

Notes on the S. S. Lessons.

Jesus Teaching Humility.

John 13: 1-17.

JUDAS ISCARIOT had made up his mind to sell his Divine Master. This is a dreadful story. One hates to tell it. The disciple of Christ had begun by just now and then stealing a little money from the bag, or purse, which was given to his care. And sins grow fast. Now he will, for money, sell Jesus Himself! He had chosen to be wicked, when he had everything to make him good, and thus he had given himself to the evil one.

If you turn to Psalm 41: 9, you will read: "Mine own familiar friend . . . which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me."

Our lesson to-day tells of the supper at which Judas eat bread, and then went out to betray Jesus.

Jesus and his disciples were in an upper room eating the Passover supper when He performed the wonderful act we are to study to-day.

When the supper was served, our Lord rose, laid aside His upper robe, took a towel and girded it round Him; poured water into a basin, and began to wash His disciple's feet and wipe them on the towel.

When our Lord had washed their feet, He put on His garment again, and sat down; and He said, to them, "Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call Me Master and Lord, and ye say well, for so I am. If I, then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done unto you."

Thus Christ set His people an example of humility. We should never be too proud to do anything for each other. If the Lord could do the work of a servant for His disciples, surely nothing is too mean for us to do for others, if it is good and right to do it.

This beautiful lesson is one the youngest child can learn and practice. Just think of Jesus, who was Lord of Lords and King of Kings, taking a basin of water and a towel, and washing their feet Himself, teaching them, and us, that no service which will help another to be purer, better or happier, is too small, or mean, or disagreeable, for even a king to do; and that, in God's sight, he is greatest who best serves his fellow-men.

Warning to Judas and Peter.

John 13: 21-28.

WHEN Jesus had finished washing the disciples' feet, he took his place again at the table, and they went on eating the Passover supper. But Jesus was troubled. He knew that one whose feet he had just washed had never had his heart cleansed, and that it was filled with wickedness. At last he spoke out the words of v. 21. No wonder the disciples looked at one another, shocked. Read what they said, Matt 26: 22. Even Judas asked with the rest, Matt. 26: 25, though he had just heard the dreadful words which Jesus said about him, in Matt. 26: 24. But none but himself heard the whispered reply, "Thou hast said," which was the Jewish way of saying "yes." Peter beckoned across the table to John,

who was leaning on Jesus' bosom, to ask him who it was. Jesus answered in v. 26, and dipped a piece of the cracker-like bread in the sauce of bitter herbs and handed it to Judas. It was usual for the master of the feast to give such a bit of sopped bread to all in turn; so none but John knew what handing it to Judas at this moment meant. But Judas well knew, and getting up with a heart full of dark thoughts went out into the dark



JUDAS GOES OUT TO BETRAY JESUS.

streets, for by this time it was night. Had he just now made up his mind to do this dreadful deed? No; he had already bargained with the priests to sell his Lord, as you may read in Mark 14: 10, 11. Was it because of himself that Jesus was troubled? No; count how many times in vs. 31, 32, as soon as Judas had left, he spoke of being glorified.

Had Judas taken all the sin away with him? Ah! even among those who truly loved Jesus there was sin remaining. See how he warned them all, Matt. 26: 31; and read Peter's boast, Matt. 29: 33-35. See how sadly it all came true that very night, John 18: 15-18, 25-27.

'OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.'

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