

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Begin by asking about the publicans. (See Exposition.) There was a saying, at that time, "The wolves are on the hills, and the publicans are in the cities." Jesus is to get a helper from this class of men.

Question as to where Jesus encountered Levi. Did Jesus rebuke him for being a publican? What *did* He say? Had He any right to say, "Follow Me"? How do you think He said it? It was not a harsh order, but a loving appeal. Why might Levi have refused to go? Was he too busy just then? Vs. 13, 14.

Ask, did Jesus offer him any return for the loss of his office as tax-gatherer? What return do we get from the service of Christ? Discuss this with the class, making sure to include His friendship, His presence, His help, in every good thing we undertake.

Did Matthew regret that he left his business to follow Jesus? What bearing on this question has the banquet at his house? Who were the guests? Why did he invite the pub-

licans and sinners? If he had not been seeking their good he should not have had the sinners there. Impress on the scholars that we have no business going with evil people, unless it be to do them good. If we live to do good, we can live anywhere. V. 15.

Now, turn to the others who were in Matthew's house. V. 16. Why did they come? What fault did they find?

What answer did Jesus make? V. 17. Be sure to make this plain. Jesus loves all, wants to save all, but can only save those who want to be saved, because they feel their need of being saved.

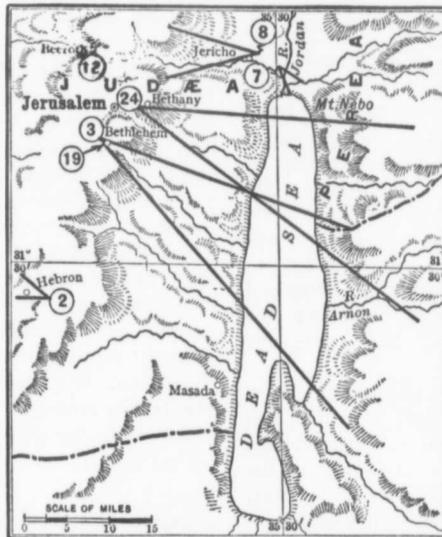
Briefly cover the teaching here regarding fasting.

Explain vs. 19, 20 and 21, 22, showing that the heart love and heart worship, which Jesus' draws from men, cannot be tied down to any mere dead form of worship, such as fasting. It is the joy, love and reverence within the heart that counts, not any mere forms, however venerable or beautiful they may be.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

We cannot see in Palestine to-day the very same manner of serving meals that was practised in Levi's home. But it is possible to see a meal served in the manner of the common working people of Jesus' time. To do this, we shall visit a town which Jesus used to know,—Beeroth (12 on map). You stand in the courtyard of a modern Beeroth home—an open, unroofed space, protected by high walls, and used in good weather as a

living-room. The master of the house has invited half a dozen friends to dinner. Mats have been spread over the pavement of the



court, and a big dish holding boiled lamb and rice, has been placed on the mat. The men are sitting down on the ground around the onedish, serving themselves with their fingers. In Levi's home there was likely a table, and the guests probably sat or reclined on benches around it. The dishes may have been of finer material. The publicans or tax-gatherers were often rich.

To see for yourself just such a meal as must many a time have been shared

by Jesus in some poor man's home, use a stereograph entitled, An Oriental Feast of Rice and Lamb at Beeroth.