



THE CRIPPLED LAMB.

A LITTLE crippled boy, ten years old, could only use one of his legs; and as he could not run about with the other children, his mother used to amuse him by reading to him. She used to read to him the twenty third Psalm, and told him that Jesus was that Shepherd, and read to him what Jesus said about it in John's gospel, and told him about the sheepfold, where the shepherd carried the lambs to keep them from freezing on winter nights, and to protect them from the danger of dogs and wolves. Then he asked his mother: "Where was Jesus' sheepfold?"

She told him the Church, and who were Jesus' lambs, and how, standing at the door, he said: "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not." Then she told him the story about Jesus and Peter at the Sea of Galilee, and how Jesus said to Peter: "Feed my lambs."

Then said he: "Ma, why can I not go unto the Church, Christ's sheepfold? I am sick and crippled; surely he wants me, and you said he cared most for the sick and weak."

"Oh!" she said; "my son, you are too young yet; when you get to be fifteen you shall go to the communion."

He felt disappointed, and said: "Ma, why did you tell me about this when I am too young, and make me love Jesus so much that I want to be one of his lambs in his sheepfold, and then tell me I can't?" So at night he asked his father about it, and told him all about what his mother had been telling him.

His father said: "It is all right, my son. Wait six months and see if you can be a better boy, and live up to your profession."

On the next Sunday afternoon his father was hauling him out in his little waggon to refresh him, for he looked unusually pale and pensive, and in the field they saw a flock of sheep, which ran away of fright, leaving a little lamb white as snow bleating most piteously, and struggling to get after its mother, but could not walk. The father pulled up the waggon by it, so they could see what ailed it; and taking it up, they found that one of its legs had been broken, the sight of which greatly affected the cripple. He wept when he looked at it, and when his father asked him why he was troubled he said: "Oh! the poor lamb is just like me: It can't go and play with the other lambs; its mother leaves it, and it can't go after her; and she can't put it in the fold where it will be warm and safe, and it can't go itself."

The father's heart was touched, but still he did not see the trouble in that little heart, so he said: "You sit here, and I will go and carry the lamb to its mother; and if

she won't let me come up to her, I will put it carefully in the fold, where she can find it.

The little cripple, looking upon his father with his large eyes lustrous with tears, said "No, father, no; let's leave it, wait six months, and see if it lives or not; and if it is not a cripple then we can put it with its mother in the fold."

The stupid father at last got his eyes open, and his heart too, and replied: "I will put the lamb with its mother in the fold, where it ought to be, and you may join the Church too if you wish."

The little fellow did not join the Church on earth, for in a few days he was taken sick, and after a few hours' suffering, in which he was out of his mind, he came to consciousness, called his parents, and recalled the last Sabbath's ride and the crippled lamb and said "Papa, you carried it to its mother in the fold; that was kind, papa, and now Jesus has come to take your poor crippled lamb up to his fold."

And in a few hours the crippled lamb was in the Saviour's bosom.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE.

A. D. 28.] LESSON V. [Feb. 2

THE POWER OF JESUS.

Luko 5. 17-26. Memory verses, 22-24.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins.—Luko 5. 24.

TIME.—Summer, A. D. 28.

PLACE.—Capernaum.

CONNECTING LINKS.

After his sermon and rejection in Nazareth, Jesus went to Capernaum. The miracles he wrought there between last lesson and that of to-day were the miraculous draught of fishes, healing a demoniac, Peter's wife's mother, a leper, and many other sick people. After the draught of fishes he called four disciples, Simon, Andrew, James, and John. His fame spread so that after healing the leper he retired for a time into the desert. Closely following his return to Capernaum came the healing of the paralytic. It is supposed about three months passed between the event of last lesson and that of to-day's.

DAY BY DAY WORK.

Monday—Read the lesson (Luko 5. 17-26). Answer the questions. Tell in your own words the last lesson and this.

Tuesday—Read what a great Physician could do (Mark 1. 23-34). Fix in your mind time, place, connecting links.

Wednesday—Read a story of forgiveness (Luko 7. 36-50). Learn Golden Text.

Thursday—Read why we are forgiven through Christ (Acts 13. 26-39). Learn the memory verses.

