

## CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

CONDUCTED BY S. JOHN DUNCAN-CLARK.

WORLD'S C. E. PRAYER CHAIN, SUBJECT FOR FEBRUARY.—For the young converts who have recently been brought to Christ, that they may be strong, unselfish, winsome Christians, and that they may begin at once to show their love to Christ by working for Him.

## Daily Readings.

WHAT FAITH CAN DO FOR US.

First Day—It gives safety—Exod. xv. 1-19.

Second Day—It gives courage—Deut. xx. 1-9.

Third Day—It gives joy—Pa. v. 1-12.

Fourth Day—It brings success—1 Chron. xxviii. 11-20.

Fifth Day—It brings peace—Isa. xxvi. 1-12.

Sixth Day—It brings salvation—1 Pet. i. 1-9.

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC, Feb. 23.—“WHAT FAITH CAN DO FOR US.”

—Heb. xi. 1-10; xii. 1, 2.

Faith is the most unreasonable and unreasoning thing in the world. It recognizes no impossibilities, it scorns common-sense, and flies in the very face of science. Read the Bible records of what men did by faith and see if you can justify their deeds from any standpoint of worldly wisdom. The ark that Noah built seemed the work of a crank, the sacrifice of Isaac the act of a religious maniac, the renunciation of Egypt by Moses the deed of a man blind to his greatest opportunity. All this is because faith, as our lesson tells us, deals with things unseen. It is the evidence that something exists beyond our human ken, and that this life is but the first volume of a story yet to be finished. Now this faith can do mighty things for us. It can make a sinner whose life is black with iniquity, just and holy in the sight of God (Rom. v. 1.) It can bring a man who has been at enmity with his Maker, into a relation of peace and harmony with Him (Rom. v. 1.) It can gain access for the poorest beggar into a place of grace and free favor before Heaven's King, (Rom. v. 2.) It can open for us the store house of God's bounty, and bring answers to our prayers (Matt. xvii. 20; xx. 21, 22.) It can sanctify us, and separating us from sin unites us to Christ our holiness, (Acts xxvi. 18; Eph. iii. 17.) It can do for us all that it did for those of whom we read in Heb. xi. And it can gain for us a victory of the world (1 John v. 4.) All this it can do because it is *faith in Christ*. Faith in ourselves, faith in men, faith in the church, faith in ordinances, faith in baptism, is useless, fatal; but faith in Jesus Christ the risen, living, interceding Saviour is all powerful and life giving.

## FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

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International S. S. Lesson.

LESSON VIII.—FAITH ENCOURAGED.—FEB. 23.

(Luke viii. 43-55.)

GOLDEN TEXT.—“Thy faith hath made thee whole: go in peace.”—Luke viii. 48.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—The Power of Faith.

ANALYSIS.—The Touch of Faith v. 43-48, v. 49-55.

TIME AND PLACE.—A. D. 27. The plain of Gennesaret and Capernaum.

INTRODUCTION.—Since last lesson the following events have transpired: Messengers come to Christ from John the Baptist in prison (Luke vii. 17-24.) Healing of a demoniac (Luke viii. 1-3.) The interruption of Christ's relatives (Matt. xii. 46.) Parables of the Kingdom (Matt. xiii.) Calming the storm (Luke viii. 23.) Sending the devils into the swine (Luke viii. 27.) Parables of the Bridegroom, and the new cloth and new wine (Matt. ix. 15-17.) Incidents of to-day's lesson (Luke viii. 43-55.)

VERSE BY VERSE.—V. 43.—“Spent all her living upon the physicians.”—She was a type of many to-day who having wasted life and substance in seeking peace, happiness and satisfaction in the world, as a last resort bring their sin-ridden, useless lives to Christ, and seek His healing and blessing. Wonderful is the love that says, “Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out.”

V. 44.—“Came behind Him.”—The woman strove to touch the Master unobserved because, being ceremonially unclean, contact with her was defiling. We only are to blame if we have His back toward us, rather than His face. “Touched the border of His garment.”—It was only the hem of the Master's dress that the woman touched, yet His very apparel partook of His Divine personality, and was permeated with His power to heal and bless. You will remember that such also was the case with Paul, at least on one occasion when handkerchiefs taken from contact with Him brought healing to those who were sick (Acts xix. 11, 12.) Thus

also should our Christian life pervade even our personal property, and the very clothes we wear speak of Jesus to the world about us. There is nothing to commonplace to be sanctified and made useful by a yielded life. “Immediately.”—Again we have emphasized for us the promptness with which Christ responds to the touch of faith. This word immediately is of frequent occurrence in the records of Christ's healing miracles.

