

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

From the International Lessons for 1880, by Edwin W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday School Union.

LESSON VI.

MAY 9.] JESUS AND THE YOUNG. Matt. 19: 13-25. [About A. D. 30.] COMMIT TO MEMORY vs. 13-15.

13. Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them. 14. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. 15. And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence. 16. And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17. And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. 18. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness. 19. Honor thy father and thy mother: and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. 20. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? 21. Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. 22. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. 23. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. 24. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. 25. When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? 26. But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

GOLDEN TEXT.

But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.—Matt. 19: 14.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Jesus is the children's best Friend.

NOTES.—In this lesson Jesus reveals himself as the great divine Friend of childhood. Of all others, this is the children's chapter. See them coming, the mothers with little children in their arms, others, perhaps, clinging to their skirts. They have difficulty in getting through the crowd which throngs Jesus, but they persevere, and at last, every obstacle overcome, Jesus takes their little ones in his arms, and putting his hands on their heads, blesses them. Happy mothers! Blessed children! How differently terminates the visit of the young man! Old enough to know the way, he comes to the Master and has "a little talk with Jesus"; but, not willing to comply with the requirements of Jesus, he decides for self, and goes away sorrowful and unsaved.

EXPLANATIONS.

LESSON TOPICS. (I.) JESUS AND THE CHILDREN. (II.) JESUS AND THE YOUNG MAN. (III.) JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES. I. JESUS AND THE CHILDREN.—(13-15.) THEM, immediately following the conversation in vs. 1-12; BROUGHT, otherwise would not have reached Jesus; LITTLE, "infants" (Luke 18: 15); HANDS ON THEM, he took them in his arms; HE ALWAYS DOES MORE FOR US THAN WE ASK OR EXPECT; DISCIPLES, some such as today; THEM, those that brought the children; JESUS SAID, rebuked the rebukers; SUFFER, permit; LITTLE, helpless, innocent; FORBID THEM NOT, put nothing in their way, help them; OF SUCH (Matt. 18: 3); LAID HIS HANDS, all difficulties overcome; children in Jesus' arms were blessed. II. JESUS AND THE YOUNG MAN.—(16-22.) ONE, a "young man," v. 21; a "ruler" (Luke 18: 18); CAME, of his own accord, not brought; GOOD MASTER, a polite address simply; WHAT... DO, nothing that we can do will save us; I... I, thinks to save himself by some meritorious act; WITTY, Jesus knows the young man does not address him as divine, but simply as a Jewish rabbi; WHICH, he imagines he is perfect here; JESUS SAID, quotes the second table of the law; THY NEIGHBOR, a summary of the second table; ALL, the young claims to have violated nothing; WHAT LACK, still a sense of want; GO... SELL, the great test; IT means prefer Christ to self, to riches, to all things; WHEN, his eyes now opened; SELF IS HIS GOD, he is a slave to his wealth, and will not yield; WENT AWAY, sad thought! never returned. III. JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES.—(23-26.) RICH MAN, "that trusteth in riches;" HARDLY, not hopeless; CAMEL... EYE... NEEDLE, a proverbial expression, probably for an impossible thing; EXCEEDINGLY, greatly, AMAZED, astonished; WHO THEN, a Christian's wealth must be consecrated. Says one, "I doubt the conversion of a man whose purse is not converted;" BEHELD, with kindly sympathy; POSSIBLE, faith in

Christ will save the rich man "Whosoever will may come."

LITTLE CHILDREN BROUGHT TO JESUS BY PARENTS TO BE BLESSED. YOUNG MAN CAME TO CHRIST FOR CONSULTATION. OPPOSITION WITHOUT REMOVED. WITHIN REMAINED. WENT AWAY BLESSED. SORROWFUL.

LESSON VII.

MAY 16.] THE MARRIAGE FEAST. Matt. 22: 1-14. [About A. D. 30.] COMMIT TO MEMORY vs. 11-14.

