

For Senior Scholars.

1. THEMES FOR BIBLE READINGS.

1. HUNGER. Psa. 107. 5, 6; Isa. 49. 10; Mat. 5. 6; John 6. 35.
2. LOOKING FOR FRUIT. Isa. 5. 2; Matt. 7. 16; Luke 13. 1; Rom. 6. 22.
3. NOTHING BUT LEAVES. Isa. 1. 2, 3; 5. 4; Jer. 8. 7.
4. BLASTED. Isa. 1. 20; 5. 5, 6; Matt. 7. 19; Luke 13. 7, 9.
5. DIFFICULTIES OVERCOME. Psa. 18. 29; 118. 10-12; Zech. 4. 7; Heb. 11. 29, 30; 4 Pet. 1. 8.
6. SUCCESS OF FAITH. Matt. 17. 20; Mark 9. 23; Luke 17. 6; John 11. 40.
7. PREVAILING PRAYER. Gen. 32. 26; Luke 18. 5; 11. 8; Rom. 12. 12.

SEED-THOUGHTS.

1. Why did Jesus *allow* himself to suffer hunger?
2. What was the general purpose and significance of this curing of the fig-tree.
3. What is taught in his going to the tree when he knew no fruit was there?
4. Does God's knowledge of our fruitlessness prevent his *looking to us* for fruit?
5. In what particulars did the fig-tree represent the Jewish Church?
6. What naturally appeared on the fig-tree *first*, the leaves or the fruit?
7. Of what were the leaves a *sign*?
8. What did the leaves symbolize in the Jewish Church?
9. If then this sign, the leaves, was premature and untimely, was there any thing of false *pretension*?
10. What false pretensions did the Jewish Church make?
11. What is that faith in God here spoken of?
12. Is the mountain here mentioned any other than the opposing obstacle of our spiritual good.
13. Do our Scriptures, more than this, *limit* answers to prayer?

Blackboard Lesson.

Nothing but leaves, the Spirit gives
Over a wasted life.

REMARKS: The lesson should teach that the Master looks for fruit from his followers. That our lives are weighed in God's balances, our known Christian duty being placed on one side against the results, or fruit, of our life's work on the other. Refer to Job 31. 6;

Dan. 5. 27. That "nothing but leaves" is a deceitful profession of discipleship. That we cannot have fruit without faith. We must pray to God for power to overcome difficulties. *What are you doing for God?*

The Primary Class.

It would add to the interest of this lesson if a small fig-tree, such as may sometimes be found in green-houses, could be shown to the class. This would be impracticable in many places, especially in the month of November. A representation of the tree might be made on the blackboard, or a picture of it shown. The fruit should be represented separately. Briefly describe the tree and its fruit, not forgetting to state that the fruit comes before the leaves. In the case referred to in the lesson it was not yet "fig-time;" but the Saviour seeing a tree with leaves on it had a right to suppose that there was fruit even though it was not yet the time for it. Since the leaves were there, the fruit which comes before the leaves ought to have been there also. This fig-tree, however, though it made a show of leaves, had no fruit. This is what is meant by a *barren* fig-tree. After telling of the curse which came upon this barren tree apply the lesson.

There is good opportunity here to dwell upon the difference between *seeming* and *being*. Even very little children learn the lesson of hypocrisy. Let them learn as early as possible to attach more importance to fruit than to leaves—to *be* rather than to *seem*. Tell them that God can look right into their hearts. He knows whether the prayers we offer are mere words or full of holy meaning. If the former, they will not be answered; but if the latter, they will be answered. The last verse of the lesson will then prove true. As in prayer, so in every act in life. We must learn to be *true*.

Whisper-Song.

I would not be
A useless tree
To spoil the ground;
Where branches green
And leaves are seen,
But no fruit found.
But I would be
A fruitful tree,
In deed and word;
And much fruit bear,
All ripe and rare,
To please my Lord.

Miscellaneous.

PRAYER-MEETING: "Withered." TEXTS: Isa. 6. 1-4; Rom. 6. 20-23; John 11. 40.