



LESSON,—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1907.

Caleb's Faithfulness Rewarded.

[Joshua xiv., 6-15. Memory verses 7, 8. Read Josh. xiv., and also vii-xiii.

Golden Text.

Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things.—Matt. xxv., 23.

Home Readings.

- Monday, October 21.—Josh. xiv., 1-15. Tuesday, Oct. 22.—Num. xiv., 22-39. Wednesday, October 23.—Deut. i., 22-36. Thursday, October 24.—Ps. xxxvii., 1-20. Friday, October 25.—Ps. xxxvii., 21-40. Saturday, October 26.—Prov. ii., 1-22. Sunday, October 27.—Prov. viii., 1-21.

FOR THE JUNIOR CLASSES.

How old are you Fred? Ten? Do you remember what was going on in the world when you were three years old? No, that was seven years ago, and quite too long for you to remember, isn't it? Anyone of you can remember, though, what happened just seven days ago, so you will be able to tell me what the lesson was last Sunday. Yes, it was about the taking of the city Jericho. That was the first step in the great series of battles that was necessary to conquer Canaan. Joshua was Israel's captain at that time. In our lesson to-day we are to study about an old friend of Joshua's, Caleb, (Recall here the story of the spies and Joshua's and Caleb's faithfulness on that occasion). But this lesson story occurred seven years after the fall of Jericho. Seven years since the Israelites crossed the Jordan. If Fred had been a little Israelite then he would have been carried across the bed of the river Jordan just a little baby three years old, and his father would have kissed him good-bye when he went off each morning to tramp round Jericho, and all the time since, for seven years, until Fred was ten years old, as he is now, his father would have kept going away to battle, and Fred would have been left behind at the camp. Perhaps Fred's father would have been killed, and perhaps when Fred was a little boy he would have been frightened at the noise of fighting, but by the time he was ten years old he would have been quite used to it, for seven years of war is a very long time. However, this was what God had told them to do, and God was always helping them and giving them the victory. There were still, however, a great many enemies to fight, and Caleb, Joshua's friend, came one day to Joshua to talk about it.

Recall God's promise to Caleb, and show how it was now being fulfilled.

FOR THE SENIORS.

The seven years that lie between the incidents of last Sunday's and to-day's lesson should be covered briefly. If possible to arrange it, have individual scholars ready to give the main points of each story in its order. These have been seven years of hard and continued work, and Caleb is not a young man. Young at heart, he is, however, and the grand old man comes to Joshua with no plea that he may be let off from further duty, rather he pleads for the honor of the hardest post. In these hills of Hebron live the fiercest giant tribes, the people who caused our fellow spies to doubt the wisdom of entering Canaan. I believed then that God could conquer them. I believe so still. Give me the right to prove my contention. In hill

fortresses, the giant tribes; the old warrior has matched himself against the hardest problem Canaan held. But no, it is not his own strength that he trusts—he had 'wholly followed the Lord,' he pleads God's promise of that time and trusting in the Lord's presence again he fears no one, and no force in opposition. It is easy to imagine with what fervor the blessing of Joshua was given. It was a part full of honor on which Caleb could look and like the pure knight, Sir Galahad, his 'strength was as the strength of ten because his heart was pure.' It was another version of Paul's words, 'I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.'

(SELECTIONS FROM TARBELL'S GUIDE.)

The Past will be recalled. Here is a vessel down in the deep waters of the sea, but not so far down that it can not be reached. Divers come in their peculiar dress, and down they go into the dark waters and explore the hold of the unfortunate ship. You stand there on the pontoon where the divers are working. Down goes the diver and you wait in almost breathless suspense. Presently the signal is given, and his colleague on the pontoon draws him up. Your flesh almost creeps as there come up from the mysterious depths below there, treasures that were sunken and buried in the hold of that vessel. But he does not always bring up treasures and things that are attractive. Sometimes he brings up things slimy and repulsive, things that shock and sicken you. So these memories of ours are divers and what they bring up out of that sunken vessel which we call our past will depend upon the kind of lives we have been leading. The divers will go down whether we want them to or not. The memories of life can not be kept sleeping always.—R. F. Coyle.

