

HOME STUDY LEAFLET.

LESSON VIII — February 24th.

Christ and the Man Born Blind. JOHN 9: 1-11.

(Commit to memory verses 1-3.)

GOLDEN TEXT.

"I am the light of the world." John 9: 5.

PROVE THAT

Christ works wonderful cures. Matt. 11: 5.

LESSON HYMNS.

CHILDREN'S HYMNAL, Nos. 5, 23, 35, 176.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Quest. 10. *How did God create man?*

A. God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Christ and the Man Born Blind; John 9: 1-11. *Tuesday.* Questions by Pharisees; John 9: 13-23. *Wednesday.* Cast Out; John 9: 24-34. *Thursday.* Spiritual Light; John 9: 35-41. *Friday.* Bartimæus; Mark 10: 46-52. *Saturday.* Light in the Heart; 2 Cor. 4: 1-6. *Sabbath.* Light of the World; John 1: 1-3. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Jesus was now at Jerusalem attending the Feast of the Dedication, October, A. D. 29, about six months before the crucifixion. Read the accounts of cures of other blind men. Mark 8: 22-26; Matt. 20: 29-34; Mark 10: 46-52; Luke 18: 35-43.

LESSON PLAN. I. Misfortune Explained. vs. 1-3. II. A Sufferer Relieved. vs. 4-7. III. Sceptical Friends. vs. 8-11.

I. MISFORTUNE EXPLAINED. 1. As he passed by (R. V.)—as he went along the street. **Blind from his birth**—This kind is incurable even now. See verse 32. Diseases of the eyes are exceedingly common in the East. In Egypt one person in every hundred is blind. **2. Who did sin?**—The disciples believed that special suffering was due to special guilt. They also knew that the sins of parents brought calamities upon their children, and some Pharisees taught that the soul of man had an existence before he was born. They were anxious to know how to explain the case of one who was blind when he came into the world and could not have committed sin himself. Had he sinned in his previous state of existence? or, had his parents' sin brought him into this unfortunate condition? **3. Neither**—Jesus does not mean to say that they were sinless, but that the blindness was not sent as the punishment of any particular sin. Read Luke 13: 1-5, and compare the story of Job. **The works of God**—Not only in his becoming a subject of Christ's healing power, but in shewing God's loving care of a helpless one from day to day, chastening him and his parents by affliction, and drawing out the charity and sympathy of others. Read also ch. 11: 4.

II. A SUFFERER RELIEVED. 4. We must work (R. V.)—Jesus often urges to ceaseless activity in doing good (ch. 4: 34; 5: 19, 36; 11: 9; 12: 35; 17: 4). **The night**—The day of opportunity passes, never to return. We go but once through the world, and we cannot return to correct errors or finish what we have left undone. **5. The light of the world**—Jesus came to dispel moral and spiritual darkness, of which physical blindness was a type (Isa. 29: 18; 35: 5; 42: 7; Luke 4: 18-21; John 1: 5, 9; 3: 19; 8: 12; 12: 35, 46). **6. Anointed the eyes**—The saliva and the clay were common remedies for diseases of the eye. In employing them our Saviour graciously aided the faith of the blind man, and teaches us that we are to expect the divine Healer to work through our using the best remedies that our medical science knows. **7. The pool of Siloam**—This was a test of his faith and obedience, the inward conditions of his receiving the blessing of sight. (See *Siloam* in Bible Dictionary.) **Sent**—The name *Siloam* is derived from the Hebrew verb "to send." Perhaps because, springing from the temple hill, it was regarded as the special gift of God. John sees in the name a typical reference to Christ himself (Isa. 8: 6).

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