

LESSON IX.—February 26, 1899

CHRIST AT THE FEAST, John 7: 14, 28-37

PREVIEW THOUGHT: Christ gives Light through His words and works

Golden Text.—"If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink."—John 7: 37.

To-day's Lesson Thought.—Jesus invites all to come to the light.

Connection.—Do the children remember a little lad who helped Jesus to do a great miracle? Recall the story. Question in regard to the spiritual meaning of Christ's words.

Lesson Story.—One morning Harry

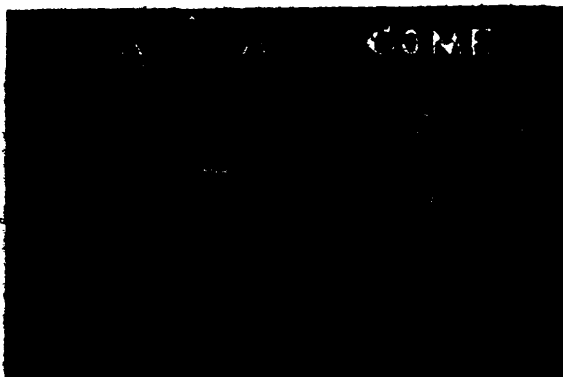
Walker awakened up and said, "Oh, mother, I am so glad this is Thanksgiving Day—we are all going to Grandma's to-day." How many like Thanksgiving Day? (Explain why we have this day of thanksgiving.) In Jerusalem they had a whole week of thanksgiving. It was called the Feast of Tabernacles, because the people thanked God that they now had houses to live in and had not to dwell in tents (tabernacles) (make a paper tent) in the wilderness as the Children of Israel had to do for so very many years. While this feast lasted everybody lived in tents in order to remind them of the life in the wilderness and to make them more thankful to God. The city was crowded with people from all over the country. All along the streets were tents made of branches of trees. The largest, most beautiful building in Jerusalem—the temple—(God's House). (Describe the beauty of the Temple.) Thanksgiving going on there all week. At night it was beautifully lighted. Day and night music floated out—songs of thanksgiving.

The last great day of the feast came. All the people are going to the Temple—not wearing their common, plain clothes, but gaily dressed; each carried in the right hand a green branch and in the left a fruit like a melon (a Paradise apple). Describe the procession which went daily from the Temple to the fountain of Siloam near by, led by a priest carrying a golden jug. The jug is filled with pure water and carried back to the Temple amid shouting and singing, and clash of

cymbals, and blast of trumpets. The water is poured on the altar (symbolical of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, also commemorative of Numbers 20: 1-14), and the people sing and wave their green branches.

Jesus had come up from Galilee to be present at this feast. He preached in the Temple. (Read lesson.)

On this last great day of the feast Jesus stood and watched the procession bringing the water



and He cried out "If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink." (Explain).

Practical Thoughts.—Jesus tells us about the water of life and gives us light on the way of life—in the Holy Bible. We go to church (Temple) and hear the minister talk about this Holy Bible. We should pray to Jesus for light to make us understand His Holy Word.

Once a Bible was baked in a loaf of bread. That was in a far-away country called Austria. Some wicked men came into the house to find the Bible and burn it up, but the woman who owned it was just going to bake bread; so she rolled her Bible up in a big loaf and put it in the oven. When the men went away she took out the loaf and it was not hurt a bit. That was a good place to hide a Bible, wasn't it? But I'll tell you of a better place still. David knew of that place when he said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart."—*Rays of Light.*

Blackboard.—Draw a Temple outline and a Holy Bible (yellow chalk).