

LESSON V—May 3rd, 1896.

Faith. LUKE 17: 5-19.

(Commit to memory verses 17-19).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Lord, increase our faith." Luke 17: 5.

PROVE THAT—We should give thanks always. Eph. 5: 20.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 57. *Which is the fourth commandment?* A. The fourth commandment is, Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 132, 133, 103, 140.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Faith. Luke 17: 5-19. *Tuesday.* The law of cleansing. Lev. 14: 21-32. *Wednesday.* Naaman cured. 2 Kings 5: 8-14. *Thursday.* Confident trust. Psalm 27. *Friday.* Faith and sight. John 20: 24-31. *Saturday.* Both able and willing. Mark 1: 35-45. *Sabbath.* Heroes of Faith. Heb. 11: 32-40. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The discourse contained in the first part of chapter 17 (vs. 1-10) was probably delivered directly after the parable in our last lesson. Between verses 10 and 11 we must insert John 11: 1-54. The lepers were healed as Jesus journeyed from Ephraim to Jerusalem, by way of Perea.

LESSON PLAN. I. Faith Working. vs. 5-10. II. Faith Pleading. vs. 11-14. III. Faith saving. vs. 15-19.

5. **Lord, increase our faith**—The apostles felt that they could not forgive a brother seven times. Such a loving disposition was the fruit of stronger faith, and so they prayed for more. 6. **Mustard seed**—One of the smallest garden seeds (Matt. 13: 32). **Sycamine tree**—The black mulberry—a sturdy, deeprooted tree. Not the same as the *sycamore*. **It should obey you**—Our Lord does not mean this literally, but figuratively. "If you have any real faith at all you will be able to do what seems impossible, and is really so to one who has not faith. You don't need *much* faith, but *real* faith, to teach you how to forgive." (Matt. 17: 20; 21: 21; Mark 9: 23; 11: 23). 7-9. **A servant ploughing or keeping sheep** (R. V.)—A master does not praise a servant for performing his ordinary duties; he does not give him any special honor, but requires him to keep humbly and faithfully a servant's place in the house as well as in the field. 10. **Unprofitable servants**—When we have done all, we ought to feel that we can never do enough for God. How wicked then to speak of doing more than is necessary for our own salvation, as Romanists do (Isa. 64: 6; Rom. 3: 27; Ps. 16: 2, 3; 143: 2; 1 Cor. 4: 7; 9: 16, 17).

11. **Through the midst**—Along the border between Galilee and Samaria. 12. **Stood afar off**—They were not permitted to come within 100 paces of any person, for the disease is contagious (Lev. 13: 45, 46). **Go, shew yourselves unto the priests**—Any priest could examine a leper and pronounce him clean (Lev. 14: 2-32; Matt. 8: 4). Their faith was tested. The cure did not come until they set out to obey. 15. **One of them**—The nine Jews went off in one direction to find a Jewish priest and the Samaritan went in another for a priest of his own religion. Had he been with the others his example might have led them to return too (2 Kings 5: 15). 16. **A Samaritan**—This son of an alien and hated race was more grateful than those who could claim Jesus as their Messiah. 17. **Where are the nine?** —We are oftener among the nine than with the one. How many blessings we receive that we forget to be thankful for. 18. **Stranger**—"Alien," not a Jew. For his descent see 2 Kings 18: 24. 19. **Thy faith hath saved thee**—Both soul and body are healed (Matt. 9: 22; Mark 10: 32; Luke 7: 50).

LESSONS. 1. Faith is the fundamental grace, the root of all the Christian virtues. 2. We cannot do anything that will give us a right to God's special favor. 3. Sin is incurable except by the power of Jesus. 4. God's blessings come to us when we are doing what he tells us to do. 5. We should never forget thanksgiving as a part of prayer.