1. And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, 2. The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, 3. And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding; and they would not come. 4. Again he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. 5. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: 6. And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully and slew them. 7. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8. Then saith he to his servants, the wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. 9. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. 10. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. 11. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12. And he saith unto him, Friend, how earnest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him band and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 14. For many are called, but few are chosen.

GOLDEN TEXT.

As many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.—Matt. 22: 9.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

To reject the gospel offer is ruin.

INTRODUCTORY.—This parable was spoken in the temple, immediately following that of the wicked husbandmen in the preceding chapter. "Its object," says Bloomfield, "was, it seems, twofold: 1. As being partly historical and partly prophetic, to shadow forth the general fortunes of the gospel in its early stage. Thus it represents the invitation given to the Jews to embrace the gospel, the rejection of that offer, the severe punishment to be inflicted on them for their disobedience, and the admission of the Gentiles, in their stead, to the privileges of Christianity. 2. It was meant to represent the peculiar nature of the Gospels as a dispensation of grace through faith, and thus to afford instruction for every age of the Church."

NOTES.—WEDDING. The right of marriage was anciently, as now, a very important occasion, and was celebrated by a great feast, which sometimes lasted from three to six days. None but invited guests were present, and the ceremony was at the house of the bridegroom.—WEDDING GARMENT. "Much more regard is paid in the East to the proprieties of costume for particular occasions than among us. To appear at a royal marriage in one's ordinary dress could have nothing less in it than the most gross contempt!"—Whedon.

EXPLANATIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I.) THE INVITED GUESTS. (II.) THE ASSEMBLED GUESTS. (III.) THE REJECTED GUEST. I. THE INVITED GUESTS.—(2-7.) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, Christ's spiritual reign; KING, God the Father; MARRIAGE, Christ's union with the Church; SON, Jesus Christ; HIS SERVANTS, "John the Baptist, the twelve and the seventy."—ALFORD; CALL... BIDDEN, two invitations, one to prepare, the other to come; WEDDING, feast and rite; OTHER SERVANTS, the apostles and others after the resurrection; PREPARED, the spotless Lamb slain; MADE LIGHT, slight offers of salvation; FARM... MERCHANDISE, indifferent worldliness; REMNANT, openly hostile persecutors; HIS ARMIES, armies of Vespasian and Titus (see Isa. 10: 5, 6; Jer. 25: 9, 11); THEIR CITY, Jerusalem. II. THE ASSEMBLED GUESTS.—(8-10.) NOT WORTHY, because of their rejecting the invitation (see Acts 13: 46); HIGHWAYS, streets and public places; AS MANY AS, all are now invited; WENT OUT, "into the world;" BAD AND GOOD, "whosoever will may come;" WEDDING WAS FURNISHED, Christ's mission shall not be in vain. III. THE REJECTED GUEST.—(11-14.) WHEN, at the judgment day; HE SAW (Ps. 139: 1-12; Jer. 17: 10); WEDDING GARMENT, Christ's righ-

teousness "an earnest Christian life." (Isa. 61: 1; Gal. 3: 27), FRIEND, "the politeness of solemn rebuke." SPEECHLESS, who can reply to God when he comes in judgment? Those who are now brave and boastful in sin will then be dumb with terror. SERVANTS, not the guests at the feast but the servants of the king: BIND HIM, as a criminal for his doom; TAKE HIM AWAY, (Rev. 21: 27; 22: 15); OUTER DARKNESS, eternal banishment. WEEPING... GNASHING, (ch. 25: 30; Rev. 14: 16; 20: 10; 21: 8); MANY ARE CALLED (see vs. 9, 10), preach the gospel unto every creature; FEW ARE CHOSEN, because they do not accept the call; all who accept the invitation or call, are admitted or chosen to be guests.

CALLED HONORED I AM OWNED AS A GUEST, SECURE EXALTED NUMBERED

CALLED BY CHRIST HOSEN CROWNED

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Our new prize list is not ready, but our workers continue their successful exertions to double the MESSENGER subscription lists during the present year, and every day we receive many letters of commendation from pleased readers and from more than satisfied prize winners who have raised their clubs and gained their premium gifts.

