

next step,—Aaron's confession and apology. Show the place which the seeking for reconciliation has in the Christian life.

3. *Moses' intercession, and Miriam's cleansing.* Bring out Moses' greatness in the fact that he did not at once protest against their insinuations, but calmly waited for God to act and then he prayed for God's mercy. Dwell upon the prayers of Moses, chs. 14 : 2, 13-20 ; 16 : 4, 44-50 ; Ex. 32 : 10-14, 30-35. Trace the place of prayer on behalf of others, Jas. 5 : 15 ; 1 John 5 : 16.

Now turn to the remedy for jealousy, which is the power of love in life. Show how the small, mean tendencies spring from weaknesses in moral and spiritual character. To be true to others we must be true ourselves.

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

Point out that the trouble in to-day's Lesson is a family affair, the hardest often to settle,—that it broke out in the most unexpected place, where we might have looked for something better. There is not much in the Bible to encourage us to believe in human perfection. The best of God's people are not altogether good. A celebrated man said once that his mother was the only perfect person he had ever met and that she had died when he was young. He wondered if she had lived longer if he should have discovered any weakness in her character. The Lesson may be treated under the three following divisions :

1. *Moses Spoken Against*, vs. 1-3. Who was the principal speaker, the moving spirit in the matter? Note that Miriam's name stands first and that she alone was punished. Aaron was a man of weak and pliable character who never took the lead in anything. What was the cause of complaint? Miriam was not pleased with Moses' marriage. What need had Moses of a wife when he had Miriam for a sister? If he must get married why did he not marry somebody else?

Bring out how easy it is to find fault with the best of people, and how mean it is, and how much trouble it often causes. Are meek people more or less liable to be spoken against? Call attention to the fact that Miriam forgot that Somebody was listening, v. 2. It will save us from sinning many a

time to remember that the Lord is listening. It will help us to get the evil thought out of our hearts without giving vocal expression to it.

2. *Moses Vindicated*, vs. 4-10. By whom? In what way? Bring out that the Lord does not dispute the claim of Miriam and Aaron to divine endowments, but He reminds them that Moses occupies a higher position, where clearer revelations are given, where sweeter communion is enjoyed. What other form did the divine vindication take? (Vs. 9, 10.) There can be no sin without suffering. We cannot cherish a poor, mean spirit of envy and jealousy without suffering for it. Impress upon the class that the way to get this evil spirit out of the heart is to allow the beautiful spirit of Christ to get possession of us.

3. *Moses Interceding*, vs. 11-16. Question out the particulars of this impressive scene,—Aaron's confession and supplication which reveal him at his best, which reveal his love for his sister; and Moses' earnest intercession, and the divine response. Is there anything here to indicate that the brothers loved their sister more than God loved her? Make clear that the punishment which comes to God's people on account of sin is always a manifestation of God's love. He loves us too much to allow us to sin without suffering for it.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Begin by telling the fable of the eagle which was displeased because another could outfly him. He asked a sportsman to shoot the other eagle dead. The sportsman agreed and asked for a feather to put into his arrow. The eagle pulled one out of his wing, and an arrow was shot, but did not quite reach the rival; it was flying too high. The jealous eagle pulled out more feathers, until at last he had lost so many that he could not fly, and the sportsman turned and killed him. Bring out the point of the fable, that a jealous person can injure only himself. Now the Lesson tells us about Miriam's jealousy of Moses. (It will be simpler to consider Miriam by herself, since Aaron evidently acted under her lead.) The points to dwell upon are :