Friday—Read how we may know that we are forgiven (1 John 2. 1-12).

Saturday—Read Psalm 130. Study teachings of the lesson.

Sunday—Read of the joy of a forgiven man (Psalm 32).

QUESTIONS.

1. Power, v. 17-21.

Why were the Pharisees there?
How was the power of the Lord present?
What kind of disease was palsy?
Why could they not go in by the door?
How did they reach the roof?
Why did they break through the roof?
Whose faith did Jesus see?
What caused his sickness?

Why did Jesus forgive his sins first?

What is meant by blasphemy?

Can you forgive the wrong you have done to another?

2. Grace, v. 22-26.

Does Jesus know our thoughts?

What power had Jesus?

How was the sick man's faith tested?

Was the cure complete?

What kind was his bed?

Why did he praise God?

Did the Pharisees join in giving glory to God?

Do we give him glory because he has forgiven us?

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where Christ is there is power to heal. We may bring our friends to Christ by prayer.

Difficulties are things to be overcome. Our first and greatest need is forgiveness of sin. When saved we will praise God, lead new lives, and not be a burden to others.

ANDY, THE HERD BOY.

ANDY lived with a farmer who owned large flocks of sheep. It was Andy's work to take charge of these flocks—to see that they did not wander into the woods, that they were led to the best pastures every morning, that they were carefully placed in the fold at night, and that they were always supplied with plenty of water. Sometimes Andy went around amongst his sheep sprinkling handfuls of salt on the ground for them.

You may think that this was a good deal for a boy to do, but the truth is that Andy had so much spare time that he grew lazy. One day he was lying under a tree, half asleep, when he noticed that a weak little lamb was wandering along a dangerous ledge of the river bank. It was a considerable distance away and he did not feel like stirring. A man was coming down the road in the direction of the river, so he called out, "Will you drive that lamb away from the edge of the river, sir?" The man went on down the road answering roughly, "All right." But Andy knew that the man would likely only call to the lamb, as he would have to go out of his way a little to drive it back. He watched to see what would happen. The man passed without doing anything. Then Andy saw the lamb's mother come up to it.

"Oh! I needn't bother now," he said. "Its mother can look after it." Andy's rule was to always let some one else do his work if he could. Only the day before Miss Grace, at the farm-house, had reported for his benefit,

"I told Hezekiah to tell Widow Gray to tell Mother Brown, next door, to tell Dickie Dwight, who goes that way, to tell Deacon Barnes, at the store, to tell the old stage-driver, Timothy Bean, to come for me, sure, and in season; but I've waited all day, and no stage have I seen, New what do you think is the reason?"

The thought of these lines made him look over in the direction he had last seen the lamb. It had disappeared. Then Andy jumped up and ran over to the river where he found the poor little lamb lying cold and helpless in the water. As it was early in the spring and the water was very cold Andy knew that this weak little lamb would suffer from the shock. He had to carry it to the farm house, where he wrapped it in a piece of blanket and fed it warm milk. When his work as a doctor was over and he was returning to his flock Andy made a resolution. He made up his mind that from that day he would attend to his own work himself, and that he would do it at the right time. He turned a somersault and called out for the benefit of a couple of busy butterflies flitting before him, "It don't pay to be lazy."

LAKE SUPERIOR is in danger of losing its distinction of being the largest fresh-water lake in the world. African explorers begin to think Lake Victoria Nyanza is larger.



ANDY, THE HERD BOY.

Comfort One Another.

Comfort one another:

There are words of music ringing
Down the ages, sweet as singing
Of the happy choirs above;
Ransomed saint and mighty angel
Lift the grand, deep-voiced svangel,
Where forever they are praising the eternal
love.

Comfort one another:

By the hope of Him who sought us
In our peril—him who bought us,
Paying with his precious blood;
By the faith that will not alter,
Trusting strength that will not falter,
Leaning on the one divinely good.

Comfort one another:

Let the grave-gloom lie beyond you,
While the Spirit's words remind you
Of the home beyond the tomb:
Where no more is pain or parting,
Fever's flush to teardrop starting,
But the presence of the Lord, and for all his
people room.—The Independent.

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