

done that which if left undone would place us under the condemnation of unfaithful servants. We have no ground for pride of heart, or exaltation of spirit in any service we render, for, though it be more than others do, yet it is only our duty. Even the most consecrated and devoted servants of the Lord when they do all they can must in humility acknowledge that they are unprofitable servants, having fallen far short of what God would have them to be.

3. *The cry of faith.* The lepers had no doubt heard of the power of Christ to heal the afflicted, probably from some one already healed. They believed that he who had healed others, who had even raised a man from the dead, could help them. Now that they see him in their midst they cry to him with all their might. They do not ask for alms; they ask for that help which only God can bestow. Their cry reveals the fact that at least they possess a degree of faith. Their faith is again manifested when in response to his command they immediately obeyed. It was done unto them according to their faith.

4. *The willingness and ability of Christ to help.* He is the Almighty God. During his whole ministry on earth he revealed his readiness and willingness to help those who came to him asking aid. None ever went away disappointed; none ever made an appeal in vain. Not only was he willing but he had the power to help. He is the same loving, sympathizing Lord to-day. As in the days of his ministry he delighted to relieve and bless, so now he delights to heal and save. He came to save and that to the uttermost. There is an all-sufficiency of help in the arm of the Lord;

there is an abundance of healing, cleansing virtue in the blood of Christ.

5. *Our Lord expects an expression of gratitude from those he helps and saves.* Our Lord calls special attention to the lack of gratitude in the hearts of the nine. "They all had stood the test of faith, they had walked out on the promise of the Lord, but the nine failed in the test of love. The one who returned, returned not in disobedience to the Lord, but yielding to the impulse of the higher duty of gratitude and love. Ingratitude is one of the most prevalent of vices in the world to-day, and, sad to relate, is too frequently to be found within the church. We are all more ready to ask God for what we need, than to thank him for what we have received. Let us pray for a spirit of love and gratitude; it is the spirit which God loves and delights to honor.

ADDED POINTS.

1. Faith is the main-spring of the moral machinery.
2. Faith is a humbling principle.
3. Faith will inspire faithfulness in service.
4. The Lord tests our faith and then rewards it.
5. If we would have blessings for Christ we must go to him in prayer.
6. Gratitude should be manifested for every benefit we receive.
7. Hearts that are truly grateful for earthly blessings are in the way of spiritual blessings.
8. Without faith it is impossible to please God.
9. By faith, and never without it, can the soul be made whole.

THE BLACKBOARD.

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JESUS THE SAVIOUR

Teaching about FAITH. (Catechism 86.)

LET US PRAY;—"LORD INCREASE OUR FAITH."

FAITH, a LIVING GROWING POWER. (v. 6.)

HUMBLE, "Unprofitable servants." (v. 10.)

OBEDIENT, {" They rolled away the stone." (John 11: 41.)
 {" "They went." (v. 14.)

REWARDED, {" "They were cleansed." (v. 15.)
 {" Lazarus raised. (John 11: 44.)
 {" Made whole. (v. 19.)

He that believeth in the Son, hath everlasting life.

Impress NEED OF FAITH. Want of faith prevents the blessing, (Matt. 13: 58.) Now have all reverently bow, and join in the prayer,—“LORD INCREASE OUR FAITH.” A deep impression can thus be made on all hearts. Then take each point in the outline, and emphasize it, illustrating by references to marked passages; e. g. FAITH is a LIVING thing even if small,—“A mustard seed.”—a GROWING thing, when in proper conditions,—a POWER to root out evils, (v. 6.) to remove great barriers, (Matt. 11: 22, 23.) In like manner emphasize the other points, and conclude by enforcing the closing text.