldier drop everything to listen to orders.

2. *Why Hear Christ?*

- (a) "This is my beloved Son. . .", verse 5.
- (b) Greater than Moses, Deut. 18:15; John 1:17.
- (c) He spake with authority, Matt. 7:28,29.
- (d) He spake as never a man spoke, John 7:46.
- (e) His subjects and discourses best possible.
- (f) He alone has eternal life to give, John 6:53.
- (g) He seeks to do you good, Luke 19:10.

3. *What Do We Expect to know from Him?*

- (a) Everything on which he has spoken. On that which he has spoken no man has been able to improve. Consider the Sermon on the Mount.
- (b) Cost of being his disciple, Luke 14:25-36.
- (c) The plan of salvation, Matt. 28:19-20; John 3:5.
- (d) How to meet the devil's arguments, Matt. 4:1-11.

4. *When Shall We Hear Him?*

- (a) In the days of youth, Eccl. 12:1.
- (b) To-day, the first opportunity, Heb. 4:7; 2 Cor. 6:2.
- (c) In weakening and slowing down by age.
- (d) When fires of passion run hot, and we meet with temptation, Eph. 4:26.
- (e) If we hear him *now*, we'll be prepared to hear his voice with joy when he calls for the dead to arise, John 5:25-29.

Suggested Hymns:

1. "Savior, Teach Me."
2. "Jesus Calls Us."

THE CRUCIFIXION

Isaiah 53; John 19

1. *Let's Go with Him To Golgatha.*

- (1) He starts with his own cross, John 19:17.
- (2) Being physically unable to carry the cross, Simon of Cyrene is forced to carry it, Luke 23:27-32.
- (3) John and four women follow him, John 19:25-27.
- (4) He consols and prophesies to the wailing women, Luke 23:27-31.

2. *Now The First Three Hours on The Cross.*

- (1) Prayer for his enemies, Luke 23:34.
- (2) The soldiers divide his garments, Psalm 22:18; John 19:23-24.

- (3) The soldiers now "watched him there", Matt. 27:36.
- (4) Pilate's accusation nailed to the cross, (John 19:19-22) written in:

- (a) *Hebrew*, the best in religion.
- (b) *Latin*, the best in law.
- (c) *Greek*, the best in art and literature, and philosophy.

- (5) "... himself he can not save". Luke 23:35.

- (6) Consoled the penitent thief, Luke 23:43.

- (7) Left his mother to John, instead of to his unbelieving brothers, John 7:5; 19:26, 27.

3. *Note The Last Three Hours on The Cross.*

- (1) The sun refuses to look upon the death of its Maker, John 1:1-3; Mark 15:33.

- (2) In desolation he cries out: "My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?" Mark 15:34.

- (3) He cries out, "I thirst", John 19:28.

- (4) He declares his mission is finished, John 19:30.

- (5) Commends his spirit to his Father, Luke 23:46.

- (6) The veil in the temple is rent, Matt. 27:51.

- (7) The testimony of the Centurion, Luke 23:47.

4. *Great Tragedy Over: All Hopes Vanish.* Luke 24:21.

- (1) The soldiers pierce his side, John 19:33, 34.

- (2) Joseph and Nicodemus honor him, Isaiah 53:9.

- (3) The priests have the sepulchre made sure, Matt. 27:62-66.

Suggested Hymns:

1. "Tell Me The Story of Jesus".
2. "I Will Cling to The Old Rugged Cross".

THE EMPTY TOMB: THE RESURRECTION

Luke 24

1. *All Hopes in Jesus Had Vanished*, V. 21.

- (1) Judas had betrayed him; Peter denied him.

- (2) Only John staid by him; others stood far off.

- (3) Three women staid to see him buried, V. 10, and returned "to see the sepulchre", Matt. 28:1.

2. *Enemies Made His Sepulchre as Sure as They Could*, Matt. 27:65.

- (1) They had demon faith, James 2:19.

- (2) God made evil men to glorify him, Ps. 76:10. *of men who*
- (3) The women knew not of this guard, Mark 16:3. *who shall roll away the stone*
3. *The Tomb Opened by an Angel*, Matt. 28:2, 3.
- (1) Sat upon the stone in defiance of the guard.
- (2) Guard powerless as dead men, Matt. 28:4. *He came as if fear of him*
- (3) They were glad to be allowed to flee, Matt. 28:4.
4. *The Three Women Start to The Sepulchre*, Mark 16:3.
- (1) The stone had been rolled away, John 20:1.
- (2) Mary Magdalene runs for help, John 20:2.
- (3) Peter and John examine the empty tomb, John 20:3-10.
- (4) Later Mary Magdalene returns, John 20:11.
- (a) "Where have ye laid him", John 20:13.
- (b) Jesus appears first to her, John 20:14-18; Mark 16:9.
- (5) He appeared to the other two women, Mt. 28:6-9.
5. *What the Empty Tomb Meant to Enemies.*
- (1) The bribing of the guard, Matt. 28:11-15.
- (2) Their report could not be true because:
- (a) Lives of soldiers were held for security of a prisoner, Acts 12:18-19. *Peter not found, keeper put to death*
- (b) If asleep they could not know how the body was removed.
- (c) Disciples did not believe he would rise from the dead, Luke 24:36-43.
- (d) They died for their testimony.
6. *What The Empty Tomb Means to Me.*
- (1) Hope for the soul, Rom. 6:5.
- (2) Determination to profit by the resurrection of my body — to conform to his, Phil. 3:8-10.

