

SUNDAY
SCHOOL

The Quiet Hour

YOUNG
PEOPLE

JESUS ASCENDS INTO HEAVEN.*

By Rev. Clarence M. Kinnon, D.D.

Peace be unto you, v. 36. In the stillness of the night, the dwellers at the head waters of the Bay of Fundy can sometimes hear the rush of the tidal "bore," as its waters chafe and fret between the narrow banks, whirl round in sharp eddies and dash themselves against every obstruction. But by and by, the force of the incoming tide has spent itself, a smoothing ripple runs over the whole surface, and all the bay is at rest, and full from bank to bank. The rush of this world's business is like the inflowing tide, restless, foaming, swirling; but when Jesus breathes His peace upon us, it is like the full tide. The soul, filled to overflowing with spiritual joy, rests calm and quiet in the light of His Lord's gracious presence and in the strength of His omnipotent love.

Why are ye troubled? v. 38. One tells of a lonely mountain pool near his home, with waters stagnant and black, which repelled the lonely climber from drinking, however great his thirst. At last an earthquake shook the land, and when it had passed, the pool had disappeared. But a little later, from the side of the mountain gushed a small stream of clear, sparkling water, spreading fertility wherever it flowed. It was supposed that this stream was the water of the pool, clarified by the earthquake, and by being filtered through the rock. So, when the earthquake made the Lord's rock-hewn tomb to tremble and He came forth a Conqueror from its narrow confines, there flowed forth a stream of joy to gladden the hearts of men all round the world. And of that stream each of us may drink to his heart's content.

Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself, v. 39. It was by the nail prints of His great sacrifice, in hands and feet, that His disciples were to recognize their Lord. Sacrifice, indeed, was the mark of His whole life. He turned His back upon self, and lived for others. He was like a grain of wheat, which falls into the ground to die. But rich beyond reckoning has been the harvest of blessing that He won for mankind through His death. We want to make the most of our lives. In our best moments we see clearly, that there is nothing nobler, or, in the truest sense, happier, than to spend ourselves in the service of our fellowmen. It is thus that we shall attain to greatness in the kingdom of heaven.

Ye are witnesses, v. 48. Take a prism, which is simply a triangular piece of glass, and place in it a small opening in a closely shuttered room, where the sun's rays can fall upon it. You will then see on the opposite wall all the colors of the rainbow, and in the exact order of their appearance in the rainbow. The prism has separated the white ray of the sun's light into these seven different colors. Jesus Christ is called the Sun of Righteousness. Long ago He lived a perfect life here upon the earth; and now He wants each of His followers to show others, by their words and deeds, what His life was like. No one of us can show all the goodness and beauty of that life; but each of us can show something of these. And seeing Him in us, those around us will be led to love and serve Him.

*S.S. Lesson December 23, 1906. Luke 24:36-53. Commit to memory vs. 46-48. Read Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-20. Golden Text—While he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.—Luke 24:51.

Until ye be endued with power, v. 49. It is well known that the late Principal Grant of Queen's University, when a child, lost the fingers of his right hand through an accident in a hay-cutting machine. It is said, that, as he was being carried away, a little chum ran after him, crying by way of comfort, "Dinna greet, (er,) Georgie; I hae the fingers." But those fingers, severed from the living body, were helpless. Nor are we able witness for Jesus, our Lord and Master, until He gives us of His own power. But when we receive this, through faith and prayer, no task that He sets is too great for us.

Carried up into heaven, v. 51. In the days of the old Roman republic, when a general returned victorious from blood red battle fields, the senate voted him a triumph. He was borne in a chariot drawn by milk white steeds through the crowded streets; and as the procession advanced, it was the custom to fling from time to time handfuls of coin among the populace. Christ's work is done. From blood red Calvary and the prison house of the tomb He returns, and heaven accords Him the Conqueror's triumph. But as He ascends, He dispenses fresh bounties on His followers. "When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men," Eph. 4:8. No earthly leader ever had so great riches to bestow, as those which our glorious Captain delights to lavish upon those whom He has redeemed by His grace.

THE UNSEEN SHORE.

