

A SABBATH MORNING HYMN.

My thoughts O God ascend to thee. The fountain of all purity. On wings of faith I wish to rise. To mortal's vision from the skies.

BEREAN NOTES.

DECEMBER 12. LESSON XI. John 20, 24-31. JESUS AND THOMAS. HOME READINGS. MONDAY—John 20, 24-31.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The interview between Jesus and Thomas took place on Sunday, March 27, A. D. 29. On the day Jesus arose he appeared to his friends several times.

CONCISE COMPEND. FREEMAN.

Double number, 807; Salvation, "Peace," 823. FOSTER: 1623, 1628, 1629, 1625, 1626.

Where does this lesson drop a hint—

- 1. About keeping the first day of the week? 2. About coming early to meeting? 3. About avoiding foolish vows?

OUTLINES, NOTES, AND LESSONS.

1. THOMAS AND THE DISCIPLES: 2. THOMAS AND JESUS—1. Unbelief; 2. Conviction; 3. Faith; 4. Revelation; 5. The willful demand; 6. The genuine conviction; 7. The new beatitude; 8. The gracious opportunity; 9. The doubt of Thomas; 10. The manifestation to Thomas; 11. The confession of Thomas; 12. The opportunity for faith; 13. Doubt; 14. Conviction; 15. Confession.

2. NOTES.

THOMAS, verse 24. See John 11, 16, 14, 5, and Matt. chap. 19. His absence upon the first Sunday, when Jesus met the other disciples, warrants the idea that he had gloomily dropped the matter. He considers it substantially at an end.

WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD, ver. 25.

To them the vision was undoubted. To Thomas it seemed an impossible thing. Not that he doubted their intended truthfulness, but he considered them deceived, as having needed a conviction hastily and upon insufficient evidence.

A FOURTEENTH DAY, ver. 26.

The fourth day of designating a week, thus forming this appearance to the second Sunday of his resurrection life. WITHIN. Within the place of meeting, the doors shut, etc. John 20, 19. STOOD IN THE MIDST. A phrase indicating the suddenness of his appearance there. He did not knock and enter in an ordinary way, but the first observed fact was he "stood in

the midst." Happy they to whom Jesus comes! PEACE BE UNTO YOU. Repeating a former salutation. John 20, 26. It was a greeting in common use, but now specially adapted to quiet their rising fears.

REACH UPHER THY FINGER, etc. ver. 27. He uses the words of Thomas, so that the exact demand of Thomas might be met.

There is something rhythmical in these words, and they are purposely couched in the words of Thomas himself, to put him to shame.—Luther.

The Lord is silent about the print of the nails, which would have recalled the malice of his enemies, and points simply to the wounds as the abiding monument of his dying love to Thomas and to all.—Schaff.

MY LORD AND MY GOD, ver. 28. Not a mere exclamation, for 1. No such phrase was in use among the devout Jews; 2. An unobvious use of it would savor of profanity; 3. None there but Jesus could be addressed as "My Lord," but he also was called "My God."

The highest apostolic confession of faith in the Lordship and Divinity of Christ, an echo of the beginning of this Gospel: "The Word was God." John 1, 1.—Schaff.

That Thomas did not do what Jesus invited him to do, is plain from ver. 29: "Because thou hast seen me," etc.—Heron.

BLESSED ARE THEY, etc. ver. 29. A new beatitude belonging especially to us, who never say, but who do believe. See 1 Pet. 1, 8.

MANY OTHER SIGNS, etc. ver. 30. Some are written in the other gospels, and some have been permitted to sink from history as unnecessary for the uses of the church.

These are written, etc. ver. 31. Belief in Christ, and salvation through his name, the object of John's Gospel. Inferentially the object of the other gospels, of all Scripture, and of all true Christian work. Teachers may take the keynote for work from this statement.

3. LESSONS.

1. Absence from among Christ's disciples hinders the progress of the absentee. See Heb. 10, 25, "Not forsaking the assembling," etc. 2. The naturance and the duty of telling what we know of Christ. 3. Honest inquiry to be distinguished from stubborn unbelief. 4. Some unbelievers are ready to believe. 5. Christ sometimes comes when unlooked for. 6. Christ's coming a mission of peace to men. 7. Christ ready and able abundantly to convince men. 8. The very wounds of Jesus proclaimed his Lordship and Divinity. 2. The benefit of an assured faith. 10. The certainty of the resurrection should put to flight all doubts. 11. Thomas' doubt overruled for our confirmation in the faith.

BISHOP SIMPSON'S LIFE SAVED BY PRAYER.

I remember once when there was a conference at Mount Vernon, at which I was present. Bishop James was presiding one afternoon, and after reading a despatch stating that Bishop Simpson was dying at Pittsburgh, asked that the conference unite in prayer that his life might be saved.

CONDENSED CERTIFICATE.

NATIONAL HOTEL, Washington, D. C., Dec. 2, 1874. Messrs. Helphinstine & Bentley:

I very cheerfully state that I used Durang's Rheumatic Remedy with decided benefit.

A. H. STEPHENS, Member of Congress, of the PRESIDENTIAL MANSION, Washington, D. C., April 23, 1875.

Messrs. Helphinstine & Bentley:

I have used your Durang's Rheumatic Remedy, and I feel compelled to state that it has cured me of a severe case of rheumatism.

W. H. CROOK, Executive Clerk to President Grant, Washington, D. C., March 30, 1875.

In the space of twelve hours my rheumatic was gone, having taken three doses of Durang's Rheumatic Remedy. My brother, J. B. O'Shea, of Red Bank, Pa., was cured by a similar amount.

JOHN CESSNA, Member of Congress of Pa. Price one dollar a bottle, or six bottles for five dollars. Ask your druggist for Durang's Rheumatic Remedy, manufactured by HELPHINSTINE & BENTLEY, Druggists and Chemists, Washington, D. C.

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