

Our Own.

I had known in the morning
How wearily all the day
The words unkind
Would trouble my mind
I said when you went away,
I had been more careful, darling,
Nor given you needless pain;
But we vex "our own"
With look and tone
We may never take back again.

For though in the quiet evening
You may give the kiss of peace,
Yet it might be
That never for me
The pain of the heart should cease.
How many go forth in the morning
That never come home at night!
And hearts have broken
For harsh words spoken
That sorrow can ne'er set right.

We have careful thoughts for the stranger,
And smiles for the sometime guest;
But out for "our own"
The bitter tone,
Though we love "our own" the best.
Ah, lips with the curve impatient!
Ah, brow with the look of scorn!
'Twere a cruel fate
Were the night too late
To undo the work of the morn.

—Margaret E. Sangster.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES.

A. D. 48.] LESSON X. [June 8.

AT ANTIOCH.

Acts 13. 13-16; 43-59. Commit verses 47-49.

GOLDEN TEXT.

And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.—Acts 13. 49.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Blessed are they who hear and obey the Gospel.

TIME.—A. D. 48, probably May to August. Soon after the last lesson.

PLACE.—Asia Minor. Chiefly in Antioch, the capital of Pisidia.

PAUL, aged 46. Ten or eleven years after his conversion. On his first missionary journey.

POLITICAL CONDITION OF ASIA MINOR.—It was under the government of Rome; divided into many provinces; varying in manners, language, and religion; few roads; infested with bands of robbers.

RELIGIOUS CONDITION.—The people were idolaters. The chief deity was Diana. The general character of the religion was like that of the Greeks and Romans, sensual and degrading. But a considerable number of Jews were scattered in various places, with synagogues and the Bible.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—13. Paul and his company—including Barnabas and Mark. From Paphos—In Cyprus; the place of the last lesson. Perga in Pamphylia—Pamphylia lay along the southern coast of Asia Minor, west of Cilicia. Perga, its capital, was seven miles inland. John (Mark) returned to Jerusalem—Probably from fear of the dangers of an unwelcome mission in this unknown country. 14. Departed from Perga—Because it was probably May, and the inhabitants were leaving the city for the cool mountains. Antioch—80 to 100 miles inland. 15. The rulers... sent unto them—It was the custom to ask distinguished strangers to speak thus. 16. Give audience—Read Paul's sermon carefully. 48. Proselytes—Heathen converts to Judaism. 49. Jews... filled with envy—Because the Gentiles were placed on a level of privilege with them by the Gospel. 47. For so hath the Lord commanded us—In their Scriptures. Isaiah 49. 6. So directly to Paul, Acts 9. 15, and to Peter, Acts 11. 16—18. 51. Iconium—Some 60 miles south-east of Antioch.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Perga—Pamphylia—Antioch in Pisidia—The synagogue and its service—Paul's sermon—Proselytes—Why the Jews opposed—Why the Gentiles were glad.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—Where were Paul and Barnabas at the time of our last lesson? Where did they go next? How old was Paul at this time? What was the state of things in Asia Minor politically? religiously?

SUBJECT: DIFFERENT WAYS OF DOING AND RECEIVING.

1. TWO KINDS OF WORKERS (vs. 13, 14).—Who were with Paul? At what place in Asia Minor did they first stop? Give some account of Perga? Of Pamphylia? What dangers were in prospect before them? (2 Cor. 11. 26, 27.) Who left them here? Why did he go home? How would he be specially missed by Paul? (Acts 13. 5.) What did Paul think of his act? (Acts 15. 38.) Did Mark ever recover from this mistake? (2 Tim. 4. 11.) How? What was the difference, as a Christian worker, between Paul and Mark at this time? What lessons do we learn from each? Where did Paul and Barnabas next go? How far was it? Is there any probable reason why they left Perga so soon?

2. TWO KINDS OF HEARERS (vs. 15, 16, 43-52).—Where did Paul go on the Sabbath? What was a synagogue? Give some account of the mode of worship there? Why did Paul always begin by preaching to the Jews? Give a brief account of his sermon? Was this Paul's first recorded sermon? What was the effect of the sermon? What advice did Paul give the converts? What is it to continue in the grace of God? What followed the next Sabbath? Who opposed Paul? For what reason? What did Paul then say to them? How did they "judge themselves unworthy of everlasting life"? Would not Paul have preached to the Gentiles even if the Jews had believed? (Rom. 11. 11-15.) When had the Lord commanded them to go to the Gentiles? Can a religion be the true Gospel, if not adapted to all men? How did the Gentiles feel at this news? In what way did the Jews try to prevent the Gospel from spreading? How could "devout and honourable women" join in this plan? What was the result? What did Paul mean by shaking the dust off from his feet? What was the effect of the Gospel on those who believed? Why does the Gospel bring joy?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. The Christian worker will encounter trials and difficulties.
2. The true worker goes forward in spite of them.
3. But once failing, though bringing much trouble, may yet in time be forgiven.
4. Blessed are those who continue in the grace of God.
5. Rejecters of Christ thus judge themselves unworthy of eternal life.
6. The Gospel, though fitted to save all, has two effects on men according as they receive it.
7. True religion is full of joy; and the best joy is in the Holy Ghost.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in Concert.)

