

The Widow's Mite.

BY MRS. M. B. CHICK.

The Master sat in the temple
Where the crowd before him passed
Over against the treasury,
Where the offerings were cast

The haughty priest and Pharisee,
The rich and the poor were there,
And the hearts of all like an open book
Before his sight lay bare.

Like an open page before him
He read each heart aright,
No secret thought or motive
Was hidden from his sight.

He knew who gave with grudging,
And who with proud display,
And who with willing heart and hand
From out his store that day.

The widow from her scanty store
Let one poor farthing fall,
Yet in the loving Master's sight
Her gift was more than all.

And I somehow think the Master
Sits just as he did then
Over against the treasury
To weigh the gifts of men.

He knows who gives with grudging,
And who with grand display,
And he who gives his loving grace,
Just as he did that day.

The poor from out their scanty store
Still bring their offering small,
Yet their humble gifts are counted much
By him who weighs them all.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW.

A. D. 27] LESSON VI. [August 7

JESUS IN GALILEE.

Matt 4 17 25 Memory verses, 18 20.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The people which sat in darkness saw great light. Matt. 4. 16.

OUTLINE.

1. Calling the Disciples.
2. Teaching the People.

TIME. 27 A. D.

PLACE. — In Galilee.

RULES. — Same as before

CONNECTING LINKS. — Several months passed, the first year of Christ's ministry is over. Jesus has been publicly proclaimed by John the Baptist at Bethabara. Andrew, Peter, James, John, Philip, and Nathanael have acknowledged his claim as the Messiah. Cana has witnessed his first miracle. The first passover, when he drove the traders from the temple, is over. Nicodemus has learned of the new birth; John has been cast into prison; the Samaritan woman has found a well of living water; the sermon to his townsmen has been preached, and by them rejected, he has gone to Capernaum to live. The period of the early Galilean ministry has begun. Jesus is at the height of his popularity.

EXPLANATIONS. — From that time — From the time when he came to Capernaum to live. The kingdom of heaven is at hand — A repetition of John's preaching. They were fishers — The phrase throws light on the occupations of men who lived about the Sea of Galilee. Fishers of men — A fine illustration of the tact of this wonderful teacher, who himself knew how to catch men. They immediately left — But they had some months before accepted him, and probably had been dismissed to await his call. Synagogue — The Jewish house of worship, which had become an institution since the captivity. Gospel of the kingdom — The glad news that the kingdom had come. Possessed with devils — Some kind of spiritual possession by evil spirits which made the victim insane and violent.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Calling the Disciples.

When did Jesus enter actively upon his work of preaching?

Where did he spend his time after the temptation, and before this lesson?

Had he any disciples before this? John 2. 2.

What fact can you name concerning his movements after the temptation?

When had he first seen Andrew and Peter? Who is commonly believed to have been Andrew's companion at that time?

Why should these four men have been so ready to follow this simple call?

Had they ever had any teaching concerning Jesus before this call?

2. Teaching the People.

How long had Jesus now been teaching publicly?

Where was his teaching done? What was the character of the teaching he was now doing? Luke 4. 16-31.

How did he support his claim that he was the promised Saviour?

How widely did his fame extend? Among what classes were his earliest friends?

How widely did he travel in this Galilean ministry? Name the ten cities making the ten called Decapolis.

Where was the most of his teaching done in this tour? ver. 23.

What was the Jewish synagogue?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Four men ready to follow Jesus at his call. They are an example to us. What is it? What do their lives teach us? One word, one promise, "Follow." "I will make you fishers of men." They were enough. But we have all his wondrous words, and the Bible full of promises, and they are not enough. Why?

"He healed them," and to-day he is just the same tender, loving, compassionate healer.

He called four that day. He calls you to-day. He healed multitudes then. He will heal you to-day, if!

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. If you have or can get a Bible, with Robinson's Harmony in it, study all the events of Christ's life from last lesson to this as they occurred.

2. If you cannot get such a one, send to Phillips & Hunt for Chautauqua Text-Book, No. 38, "The Life of Christ," and study it.

3. Make a map of Palestine, and, with a red pencil, mark the pathway of Jesus up to this time.

4. Write the names of all the persons or classes of persons with whom Jesus had talked of his kingdom up to this time.

5. Write the different places in which he had been, and in which he had wrought miracles.

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hand" restored on the Sabbath, have given occasion to work up an opposing public sentiment. From Jerusalem, where he had kept the second passover, he has gone back teaching and healing, till he has reached Galilee, and there has publicly called and endowed, with a portion of his own power, the twelve apostles. Followed by great multitudes, he goes through Galilee preaching, and, in a mountain not far from Capernaum, preaches the wonderful sermon on our last lesson.

EXPLANATIONS. — He went up — That the one who desired might follow and hear, those without special interest would stay away. Set — The ordinary posture for instruction. Taught them — Not only the twelve apostles, but the whole company of disciples. Poor in spirit — Those who are humbly conscious of their own spiritual needs. Mourn — In sorrow for sin. Comforted — By the knowledge of their forgiveness. Meek — The mild and gentle. Inherit the earth — Meaning "the land," that is, the enjoyments of Christ's kingdom. Hunger and thirst — Intense, earnest desire after the right. Filled — Every one obtains as much goodness as he really wants. Pure in heart — Those whose aim is to be holy. Peace-makers — Those who prevent and heal quarrels. Persecuted — Injured, wronged, because they are followers of Jesus. Revile — Abuse, or speak contemptuously. Salt — As salt purifies and preserves, so do God's people in the world. Lost his savor — Lost its taste or peculiar quality of saltiness, as sometimes happens with the salt of Palestine. Good for nothing — Of no use for any purpose. Light of the world — By possessing Christ, the true light. See your good works — Good deeds cannot be hid. Glorify your Father — Giving praise to him who inspires all our goodness.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. The Blessed One.

How long had Jesus been engaged in his public work when he spoke the Sermon on the Mount?

For whose benefit does it seem to have been specially spoken?

What was the character of his audiences in these discourses? Luke 5. 17.

To what classes of people had he become especially dear?

Whom had he declared to be the objects of his mission?

What acts had he performed which made him obnoxious to the high-churchmen of his day?

What claim was he now publicly making as to his own nature and destiny? John 5. 19-47.

What is the character of the Sermon on the Mount, compared with the religious teaching of his day?

2. The Blessed Ones.

Upon how many classes of society are blessings pronounced in this lesson?

Why are these various classes blessed?

What particular blessing was pronounced upon the Twelve?

What is the full force of the metaphor of salt?

What, then, is the great purpose of the Christian disciple?

How is this work to be accomplished? ver. 14.

Can a person be a follower of Christ and keep it a secret in his own heart?

What two reasons does Christ give why this is not desirable? ver. 15, 16.

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Commit all these Beatitudes to memory. Repeat them every day for the whole week.

2. Study the incidents in the life of Jesus so thoroughly that you can tell the story accurately.

3. Find another scene on a mountain where a great leader pronounced blessings, and note the differences.

4. Write twenty questions on the lesson such as you would ask were you a teacher, and give them to your teacher.

5. Mark on your map the journeys of Jesus up to this point.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION. — The Light of the world.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

8. Did the Redeemer give his life for all men?

1 Timothy ii. 6. Who gave himself a ransom for all?

9. What was the course of our Saviour's history as Mediator?

First he humbled himself, and then he was exalted to glory.

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