THE LITTLE SWISS GIRL, WHO DIED TO SAVE HER FATHER'S LIFE.

BY THE REV. E. PAYSON HAMMOND, M.A.

My dear little friend,—I want to tell you about a little girl in Switzerland who died to save her father's life. I hope it will lead you to think of Him who died a dreadful death on the cross, that we might be saved from sin and sorrow here, and at last dwell with him in bright mansions in the skies. This little girl lived near a deep ravine at the foot of one of the mountains in Switzerland. A huge rock had fallen down the mountain-side, and lodged in the ravine, and thus made a natural bridge, so that those who wished to pass from one side of the mountain to the other, could cross the bridge. The mother of this child was an earnest Christian, and often told her daughter about the blessed Saviour, who died in the place of sinners, who deserved to be punished, that they might be forgiven and saved in heaven. And she told her also that unless she came to Jesus, and trusted in Him she would be lost forever. At first the little girl did not care very much about what her mother said, but at last her mother's prayers were answered. Her little one felt herself to be a lost sinner, and that Christ alone could save her. God's Spirit taught her that Jesus had paid the debt, and that He stood with open arms ready to receive her, and wash her sins away. So she went to Jesus, and trusted in Him. Then she felt sure that heaven would be her home for ever. Her father was not a Christian. He never gathered his loved ones around the family altar. One day when about to cross the deep ravine upon the rock bridge, the mother saw that it was just ready to fall. The frost had loosened it. She told her little child that if she ever crossed it again it would fall, and she would be dashed in pieces. The next day the father told his child that he was going over to the other side across the bridge. She said to him it was not safe, but he only laughed at her. He said he had been across it before she was born, and that he was not afraid. When the dear little thing saw that he was determined to go, she asked if she could go with him. While they were walking along together, she looked up in her father's face, and said, "Father, if I should die, will you promise to love Jesus, and meet me in heaven?" "Pshaw!" he said, "what put such a wild thought into your head? You are not going to die, I hope. You are only a wee thing, and will live many years." "Yes but if I should die, will you promise to love Jesus just as I do, and meet me in heaven?" "But you are not going to die. Don't speak of it," he said.

"But if I should die, do promise, father, you will be a good Christian, and come up and live with Jesus and me in heaven." "Yes, yes!" he said at last.

When they came near the crossing place, she said, "Father, please stand here a minute." She loved him dearly, and was willing to run the risk of dying for him. Strange as it may seem, she walked quickly and jumped upon the loose rock and down it went with the little girl. She was crushed to death. The trembling parent crept to the edge, and with eyes dim with tears, gazed wildly upon the wreck. Then he thought of all his little child had told him about how Jesus had died to save us. He thought he had never loved his child so much. But he began to see that he had far more reason to love Jesus, who had suffered much more to save him from the "bottomless pit." And then he thought of the promise he so carelessly made to his daughter. What could he do but kneel down and cry to God to have mercy upon him? If they meet in heaven, do you think that daughter will be sorry that she sacrificed her life for her father's sake? Can you not imagine that tears often filled the eyes of that father when he spoke of his sainted little one? You would say he would have been a very wicked man if he had not loved the memory of his child. But is it not a thousand times more wicked for you not to love Him who has loved you so much more than that little one loved her father? How can you help loving such a precious Saviour? Will you not ask Him to forgive you, and help you to live for Him the rest of your life?

THERE IS a very touching little story told of a poor woman with two little children, who had not a bed for them to lie upon, and scarcely any clothes to cover them. In depth of winter they were nearly frozen, and the mother took the door of a cellar off the hinges, and set it up before the corner where they crouched down to sleep, that some of the draught and cold might be kept from them. One of the children whispered to her, when she complained of how badly off they were. "Mother, what does those dear little children do who have no cellar door to put up in front of them?" Even there, you see, the little heart for thankfulness.—Interior.

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