Suggested Hymns:

1. "Low in The Grave He Lay".
2. "We Saw Thee Not, But We Believe".

THE ASCENSION TO HEAVEN

Acts 1:9-11

1. Somethings Christ Had Accomplished:

- (1) His humility and passion, John 17:4; 19:30.
- (2) Proved his claims by his resurrection, John 2:18-22; 10:11.

- (3) All authority had been given him, Matt. 28:18.
- (4) He had given the Great Commission, Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8.
2. *Some Things Unfinished:*
- (1) The kingdom not established, nor had he built his church, Acts 1:6; Matt. 16:18.
- (2) The Comforter had not come, John 14:26; Acts 1:8.
3. *The Place of The Ascension was Mt. Olivet*, Acts 1:12.
- (1) Where he sorrowed in Gethsemane, Luke 22:39-46.
- (2) About 7/8 of mile from where his enemies had a short triumph over him.
4. *Nineteen Witnesses Saw The Fascinating Sight*, 11 apostles, "the women" and four half-brothers, Acts 1:13-14; Luke 24:10; Matt. 13:55.
- (1) Contrast with his humility a few nights past.
- (2) Took a cloud for his chariot, Psalm 104:3; Dan. 7:13. Clouds are communicators between earth and the heavens: no wonder he made use of one.
- (3) The gaze into heaven was a weaning-away.
5. *Why He Ascended to Heaven:*
- (1) To receive a kingdom, and to reign, Dan. 7:13, 14.
- (a) To reign during the *regeneration*, Matt. 19:28.
- (b) Till the last enemy is conquered, I Cor. 15:25.
- (2) To mediate for man, I Tim. 2:5; Heb. 7:26, 27.
6. *WE HAVE THE Blessed Assurance.*
- (1) That where he is, we may also be, John 17:24.
- (2) That he will return in like manner, Acts 1:11; Matt. 26:64.
- (3) Till he returns we have the guidance of the Comforter through the Scriptures, I Thes. 4:13-18.

Suggested Hymns:

1. "Come, Ye Disconsolate".
2. "Come, Thou Almighty King".

"WHAT SHALL I DO WITH JESUS . . . ?"

Matt. 27:22

1. INTRODUCTION

- (1) Pilate had to make a decision on Jesus.
- (2) Every one who hears the gospel must decide either for or against Christ, 2 Cor. 5:16.
 - (a) As assuredly as did Pilate.

- (b) Far more information; far more momentuous.
- (3) You are not *for* him until you have confessed and obeyed him, Matt. 12:30.
- (a) Calls for positive action, Heb. 5:9.
- (b) Secret believe will not avail, John 12:42.
2. TO DENY HIM IS TO DENY HIS MIRACLES, John 10:25.
- (1) You deny the infallible proofs, Acts 1:3.
- (2) You must explain *away* what he did, John 21:25.
- (3) You must line up with the scribes and Pharisees, who said he was possessed by Beelzebub, Matt. 12:24.
- (4) You line up with the Sanhedrin, Matt. 27:62-66.
- (5) You must explain the empty tomb and his missing body, which enemies could not explain.
3. IF YOU ARE AFRAID TO CONFESS HIM, THEN:
- (1) He will be ashamed of you, Mark 8:38.
- (2) You put yourself with the cowardly rulers, John 12:42.
- (3) You will die in your sins, as they, John 8:24; 12:48.
4. AS LONG AS YOU DELAY TO ACCEPT HIM YOU:
- (1) Ask Him to leave your borders, possibly to make money, Mark 5:17.
- (2) Place yourself with unfriendly Samaritans, Luke 9:51-56.
- (3) Are with Felix, who looked for "a more convenient season", Acts 24:25.
5. IF A BELIEVER, WHAT DO YOU DO WITH HIM WHEN:
- (1) When you neglect the assembly? Heb. 10:25.
- (2) You dance with the opposite sex? Rom. 13:13; I Pet. 2:9.
- (3) You cheat and swindle, Rom. 12:17.
- (4) He stands at your door and knocks? Rev. 3:20.

Suggested Hymns:

1. "What Will You Do with Jesus?"
2. "Who at My Door Is Standing?"