

APRIL 4—CONSECRATION MEETING.
A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS. Acts 9, 36-43.

The central thought of this topic is in verse thirty-six. It should emphasize and illustrate the practical character of true Christianity. "This woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did." What these works and deeds were is evident from verse 39. No wonder many societies of women have since then been called "Dorcas" societies. Press home some such practical lessons as these: Not what we say about Christ but what we do for Him is most important. It is better to say little and do much than have a lot to say and do nothing. There are always some around us whom we can help for Christ's sake. Help given to His poor will not be overlooked by Him. If our lives merit it, others will speak well of our kindly deeds. What the world most needs is kindness. A loving heart should prompt us to do helpful deeds to others. The best place for us to be kind and helpful is at home. The Junior Leaguer who does not live for others will soon grow so selfish that no one will seek his company when alive or mourn him when dead.

APRIL 11—CARING FOR ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE. Acts 10, 34, 35.

Peter was learning to be unselfish. His thoughts of others had not been God's thoughts. His idea was that none of the Gentiles were as much loved by God as the Jews. His plan of work did not reach out to include the world outside the Jewish nation. This was because he thought that God had favorites. In this he was wrong, as our topic clearly teaches us this week. It does not matter to God what the color of the skin may be, nor where a person lives. He wants clean hearts and righteous lives. Every body who is trying to live like that is acceptable to Him. This lesson teaches us not to be narrow or bigoted—not to think that we are better than the rest—not to despise any person anywhere—but to teach those who do not know what "worketh righteousness" means, and how they may live it before God. There are many millions of little children in the world who will grow up heathens if somebody does not teach them Christ. Peter was sent to the Gentiles. So are we, for by "Gentiles" we mean all who are not Christians. God loves them all, wants them to live rightly. But we must teach them from His Word.

The Epworth League Pledge

By ANNIE D. STEPHENSON.

Tune—56 "Canadian Hymnal"

Taking Christ as my example,
By the Spirit's power
I will do my Father's will
Every hour.

Daily I God's Word will study,
I His will would know,
And aside with God in prayer
Daily go.

I will give myself for service,
In the Church and League.
And from God, for ever; duty,
Strength receive.

I will honor with my substance
God Who giveth all,
And for blessing on my pleasures
On Him call.

Living Christ in word and deed,
I will try to bring,
Others to the joy of serving
Christ my King.

Keeping Hold of the Boys

There were once two boys in a home I know, and after a few happy years one was taken into the Shepherd's arms.

The two boys and their mother had always knelt together for the bedtime prayer, and each had offered a simple petition. The first night there were only two to kneel, the sobbing voice of the lonely brother uttered but one sentence, "Dear Lord, keep mother and me intimate."

Said the mother years after, "I consecrated my life to answer that prayer."

Did she have to give up anything? Yes, receptions and calls were secondary matters when the boy's friends needed entertaining.

Embroidered dollies and hand-painted screens were of no account whatever beside the cultivation of intimacy with her boy, and the answering of his prayer. "Always give me the first chance to help you, dear," she would say; and he did. Whatever was dear to his boyish heart found glad sympathy in her.

Perhaps mothers do not always realize how soon a boy begins to think toward manhood, and so they treat him like a child to be watched and scolded instead of helped and trusted.

This mother's boy was just as active

the tender, loyal "mother-friend," and he was sure of comfort.

"Do you think it paid?" When she reads in the papers the theories on "How to get hold of the boys," she thanks God she has never lost her hold on hers. And in the answering of the boyish prayer the mother has not only grown more and more intimate with him, but both have grown intimate with Christ. Mother, you have no "charge to keep" half so sacred as the heart of your boy. Are you true to your trust?—Christian Work.

For Mother

He was only a mite of a boy, dirty and ragged, and he had stopped for a little while in one of the city's free playgrounds to watch a game of ball between boys of his own and a rival neighborhood. Tatters and grime were painfully in evidence on every side; but this little fellow attracted the attention of a group of visitors, and one of them, reaching over the child's shoulders as he sat on the ground, gave him a luscious golden pear. The boy's eyes sparkled; but the eyes were the only things as he looked back to see from whence the gift had come, and then turned his face away again, too shy or too much aston-



HIS FIRST MESSAGE

and self-willed as you often find. But she had a few rules that helped wonderfully. Shall I copy them for you?

1. I will work and be patient.
2. I will strive to "grow in grace and in the knowledge of God."
3. No matter what happens I will try to hold my tongue.
4. I will try never to scold and never to reprove or punish in anger.
5. I will listen patiently and tenderly to my boy's side of a grievance.

You will notice that these rules are to govern the mother instead of the boy; and is not that the secret of success? Mother, do you want to keep your boy? Then control yourself. Not the fashionable attempt at stoicism that says it is not "good form" to display emotion, but the real holding of one's self in hand.

Fashion would tie the mettlesome steed fast. Control harnesses him to life and lets Christ hold the reins.

This mother's boy made many a blunder, he had his days of waywardness and times of unreasonableness, but never a time when he was not sure that his mother was ready to listen, advise and help. There were times when his impulsiveness made him sore trouble, but the first place he turned for help was to

shout to speak. But from that time on his attention was divided between the game and his new treasure. He patted the pear; he looked at it; and at last, as if to assure himself that it was as delicious as it appeared, he lifted it to his lips and cautiously bit out a tiny piece near the stem. Then with a long sigh of satisfaction and assurance he tucked the prize safely inside his dirty little blouse.

"Why don't you eat it, Tony?" demanded a watchful acquaintance. "Eat it? All myself? Ain't I savin' it for mother?"

The tone, with its mingling of resentment and loyalty, made further speech unnecessary. Whatever Tony lacked, and it seemed to be nearly everything, he had learned humanity's loftiest lesson; he had another dearer than self, and knew the joy of sacrifice.—Selected.

When a minister and his people look at each other's many good qualities, and see little of the few less desirable ones, the work of God will progress much more rapidly.