

wishes to put the call off indefinitely. **Let the dead bury their dead**; the spiritually dead bury the physically dead. Christ does not belittle filial duties. He says higher duties must have precedence. **I will follow thee**; another volunteer. **Let me first . . . farewell**; a promise with a reservation. Jesus saw this disciple to be divided in mind. If he went home, his friends would probably be able to turn him from his promise. **Hand to the plough**. A homely illustration, such as Jesus often used. **Looking back**; a true point even with us but the Eastern plough, being light and easily overturned, requires even more constant attention. "The disciple who hankers after the past is like a plowman, who, instead of fixing his eye steadily ahead, looks backward or aside, letting the share swerve and draw a crooked furrow."

LESSON QUESTIONS

49-56 Who is here the spokesman for the disciples? What had the disciples seen? In whose name was the work done? What action had the disciples taken? On what grounds? Does Jesus approve? What reasons did He give? Where did the messengers of Jesus go? For what purpose? What reception did the Samaritans give them? Why did they so act? What did James and John propose? What example

did they quote? Did Jesus approve of the suggestion? For what did the Son of Man come?

57-62 What was the promise made by the first would-be disciple? What was Christ's answer? Why did He answer in this way? What command does He give to the second person? What excuse does this man make? How does Jesus accept the excuse? What promise and what condition does the third person make? What was the danger of going to say farewell? What does Jesus say of the man who looks back?

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Prove from Scripture—*That Jesus hates lukewarmness.*

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 36-38.

The Question on Missions—12. What do they do when they leave school? The boys usually farm, the Indian Department helping by gift or loan, if they have been good at school. The girls go out to service, reside with their friends or marry. The Department also assists good girls to start housekeeping. A few graduates go into trades and professions.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 195 (Supplemental Lesson); 144; 447; 114 (Ps. Sel.); 252 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 524.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why did Jesus not call down fire from heaven?
2. What lesson does Jesus gather from the plowman?

Memorize vs. 6, 7. CHRISTMAS LESSON—Isaiah 9: 1-7.

AN ALTERNATIVE LESSON

GOLDEN TEXT—Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.—Isa. 9: 6.

I. THE DARKNESS ENDED.—1-5. Nevertheless. The time of change from the awful wickedness into which Israel had sunk has come. **The unguiness shall not be**; Rev. Ver., "there shall be no gloom to her that was in anguish." **When he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun**. Rev. Ver., "in the former times he brought into contempt." Zebulun and Naphtali, tribal divisions in the north, had been especially especially given to idolatrous practices and had suffered therefor. **And afterwards did more grievously afflict**; Rev. Ver., "but in the latter time hath he made it glorious." **The people that walked in darkness . . . hath the light shined**. In place of shadow and darkness, light has come. **Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased the joy** (Rev. Ver.); a double blessing. **They joy before thee . . . in harvest . . . divide the spoil**. Not only is there to be light, there is to be the joy of those who gather in the harvest, and also joy such as comes

in dividing spoil after victory. **Thou has broken the yoke of his burden . . . the staff . . . the rod**. Everything that speaks of captivity and oppression is shattered. **For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise**. The entire verse reads in Rev. Ver., "For all the armour of the armed man in the tumult, and the garments rolled in blood shall even be for burning for fuel of fire." The instruments of oppression are to be broken, the instruments of war are to be burned.

II. THE LIGHT COME.—6, 7. A child; the blessings spoken of to be realized in him. **His name shall be called Wonderful**; a divine title to describe a divine Person. **Of the increase of his government**. This glorious Person is to have a correspondingly glorious reign. A lucid prophecy of the Messiah. **The zeal of the Lord . . . will perform**. God stands pledged to bring the words to pass.