

The poor servant fell at his feet and begged for a little time, saying he would pay soon; but the one who had been forgiven so much would not wait even a little while, but had his fellow-servant put in prison.

Which do you like better, Joseph or this cruel servant? Jesus told that story because he wanted his friends to know, and he wants us to know that our heavenly Father always forgives the wrong things we do whenever we ask him. He forgives us a great deal more than that master forgave his servant, and if we are not ready to forgive those who do unkind things to us, we are like the servant who would not forgive the little debt when he had been forgiven such a big one. When we say the prayer that Jesus taught, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors," we are asking God to forgive us just as we forgive others.

GOLDEN TEXT FOR QUARTER: "Be ye doers of the word." "Overcome evil with good."

LESSON VIII. (Aug. 19.)

THE MAN BORN BLIND. John 9. 1-17.

GOLDEN TEXT: "One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see." John 9. 25.

Primary Notes.



Introductory. Once upon a time, in a certain kingdom, when there was a great famine, so that many were starving, the king sent out word that he would care for the very poor if they would come to

his palace. It was a very small kingdom, but the city and the palace where the king lived had plenty of room for all who would come. The way there was hard, and not everyone knew it. However, there were plenty to point it out. There were, among others, three travelers who were starving and who set out to find the way. When one of the king's messengers pointed it out the first man, seeing how different it was from what he had thought, said, "I don't believe that is the road at all. I'll try this way." He did this and was lost. The second said, "That must be the way. I believe it, for the messenger must tell the truth; but it is so hard and long I won't try it." And so he never received anything from the king, not

because he did not hear and know and believe the word sent out, but because he did not follow directions. The third man did one thing more than the second—he obeyed the messenger, took the hard road, reached the palace, and was fed through all the famine. You see, there were two things needful—believing and obeying. The lesson to-day teaches this truth, and we will write in our lesson column, "Believe and obey."

The blind man. As Jesus passed by one day he saw a man who could not see. What do we call such a man? You have seen such, I dare say. How very sad it must be not to be able to see! And this man had never known light or sight. When he was a wee baby he was blind. But the Lord saw the blind man. How good it is to remember that Jesus sees everyone and pities all who are in need! This was a beggar, too; for, as he was blind, he could not work to earn money. Christ did not give him money, but something far better.

The command. The Saviour came close to the blind man and touched his eyes with some clay which he wet and made into mud. The man could feel that something was being done to him, and he could hear the voice of the one who touched him so kindly, although he could not see the face that bent over him. Then came the command, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." We will write the first two words on the board, and make a picture of this little pool or pond of water from a small brook that flowed outside the city of Jerusalem. Now, there was something for the man to do. He was not to blame for being blind, was he? Could he help that? No, he could not. He was born into the world blind. And it must have been hard for him to find that pool of water; he was not to blame for it being hard, was he? But suppose he had not tried to do as Jesus said; would he be to blame then? Yes, then he would have been to blame. If he had not believed that this wonderful person who spoke to him had the right to tell him what to do, and if he had not tried to obey, then it would have been his own fault if his eyes had never seen the light. In some way the blind man went to Siloam, and washed as he was told, and—we will write it on the board—"he came seeing." O, what a difference between going away blind and coming back seeing! Could the man make himself well? Could the water itself make him well? No, Jesus only could do that, but the man could hear,