7. Where did Paul go from Cyprus? Ans. Into Asia Minor. 8. In what city did he preach two Sabbaths? Ans. In Antioch of Pisidia. 9. Who believed the Gospel? Ans. Some of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. 10. Who opposed? Ans. Many of the Jews. 11. What did they do? Ans. They drove Paul and Barnabas out of the city. 12. What did the Gospel do for those who believed? Ans. They were filled with joy and with the Holy Ghost.

A. D. 48.] LESSON XI. [June 10.

AT ICONIUM AND LYSTRA.

Acts 14. 1-18. Commit to memory vs. 15-18.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Speaking boldly in the Lord.—Acts 14. 8.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

God honours the faithful teaching of his word.

TIME.—A. D. 48. Summer and Autumn, and perhaps into 49. Immediately following the last lesson.

PLACE.—Asia Minor, province of Lycaonia; cities of Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe.

PAUL, aged 46. On his first missionary journey.

RULERS.—Claudius Cæsar, emperor of Rome. Cumanus, governor of Judea. Venespian in Britain.

CIRCUMSTANCES.—Paul and Barnabas having been driven away from Antioch in Pisidia, by persecution, took the great highway that runs from Ephesus to Syria, and travelling about 60 miles in a south-east direction came to Iconium, where to-day's lesson begins.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. Iconium—A large city in Lycaonia. It is now called Konyak, and has a population of twenty or

thirty thousand. So spake—With such zeal, truth, love, and power of the Holy Spirit. Greeks—Devout persons who worshipped God with the Jews. 2. Gentiles—The heathen. 3. Lord... gave testimony—He bore witness that their teachings were divine, by doing wonders that only God could do. 5. An assault—They attempted, but did not succeed. 6. Lystra—40 miles south of Iconium. Derbe—20 miles from Lystra. 8. Impotent—Powerless. A cripple—So born, and hence the cure was more wonderful. 9. Perceiving that he had faith—He probably had heard them preach often, and tell of the wonders the Lord had done. 11. In the speech of Lycaonia—What language is unknown. The apostles had spoken in Greek, which all understood, but the apostles did not understand the native tongue. 12. Barnabas—Who was large and fine looking. Jupiter—The chief of the heathen gods. Paul—Who was small, but eloquent. Mercurius—The messenger of Jupiter, and the God of eloquence. 13. Jupiter, which was before their city—The temple and statue of Jupiter. 14. When the apostles heard of—It was all spoken in a strange language, and the apostles were probably in the inner court of the house. Timothy was a native of Lystra, with his mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois. (Acts 16. 1; 2 Tim. 1. 5.) He was probably converted at this time.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Iconium—Lycaonia—God's testimony to his word—Why miracles are called signs—The faith of the lame man—Jupiter—Mercury—Paul's address—Good influences upon the heathen.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—On what tour were Paul and Barnabas? How old was Paul? Why did they leave Antioch? In what year and what season of the year does to-day's lesson belong.

SUBJECT: MISSIONARY WORK AMONG THE HEATHEN.

1. AT ICONIUM (vs. 1-6).—Where was Iconium? In what division of Asia Minor? What was Paul's first work here? What was the result of his preaching? What was there in his preaching (so spake) that produced this effect? Who now opposed them? How? How was this a reason why they still abode there? How did the Lord show that their teaching was from him? Why are miracles called signs? Into what two parties were the people divided? Is the world still so divided about Christ? On which side are you? What did the unbelievers do? Did they carry out their intentions? Why not?

2. AT LYSTRA (vs. 6-18).—Where did they go from Iconium? How far was it? What noted persons were converted here? (Acts 16. 1; 2 Tim. 1. 5.) What miracle was wrought? Why was faith necessary in order to healing? How did the man get his faith? What did this miracle teach us as to the nature of the Gospel? What as to faith? What was the effect on the people of Lycaonia? Has God come down to us? Who was Jupiter? Why was Barnabas so called? Why was Paul called Mercury? What did the people try to do? Why did not Paul know at first what they were doing? What were the topics of his address? Why are idols called vanities? Does the name belong to the things men now worship? What did Paul say of his God? Is this a reason why we should love, trust, and obey Him? Why were some nations left without a written Revelation? How does God speak to all men? Does this leave them without excuse for doing wrong? (Rom. 1. 19-22.)

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. So teach that your scholars will believe.
2. Opposition is sometimes a reason why we should work the more earnestly.
3. God ever bears witness to the faithful presentation of His word.
4. If we cannot work in one place or way, let us turn to another.
5. True faith is sure of the blessing.
6. Seek honour, not for ourselves, but for our Master.
7. God speaks to us in various ways,—by nature, by conscience, by the Spirit, by His word.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in Concert.)

13. Where did Paul go when driven from Antioch? Ans. To Iconium, the chief city of Lycaonia? 14. How was he helped here? Ans. By the opposition of men, and signs and wonders from God. 15. Where did they go next? Ans. To Lystra. 16. Who was one of the converts here? Ans. Timothy, who afterwards became Paul's helper. 17. What miracle was wrought here? Ans. A lame man from his birth was cured.

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