

The Watchword of Life.

NEVER give up! it is wiser and better
Always to hope than once to despair;
Fling off the load of Doubt's cankering
fetter,
And break the dark spell of tyrannical
Care.

Never give up! or the burden may sink you,
Providence kindly has mingled the cup,
And in all trials or troubles bethink you
The watchword of life must be—Never
give up!

Never give up! there are chances and
changes
Helping the hopeful a hundred to one,
And through the chaos high wisdom ar-
ranges

Ever success—if you'll only hope on.
Never give up! for the wisest is boldest,
Knowing that Providence mingles the
cup;
And of all maxims the best, as the oldest,
Is the true watchword of—Never give up!

Never give up! though the grape-shot may
rattle,
Or the thunder-cloud over you burst;
Stand like a rock, and the storm or the
battle
Little shall harm you, though doing their
worst.

Never give up! if adversity presses,
Providence wisely has mingled the cup,
And the best counsel in all your distresses
Is the stout watchword of—Never give up!

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK.

A.D. 30] **LESSON XI.** [Mar. 17
CHRIST'S LOVE TO THE YOUNG.

Mark 10. 13-22; Memory verses, 21, 22.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Suffer the little children to come unto me,
and forbid them not; for of such is the
kingdom of God. Mark 10. 14.

OUTLINE.

1. The Young Children, v. 13-16.
2. The Young Man, v. 17-22.

TIME.—30 A.D.

PLACE.—In Perea.

CONNECTING LINKS.—Events have crowded
thickly into the space between these two
lessons. The seventy disciples had been
sent on their preaching tour. Jesus had
made his final departure from Galilee, had
spoken those wonderful discourses told in
the seventh to tenth chapters of John,
had crowned all his miracle-working by the
upraising of Lazarus, and now after a period
of wise retirement, was about preparing to
return to his last passover at Jerusalem.

EXPLANATIONS.—That he should touch them
—That is, that he might lay his hands on
them to bless. Of such is the kingdom—
That is, of those of such spirit and innocence.
Some think that here is a promise that
children are saved. *Inherit eternal life*—
Or have eternal life; the idea of eternal life
seems to have been a slow growth in the
mind of the Jew. *Sell whatsoever thou hast*
—The command was to test his willingness.
It was the spirit Jesus wanted, and not the
actual sale. *Take up the cross*—There was
as yet no cross of Christ, so this must mean
the willingness to be considered as humble
and abject as one who bears a cross, if
thereby you can help a mortal.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *The Young Children.*
Who were the persons that brought these
young children to Jesus?
Who seem to have best known the feeling
Jesus—they who brought, or they who
rebuked?
Why should mothers understand Jesus
better than men?
What is the too frequent attitude of men
toward Jesus?
In what respect is a child fit for the king-
dom of God?
What are some of the elements of child-
character?
Is there any hint as to parental methods
with children here?

How can parents bring children to Jesus?
How may any of us stand between children
and Jesus?

What human character is the most lovable?

2. *The Young Man.*

What incident happened as Jesus started
for Jerusalem?

What was the social rank of this young
man?

What was the desire in his heart?

On what did he expect to be told eternal
life depended?

On what was he told it depended?

Was he a sincere seeker for the truth?

Like what class of society of the present
day was he?

Is the same test applicable to every seeker?

What is the final and supreme test for
every seeker after eternal life?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Mothers oftenest get close to the heart of
Jesus. They become child-like.

There is only one way to enter the
kingdom of God: by the gate of childhood.

One cannot enter it with pride, strength,
ambition, or worldly alliance.

You must be a little child.

How many times men come toward Jesus
and go away!

This one ran to him. That did not save
him.

He knelt. That did not save him.

He prayed. That did not save him.

He pleaded his great morality. That did
not save him.

He was lost because he would not sur-
render his will to Christ's.

How is it with you? John 3. 3.

