

If I Could Know.

"If I could only surely know
That all these things that tire me so
Were noticed by my Lord!
The pang that cuts me like a knife,
The lesser pains of daily life—
The noise, the weariness, the strife—
What peace it would afford!

"I wonder if he really shares
In all these little human cares,
This mighty King of kings!
If he who guides through boundless space
Each blazing planet in its place,
Can have the condescending grace
To mind these petty things!

"It seems to me, if sure of this,
Blent with each ill would come such bliss
That I might covet pain,
And deem whatever brought to me
The loving thought of Deity.
And sense of Christ's sweet sympathy,
Not loss, but richest gain.

"Dear Lord, my heart shall no more doubt
That thou dost compass me about
With sympathy divine.
The Love for me once crucified
Is not the love to leave my side,
But waiteth ever to divide
Each smallest care of mine."

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

A.D. 30] LESSON V. [APRIL 29

THE TALENTS.

Matt. 25. 14-30. Memory verses, 20, 21

GOLDEN TEXT.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will
give thee a crown of life. Rev. 2. 10.

OUTLINE.

1. Faithful.
2. Slothful.

TIME, PLACE, RULES, CIRCUMSTANCES.—
The same as in last lesson.

EXPLANATIONS.—*His own servants*—The slaves who composed his family. *His goods*—The general care of the estate was given them. *Five talents*—Or the largest portion of individual responsibility to one whom the owner knew he could trust. Talent is a term that is hard to express in English dollars and cents and does not need to be so expressed here. *Two talents*—"A smaller trust," etc. *Went and traded*—That is, took the proper care; developing and making increase as ought naturally to be made. It may mean plowing, planting, reaping, or any like way. *Dug and hid*—He made no effort to develop, or even to use, or even to watch over what was entrusted to him. *A hard man, reaping*—A master who would require without mercy a full equivalent for all he had given, and who would punish if he lost; so he was afraid, etc.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Faithful.

What is the subject of this lesson?
By what different illustrations have we had this subject set forth in our lesson?
Why should the Saviour so constantly recur to this theme?
What is the great danger which besets the soul in every relation of life?
What is meant by "delivered unto them his goods?"
For what does the gift of talents stand in the case of men to-day?
Are there any to whom God does not give opportunities?
Was the picture Christ made of life a true one?
What was the test to which these servants were at last subjected?
What was the result to those who had been faithful?

2. Slothful.

Which of the servants in the parable was slothful?
Is smallness of natural endowment any excuse for idleness?

What does the Lord expect of every one of us?

What was the principle upon which the man gave to his various servants?
Could the man with one talent have done like his fellow servants?
Why did the "lord of those servants" remain away a long time?
What two things made the conduct of the slothful servant wicked?
What was the punishment?
Does the parable hint that he was ever to have another opportunity to trade with his one talent?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Notice the extent of the trust here shown: "to every man."
Notice the meaning of the gift: "according to his ability."

That is, we are responsible for a trust, but it is not beyond our power to meet.
Notice the length of the trial: "after a long time." Our probation is ample. God gives us all the time we need.

Notice the reward for service; not rest from labour, but increase of care: "ruler over many things."

Notice the recompense for nothingness: strip him of every thing and cast him out. Here is not a hint of any future probation.

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Find out all the things that were done by the man about to travel into a far country.
2. Make in writing a comparison between this man's action and God's treatment of the world.
3. Give two reasons why it was wrong to do like the unprofitable servant.
4. Write out five characteristics of the two servants, who doubled their talents.
5. Compare this lesson with each of the two immediately preceding it.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. To what does Jesus here liken the kingdom of heaven? To a master and his servants. 2. How did the master show the trust in his servants? By giving them large trusts. 3. What circumstance governed him in making these trusts? The ability of each one. 4. When the master came to reckon, what did he find? Some faithful and one unfaithful. 5. How did he reward the faithful ones? By increasing their trusts. 6. What happened to the unfaithful one? He was stripped and banished. 7. What is the lesson and promise of this parable? "Be thou faithful," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The nature of rewards.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

23. What other proof is there that the Bible is inspired?
Its wonderful and heavenly power over the human heart.

Hebrews iv. 12, 13. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

A.D. 30] LESSON VI. [MAY 6

THE JUDGMENT.

Matt. 25. 31-46. Memory verses, 37-40

GOLDEN TEXT.

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. Matt. 25. 46.

OUTLINE.

1. The Judge.
2. The Blessed.
3. The Cursed.

TIME, PLACE, RULES, CIRCUMSTANCES.—
The same as in the last lesson.

EXPLANATIONS.—*The Son of man shall come*—The promise of the Saviour himself that he is to come to be the judge. *All the holy angels*—It is to be in the presence of all the angelic host. *All nations*—It is to embrace the whole world of every age. *Shall separate*—There can be no doubt that this meant that the righteous have one destiny and the wicked another. *Then shall the king*—A moment before, Son of man, now,

"King." Notice that Jesus here claims that he will be King. *Unto one of the least*—How easy Christ makes it to do a service to him.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. The Judge.

What great doctrine of the Church is assumed as a fact in this lesson?
How are we taught to regard the present attitude of Christ toward the world?
What does he himself say will be his attitude in the future?
How wide will be the extent of his judgment?
What will be the character of his judgment?
On what will the decisions of the Judge be based?
Is there any hint of appeal from the decisions of that day?
In the great Christian hymn of praise, the "Te Deum," what do we say that we believe concerning Christ?

2. The Blessed.

What is to be the portion of the blessed after judgment?
Who is to be the author of their blessedness?
What will be the ground upon which they are to be declared blessed?
What are some of the practical ways in which we can to-day do these various things for Christ?
What is the measure by which we are to be judged? ver. 40.
Is there any gift too small to receive its reward if given only for Christ?

3. The Cursed.

What is to be the portion of the cursed?
Who are to be the companions of the cursed?
What reason does Jesus give for the punishment put upon them?
Is their guilt before God positive or negative?
What is the great law here disclosed as to God's mode of judging?
Do you see any similarity in conduct between the cursed of this parable and the slothful servant of last lesson?
What is the meaning of the word everlasting, and of the world eternal?
Do you believe Christ spoke these words? What then must be the teaching?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Remember these words were uttered by Jesus: He said—

Judgment was coming.
Separation should be complete.
Reward should be to some.

Both reward and punishment should be everlasting.
How ought these truths to affect human life?

Here is the lesson—

I shall be judged.
I will not be asked what I have done.
I will be told by the Judge.
I may be rewarded.
I may be punished.
Which will it be?

How dangerous it is not to do!

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who is to be the final Judge of man? "The Son of man in his glory." 2. Who are to be the subjects of his judgment? All the nations of the earth. 3. Into what two great classes will men be then divided? The blessed and the cursed. 4. What shall be the portion of the blessed? A kingdom prepared from eternity. 5. What shall be the end of the cursed? "These shall go away into everlasting punishment."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The Judgment.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

24. How must we then esteem the Scriptures?

As the true word of God, the sure and sufficient rule of faith and practice.

25. If after prayerful study and inquiry we still find difficulties in the Bible, how must we deal with them?

We cannot expect to know all things while we live in this world, nor fully to understand all that has been made known.

1 Corinthians xiii. 10. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

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