He who thinks wisely of the present and does well with the present thinks most wisely and does best with the future; for the future is but the unfolding of the present. The wise farmer spends very little time in meditating on his harvest at the time of seed-sowing; his whole concern is to get the seed under the ground under the best conditions, and to give it the best possible care. . . . The best preparation for the future, whether for work, calamity, trial or task, is to do thoroughly, bravely, and cheerfully those things which fall to our hand day by day.—Hamilton Wright Mabie, in 'Works and Days.'

The words 'faith' and 'faithfulness' seem different at first, as if the added syllables had changed the meaning of the original words. Faith is confidence in what can not now be seen. Faithfulness is constancy in the fulfillment of known duties. Yet what but faith in God—and faith in men—makes it possible for us to be faithful in our daily work for God and for men.—'Sunday School Times.'

No thoughtful man ever came to the end of his life, and had time and a little space of calm in which to look back, who did not know that it was what he had done unselfishly for others, and nothing else, that satisfied him in the retrospect, and made him feel that he had played the man.—Woodrow Wilson.

(FROM PELOUBET'S 'NOTES'.)

Caleb . . . the Kenezite, the descendant of Kenaz, the son of Esau. 'The probabilities are that Caleb, or his father, became members of the tribe of Judah by adoption' (Professor Beecher), like Hobab, Ruth, and Heber. 'The faith of this family was pre-eminently the fruit of conviction, and not the accident of heredity. It had a firmer basis than that of most Israelites. It was woven more closely into the texture of their being, and swayed their lives more powerfully. It is pleasing to think that there may have been many such proselytes; that the promise to Abraham may have attracted souls from the east, and the west, and the north, and the south' (a foretaste of the glorious fulfilment yet to come).—Blaikie in 'Expositor's Bible.'

FAITH AND FAITHFULNESS were the living heart of Caleb's character. He was sincere to the core. His faith endured 45 years without fading or faltering. 'Caleb is one of those men whom we meet with seldom in Bible history, but whenever we do meet them we are the better for the meeting. Bright and brave, strong, modest, and cheerful, there

is honesty in his face, courage and decision in the very pose of his body, and the calm confidence of faith in his very look and attitude. . . . That beautiful creation of Milton's, the Seraph Abdiel, 'faithful found among the faithless, faithful only he,' is the type and ideal of the class.' So Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Peter, Paul, and many a later Christian hero. With Paul he could say, 'I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith.'

'The old man of eighty-five is vigorous and hale as when he tramped through the land nearly half a century ago. The life that is dictated by Christian principle directly contributes to physical health and longevity. Insurance offices find that clergymen live longer than the average. In England some offices have separate tables for total abstainers, whom they insure at a lower rate than others. It is true still that sinners do 'not live out half their days.' In our great cities every year numbers of lads from the country, who have been 'going the pace,' have to drop out of the race. . . . If we would have old age vigorous, let us keep youth clean.'—MacLaren in the 'Sunday School Times.'

'This old veteran, whose services would have entitled him to almost any reward he might ask, did not seek for a soft place for his declining years, but for authority to do yet more hard fighting.'—Professor Beecher in 'Sunday School Times.'

BIBLE REFERENCES.

- Prov. xvi., 31; Psa. xcii., 12; Gal. vi., 9; Psa. xxxvii., 37; Heb. vi., 12; Num. xiv., 24; Deut. i., 36; Matt. vi., 33; xxv., 29.

Junior C. E. Topic.

Sunday, Oct. 27.—Topic—Foreign missions: The Kingdom of Christ in Europe. Acts xvi., 6-15.

C. E. Topic.

MISSIONS.

- Monday, Oct. 21.—Isles of the heathen. Zeph. ii., 11. Tuesday, Oct. 22.—Dwellers in the isles. Ezek. xxxix., 6, 7. Wednesday, Oct. 23.—God's word to the isles. Jer. xxxi., 10-12. Thursday, Oct. 24.—God's power in the isles. Isa. xli., 1-5. Friday, Oct. 25.—The nations that are saved. Rev. xxi., 24. Saturday, Oct. 26.—All nations shall come. Rev. xv., 4. Sunday, Oct. 27.—Topic—Missions in the islands of the Atlantic. Isa. xlii., 10.

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