V. 45. “Who touched me?”—The presence of a troubled soul that sought His blessing could not be concealed from the Master. Take comfort, despairing one, even though thy lips refuse to pray. He hears the silent pleading of thine aching heart, and will send the needed strength and comfort. “The multitude throng and press Thee.”—All about Him crowded the people, touching Him on every side; many no doubt were sick, all were sinners, and yet there was only one touch that brought healing. Where lay the difference? The touch of the multitude was the touch of curiosity, wonderment, doubt; but the touch of the diseased woman was the touch of desire, purpose, faith. It is the same to-day. The multitudes know of Christ, they hear Him speak, they even touch Him; but only the few are healed, for it is only the few that approach Him with prayer on their lips, with purpose in their hearts and with faith in His power.

V. 46. “Virtue is gone out of Me.”—As the crowd surcharged with electricity is approached by a cloud negatively charged, there flashes forth the lightning spark that indicates an out-flowing of energy from the stronger to the weaker. So health passed from Christ into the diseased body of the woman as they came in contact, and He felt that power had gone out of Him. In the spiritual sphere the secret of gaining is given, and the way to become strong is to expend strength.

V. 47. “She came trembling.”—Yes but she went “in peace,” (v. 48.) Thus it is with every convicted sinner who enters the Master's presence. Though he may come trembling, fearing, doubting, he will go in confidence, joy and peace. “Declared unto Him before all the people.”—Here is an admirable example of open honest testimony to the power of Christ. Notice the declaration was humble, she fell down before Him: it sought His glory, “she declared unto Him”; it was public, “before all the people”; it told the depth of her need, though revealing her shame, “for what cause she had touched Him” it witnessed to the wonderful change Christ had wrought, “how she was healed immediately.”

V. 28. “Daughter.”—A word of loving identification of Saviour and sinner. “Thy faith hath made thee whole.”—Faith was the channel through which the healing flowed, and for us also it is the only means by which God can communicate blessing. “Go in peace.”—Here we have indicated the truth that Christ never gave physical blessing without giving spiritual blessing also.

V. 49. “Thy daughter is dead.”—As though the Angel of death could block the way of the Prince of Life!

V. 50. “Fear not; only believe only.”—Christ hastened to allay the ruler's fears, and encourage his faith. If he would only believe there was no cause for anxiety. All our fears are the result of unbelief. Only believe and fear vanishes.

V. 51. “Peter, James and John.”—Three favored disciples. They were so favored, not because their souls were any more precious to Christ than those of the other nine, but because they showed a greater capability for understanding the deeper truth. They were simply in a more advanced class, spiritually. “The father and the mother.”—How tenderly considerate Jesus is!

V. 52. “Weep not.” He who said, “Weep not” to the widow of Nain, and then proved His right to say it by raising her son, now uses the same words to these sorrowing parents. “She is not dead, but sleepeth.”—Death is not the closing of the eyes, and the ceasing of the heart to beat; death is separation from God. She had been joined to God by this change that had taken place; and her spirit in the sense of being freed from care of every kind and wrap in ecstatic satisfaction with Him, slept, awaiting the morning of resurrection, the day of awakening and reunion of spirit and body.

V. 53. “Laughed Him to scorn.”—If it had been you or me, we would have said, “Alright if you are going to laugh at me when I have come to help you, I'll just go back again.” But not so Jesus. A laugh could not turn Him aside. He put them all out, and in the presence of the parents and three disciples performed the wonderful miracle.

V. 54. “Maid arise.”—Last week we heard Him say, young man arise; “to-day it is to the lifeless maiden He speaks, and the result is just the same, “She arose.”

V. 55. “Her spirit came again.”—Thus in four words the wonderful story is told. To day you and I would give pages to the telling of it; a modern news paper reporter would take columns. This is not the language of men, it is the record of the Holy Ghost. “He commanded to give her meat.”—How attentive even to details is the Master! Let in their excitement and joy they should forget the girl's physical needs. He commands that she should be fed. Parents may forget or overlook, but Christ never.