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Read the lesson thoroughly, that you
can tell the story easily and accurately.
2. Find the second incident of the lesson
an illustration, by contrast, of what Jesus
meant in the first incident.
3. Find Old Testament authority for
making children know all that is possible
about God's will and purpose.
4. Give the numbers to these command-
ments that Jesus quoted, or suggested, and
tell what ones are omitted.
5. Read both the other accounts of these
two scenes, and see how Jesus felt over the
last one.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Why were young children brought to
Jesus? That he might bless them.
2. What did Jesus say about children being
brought to him? "Suffer the little chil-
dren," etc.
3. Who next came into his
presence? A rich young ruler.
4. What
test did Jesus prescribe for him? Absolute
surrender to his will.
5. What did his sad
departure prove concerning the human
heart? "Except a man be born," etc.
John 3. 3.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Regeneration.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

13. How does our Lord teach us his
religion?
By his word and by his Spirit.
14. What is his word?
The Scriptures of the Old and New Testa-
ments, which are the sacred books of the
Christian faith.

A.D. 30.] **LESSON XII.** [Mar. 24

BLIND BARTIMEUS.

Mark 10. 46-52. Memory verses, 51-52.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.
Mark 10. 48.

OUTLINE.

1. A Beggar, v. 46.
2. A Believer, v. 47-50.
3. A Blessing, v. 51-52.

TIME.—30 A.D.

PLACE.—Near Jericho.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The last journey
to Jerusalem began probably at or about the
time of the last lesson. The whole journey is
one of almost unparalleled interest, as it gives
so vivid a picture of the temper of heart and
mind with which Jesus approached the last
trial of his life. Once more he told his dis-
ciples of his approaching death, and amazed
them all by his triumphant manner of march-
ing on to his doom. Each day was filled with
new instruction, part given to the two ambi-
tious brothers, and part to the indignant ten.
For each class he had his word of admonition.
And now at last he is in Jericho, and our
lesson story follows.

EXPLANATIONS.—A great number of people
—This was the concourse of which the little
company of the twelve and the Master
formed part, that was going to the passover
at Jerusalem. *The highway-side begging*—
Beggars by the side of the main lines of
of travel are still frequent in Palestine, and
as clamorous as of old. *Casting away his
garment*—laying aside his outer mantle,
that he might not be at all hindered in go-
ing.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *A Beggar.*
Where is Jericho?
How early in history have we a mention
of it?
What historic events are connected with
it?
Of what importance is it now as a city?
What memorable event of this visit does
Luke give?
What makes the beggar's claim to our
notice to-day?
What is the best basis for any man to rest
on, when he asks remembrance from
history?

2. *A Believer.*

- What did he hear that greatly interested
him?
How much did he know of Jesus of Naza-
reth?
How much did he believe concerning
Jesus of Nazareth?
What prophecy had made this same declara-
tion concerning Messiah to come? Isa.
11. 1.

- What was the effect of his cry upon the
throng?
How does the crowd almost always treat
the earnest seeker for Jesus?
What was the effect of opposition on Barti-
meus?
What was the effect of his determined
earnestness upon Jesus?

3. *A Blessing.*

- What had he implored from Jesus?
Why did Jesus ask the question of ver. 51?
What hint can you find here as to the
method and nature of acceptable prayer?
What was the blessing he received?
Jesus said, "Go thy way." What did
Bartimeus show his way to be?
What must be the life of every seeker
who finds Christ?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Jesus is always passing by life's highways.
Men are sitting always by the way-sides
blind. Some are always calling; many sit
speechless and lose the gracious opportunity.
Have you?

Jesus passed through Jericho once; that
he would have died blind.

What a Saviour! A beggar's call was
enough to reach his heart. Will he not hear
yours?

Nothing could keep Bartimeus from Jesus:
neither blindness nor a crowd. He cast
away every hindrance, and went to Jesus.
And you?

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Learn all of Jericho's history. Write
the great names connected with it.
2. Write five ways in which Jesus to-day
"passes by" men.
3. Write the steps in this blind man's
cure.
4. How do Matthew's account and Luke's
differ from this one?
5. What other interesting thing at Jericho
in this same visit?
6. Give the reasons for the actions of
Jesus in connection with the blind man.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. When did the story told in our lesson
happen? As Jesus went out of Jericho.
2. Who was the chief actor of the story?
A beggar named Bartimeus.
3. What did
he believe concerning Jesus? That he was
the promised Messiah.
4. What word of
have mercy," etc.
5. What blessing crowned
his belief? He received his sight.
6. To
what did his gratitude then lead him? He
followed Jesus in the way.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The Son of David.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

15. How does the Old Testament teach
Christianity?
The Scriptures of the Old Testament were
written by many holy men, who prophesied
that the Christ was coming, and foretold
also what he would suffer and do and teach.
1 Peter. i. 10, 11.

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