

HOW TO BE SAVED.

I was once asked to visit a sick man who was anxiously seeking salvation without any seeming result. To minister, elder, friend and others who called to help him, he had but one answer, "It is no use; I can't understand." I did not try to argue with him, or even to read to him; but going close to his bedside, I repeated very slowly and distinctly these words: "Look unto Me and be ye saved;" "Him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out;" "Whosoever will, let him take the Water of Life freely;" "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

"I see, I see," said the sick man, "my part is the looking, the coming, the taking, the believing; Jesus does all the rest."—*From a Worker's Note-Book.*

WHAT BRINGS PEACE?

A doctor who was visiting a Christian patient had himself long been anxious to feel that he was at peace with God. The Spirit had convinced him of his sin and need, and he longed to possess that peace which the world cannot give. On this occasion, addressing himself to the sick one, he said:

"I want you to tell me just what it is—this believing and getting happiness, faith in Jesus, and all that sort of thing which brings peace."

"His patient replied:

"Doctor, I have felt that I could do nothing, and I have put my case in your hands; I am trusting to you. That is exactly what every poor sinner must do in the Lord Jesus."

This reply greatly awakened the doctor's surprise, and a new light broke into his soul.

"Is that all?" he exclaimed; simply trusting in the Lord Jesus! I see it, as I never did before. He has done the work. Yes, Jesus said on the cross, 'It is finished,' and 'whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.'"

From that sick bed the doctor went a happy man, rejoicing that his sins were washed away in the blood of the Lamb.—*Christian Worker.*

THE KEY TO HAPPINESS.

The key to every man's happiness is in him* self. It is not what he has, but what he *is*, which insures felicity. To be selfish, unjust, impure, and base, is to be unhappy, though millions may gliter about our paths. To be pure, elevated in purpose, to live in harmony with the higher laws of the universe, to know God and serve him, is to insure the highest good in spite of all infelicitities of our earthly condition.

Wealth is often ill at ease, a gangrene on character, a temptation to do what is unmanly and base; while virtuous poverty rejoices in the sunlight of heaven, in the consciousness of integrity in the sense of having done its duty, and in the few material things within its grasp.

Let not those unable to acquire wealth think their case desperate or hard; really the best things remain to them. The man who has learned to do with little has indeed a better dowry than the one who has found millions indispensable to his happiness. He is self-contained, self-helpful, having his wealth so compactly rolled up as to be portable, and secure from flood and fire. He is, in fact, the independent man. He has what he likes, because he likes what he has.—*Sci.*

International S. S. Lessons.

PARABLE OF THE GREAT SUPPER.

12th April.

Les. Luke 14: 15-24.
Mem. vs. 21-23.

Gol. Text, Lu. 14: 17.
Catechism Q. 54.

Time—A. D. 30. January, soon after the feast of Dedication which Jesus attended at Jerusalem, Dec. 20-27, A. D. 29.

Place—Perea, near Bethabara where John at first baptized.

HOME READINGS.

M. Luke 13: 1-9 *Parable of the Barren Fig Tree.*
T. Luke 13: 10-21 *Healing and Teaching.*
W. Luke 13: 22-35 *Warning against Sin.*
Th. John 10: 22-42 *At the Feast of Dedication.*
F. Luke 14: 1-24 *Parable of the Great Supper.*
S. Luke 14: 25-35 *The Cost of Discipleship.*
S. Isa. 55: 1-13 *The Gracious Invitation.*

LESSON OUTLINE.

- I. The Supper Prepared. vs. 15-17
- II. The Invitations Declined, vs. 18-20.
- III. The Tables Filled, vs. 21-24.

HINTS AND HELPS IN STUDY.

The Home Readings for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday give the record of events following Lesson XII., March 22, 1896, and up to near the close of Jesus' journey through Perea toward Jerusalem. Then coming to Bethany he visited Mary and Martha, Luke 10: 38-42. We next see him at Jerusalem at the Feast of Dedication, Dec. 20-27, A. D. 29. Here the Jews sought to arrest him, but he retired beyond Jordan, probably to Bethabara, where many believed on him. Thursday's Reading. He was invited on the Sabbath to a feast at the house of one of the chief Pharisees, and while there healed a dropsical man, rebuked the selfishness of the Pharisees who sought the best seats, and spoke the parable in to-day's lesson. It is a rich exposition of God's merciful provision for sinners and of his desire for their salvation. At the same time it warns and rebukes those who refuse the gospel invitation. In Saturday's Reading Jesus shows that those who would follow him should count the cost.

WHAT THE LESSON TEACHES.

1. Salvation is a heavenly feast prepared for earthly guests.
2. Many people reject the invitations of mercy, and refuse to come to the feast.
3. The excuses for not accepting Christ are only refusals put into polite words.
4. When some reject salvation the messengers are sent to others.
5. The worst sinners are invited to come to Christ and be saved.

THE LOST FOUND.

19th April.

Les. Luke 15: 11-24.
Mem. vs. 19-20.

Gol. Text, Luke 15: 10.
Catechism, Q 55.

Time—A. D. 30, January, shortly after the last lesson.

Place—Perea.

HOME READINGS.

M. Luke 15: 1-10 *The Lost Sheep and Piece of Money.*
T. Luke 15: 11-24 *The Prodigal Son.*
W. Luke 15: 25-32 *The Elder Son.*
Th. Psalm 40: 1-17 *The Helper of the Needy.*
F. Isa. 63: 7-16 *God our Father.*
S. Psalm 103: 1-22 *The Loving Father.*
S. Eph. 2: 1-22 *The Far-off made Nigh.*