

LESSON V—August 2nd, 1896.

David's Kindness. 2 SAM. 9: 1-13.

(Commit to memory verse 7).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love." Rom. 12: 10.

PROVE THAT—We should remember the poor. Prov. 19: 17.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 70. *Which is the seventh commandment?* A. The seventh commandment is, Thou shalt not commit adultery. 71. *What is required in the seventh commandment?* A. The seventh commandment requireth the preservation of our own and our neighbor's chastity, in heart, speech, and behaviour.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 82, 133, 135, 41.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* David's kindness. 2 Sam. 9. *Tuesday.* David and Jonathan. 1 Sam. 20: 11-17. *Wednesday.* A sorrowful parting. 1 Sam. 20: 35-42. *Thursday.* A glad welcome. 2 Sam. 19: 24-30. *Friday.* Constancy in friendship. Prov. 27: 1-10. *Saturday.* A blessed memory. Job 29: 1-16. *Sabbath.* The love of Christ. Eph. 3: 8-19. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The eighth chapter contains a brief history of the wars that raised Israel from an oppressed and despised people, to the exalted position of a powerful and widespread empire. The supremacy of the Philistines was broken. It was probably at that time that several of David's "heroes" won their laurels in war (2 Sam. 23: 8-12). To-day's lesson marks the close of the first part of David's reign. Here David appears a true man and a noble prince.

LESSON PLAN. I. Thoughtful Inquiry. vs. 1-4. II. The Unfortunate Prince. vs. 5-8. III. The Magnanimous King. vs. 9-13.

1. **Is there yet any?**—Consideration for the interests and welfare of others is a striking characteristic of a truly great man. While Saul had been David's sworn enemy, still Jonathan had been his tried and true friend. **May shew him kindness.**—By reason of David's kindly remembrance of Jonathan, he was prepared to go the length of shewing kindness to any of the descendants of Saul. What a deep and lasting impression the life and conduct of Jonathan had made on the character of David. The far reaching effects of a noble, godly life; its wonderful magnetic power. 2. **Zi'ba**—An old servant of the house of Saul, a man of considerable influence and wealth, his sons numbered fifteen, and his servants twenty. "Zi'ba was a strange mixture of craft, and faithfulness, and selfishness." 3. **The kindness of God**—Disinterested, unselfish and exceedingly great kindness that had its roots deeply rooted in love. **Hath yet a son**—David would be delighted on hearing of the son of his old friend. **Lame on his feet**—He was a cripple, the effects of an accident that befell him when four years old (ch. 4: 4). 4. **In the house of Ma'chir**—An old, wealthy and generous friend of the family, who took a kindly interest in the unfortunate Me-phi-bo'sheth. 5. **Sent**—Not a body of armed men to fetch him by force, but a company bearing a kindly message from the king. 6. **Was come unto David**—Me-phi-bo'sheth obeyed the summons, and with feelings of great fear and dread he came to David. There is little doubt but that he expected to be put to death. **Behold thy servant**—Not thine enemy, but thy servant, ready to yield allegiance to thee and seek thy good. 7. **Fear not**—How Me-phi-bo'sheth's drooping and despairing spirits must have revived on hearing the kindly words of comfort and assurance spoken by David. **Thy father's sake**—Doubtless David esteemed it alike an honor and a privilege to shew kindness to the unfortunate prince for his father's sake. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men" (Gal. 6: 10). **Will restore thee**—All Saul's lands and estates generally. A true friend will be generous. 8. **What is thy servant?**—David's kindness overpowered poor Mephibosheth. The thought that so great a prince should deal so kindly with him was too much for him. 10. **And thy sons**—To Zi'ba was entrusted the oversight of the estates. He was to see that a certain rental would be paid Mephibosheth annually. **At my table**—David received Mephibosheth and gave him a place in his own house as a member of his family. This should remind us of the great and precious riches that are secured to the believers on Christ Jesus (1 Pet. 1: 3, 4). 11. **So shall thy servant do**—No doubt Ziba meant well, but the spirit of selfishness in the course of time led him to deal treacherously with his master (2 Sam. 16: 1-4; 19: 24-30). The story of this unfortunate prince serves as a striking illustration of "the spiritual history of every one that is restored to God."

LESSONS. 1. Willing to do good unto all men as we have opportunity. 2. To pity the unfortunate. 3. A true friend will be generous. 4. Gratefully remember the mercy of him against whom we have rebelled.