A few who have watched me sail away
Will miss my craft from the busy bay;
Some friendly barks I anchored near,
Some loving souls that my heart held dear,

In silent sorrow will drop a tear.
But I shall have peacefully furled my sail

In moorings sheltered from storm or gale,
And greeted the friends who have sailed before

O'er the Unknown Sea of the Unseen Shore.

—British Weekly.

LIGHT FROM THE EAST.

By Rev. James Ross, D.D.

Jerusalem—The city of peace, was the centre of Judaism and the starting point of Christianity. It is a place of great strategic strength and of marvelous historic interest. It stands on an elevated plateau on the central ridge of Palestine, surrounded on the east, west, and south by deep valleys, the sides of which slope upwards very steeply, and on the top of which the walls of the city were built. Only the north side required to be strengthened by artificial means, and the mountain passes leading to the city are very difficult of access to an invading army. Besides, it was a place where little water could be obtained by besiegers, while its own vast subterranean, rock-hewn cisterns were filled with a year's supply by the winter rain. It had a history of two thousand years behind it, and was the most sacred spot on earth to a Jew when Christ appeared. It has also been in later times a sanctuary of the Mohammedan faith and is called in the Arabic speech, "The Holy." The present city has a population of perhaps 60,000, more than half Jews, and nearly one-half of the inhabitants live outside the walls in the new city which has sprung up on the northwest corner of the old.

CHRISTIANITY APPLIED.

By H. M. McClusky.

Christ gave to the disciples and through them to the Church certain great principles as a working basis. But that is not all. He so clothed those principles with His own life that they were a part of Himself; and the disciples seeing Him understood better how to apply them in their own lives. Afterward, when He could no longer be with them, He sent another, who could not only guide His followers, but enable them to rightly interpret Christ's words, and live them under all the changing conditions incident to every generation. And so His people today, through the indwelling Spirit, are to work out those principles in their own lives, making them radiate and glow with God-given light; for Jesus said to the disciples, "As the Father has sent me, even so send I you. If these things are true, how is it that the Church has brought disrepute upon herself by falling so far short of the standard set for her by her great head? Many of His people know about these commandments, but will not do them; they talk well and seem to be right; often it is difficult to believe that they are not all they seem to be—until the opportunity comes for them to do His will and His work; then, alas, how obvious they are to their lofty ideals! Jesus said "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me." Sometimes it is fear in a Christian that keeps him from applying the words of Christ to his own life and to the circumstances by which he is surrounded. The more worldly the atmosphere the more singular does he appear when he stands absolutely on the promises and word of God; but it is the finest, grandest opportunity of one's life to thus be able to bear witness to the power of God in the Christ life. Often the timid ones hesitate lest they should fail when called upon to do some service in the Kingdom out of the ordinary routine, so refuse to obey and lose the rich blessing that always accompanies obedience. When one is called to a service in the kingdom, the power to accomplish it always comes with it, so no one need fear. One may know the call of Christ by His word, the providential leadings, the indwelling Holy Spirit, and if the command is for the glory of Christ. It is the work of the Spirit to glorify Jesus, and a message that has not for its purpose the glory of Christ is not from Him. We may know His will for He said, "If any men willeth to do His will he shall know." So, dear friends, let us not separate our ideals and professions from the daily and hourly livings; rather let the life illustrate the truth even in its reality. The more difficult the conditions which surround one, the larger the opportunity to glorify Christ by absolute dependence upon His overcoming power. He is to be sought after and inquired of daily; yes, moment by moment the Holy Spirit will teach us what to ask for and reveal to us His will, for it is His own blessed promise to those who trust Him, and why should one doubt? If God's people, even for one day, would seek only to do His will, what a transformation there would be in the world. Let each individual make a beginning today, and when tomorrow comes it will be another new day in which to glorify Him, and others will be stimulated to surrender self and to appropriate and apply these wonderful God-given truths.

Anna, Ill.

DAILY READINGS.

M.—Many members; one body, 1 Cor. 12: 14-31.

T.—God's gift, Luke 2: 8-20.

W.—The widow's mite, Mark 12: 41-44.

Th.—Give, Luke 6: 32-38.

F.—Give proportionately, Lev. 27:30-34. Matt 23:23.

S.—Give systematically, 1 Cor. 16:1,2.

S.—Topics—Organization and Methods of Congregation, 1 Chron. 16:29; Num. 9:13. Ques. 52.