

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE.

LESSON XI.—MARCH 15.

TEACHING ABOUT PRAYER.

Luke 11. 1-13. Memory verses, 9, 10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.—Luke 11. 9.

Time.—November, A.D. 29.

Place.—Judea, near Jerusalem.

CONNECTING LINKS.

Immediately after telling the story of the good Samaritan, Jesus visited Bethany, which lay two miles east of Jerusalem. Here he was received into the home of Martha and Mary, who honoured the Master they loved by preparing for him a rich feast. Lest people should infer from the story of last lesson that religion consisted altogether in deeds of kindness, Jesus taught at this feast the need of meditation, of sitting at his feet and hearing his word. A few days later his disciples overheard him pray such a powerful prayer that when he ceased one of them asked him to teach them to pray. Our lesson gives his answer.

DAY BY DAY WORK.

Monday.—Read the Lesson (Luke 11. 1-13). Prepare to tell in your own words the last lesson and this.

Tuesday.—Read about the right and wrong kinds of prayer (Matt. 6. 1-15). Fix in your mind Time, Place, and Connecting Links.

Wednesday.—Read about prayer in Christ's name (John 16. 23-33). Learn the Golden Text.

Thursday.—Read what we may get if we ask in faith (1 John 5. 9-15). Learn the Memory Verses.

Friday.—Read the story of how a brave woman won her case (Luke 18. 1-8). Answer the Questions.

Saturday.—Read what prayer did for a sick man (2 Kings 20. 1-12). Study Teachings of the Lesson.

Sunday.—Read a king's testimony (Psalm 34. 1-10). Sing the Lesson Hymn.

QUESTIONS.

1. The Model Prayer, verses 1-4.—1. Who asked Jesus to be taught to pray? Were forms of prayer then common? 2. Should we pray "The Lord's Prayer"? If we are God's children how may we show it? How do we hallow God's name? What do we mean when we pray for his kingdom? How is God's will done in heaven? 3. What does our daily bread include? 4. Do we pray that we may have no temptations? What then?

2. A Story about Prayer, verses 5-8. 5. Why did Jesus describe the guest coming at midnight? 6. What is the custom in the East regarding hospitality? 7. How did the needy man's friend excuse himself? 8. What made him change his mind?

3. The Law of Prayer, verses 9-13.—9. How do we know that prayer will be answered? How must we seek? 10. What kind of blessing will never be denied us? 11. What do the loaf, the fish, and the egg resemble? 13. Name some things implied in the gift of the Holy Spirit.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

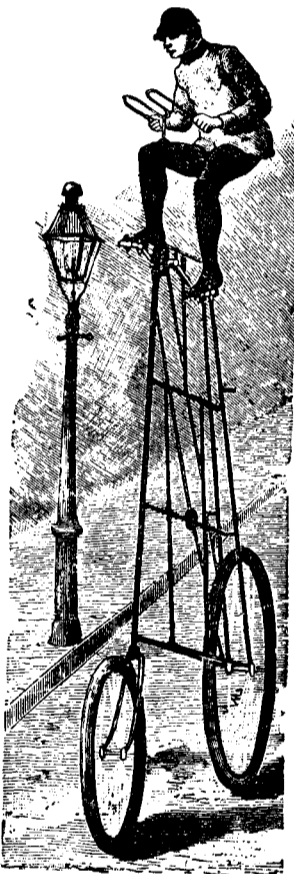
Jesus set us an example of prayerfulness. The wish to learn how to pray is pleasing to Christ. Happy for those who have a Father so great and good! We should cultivate reverence for sacred things. It is right to ask for temporal blessings. We must forgive if we would be forgiven. The better we know our own weakness the less confidence we will have in ourselves. Difficulties should only increase our earnestness in prayer.

Any person found cultivating the tobacco plant in Egypt will henceforth be fined one thousand dollars. The khedive has recently issued a decree prohibiting the culture of this noxious weed.—Sel.

A CURIOUS BICYCLE.

One of the most curious sights that has lately been seen in the streets of New York is what has felicitously been called the Eiffel Tower Bicycle. This machine is constructed on the same principle as an ordinary safety, but it has a frame superstructure which carries the rider at a distance of some ten feet from terra firma. This machine is frequently seen on the avenues of the city, and the rider easily overtops the ordinary lamp posts along the route of travel. He seems to have perfect control over the machine, which he can drive at quite a good rate of speed, taking sharp corners with perfect ease and apparent safety. This bicycle is mounted from behind in the usual way, but it has to be held by attendants while mounting. The owner sometimes places the machine against a wall and mounts from a standstill, but, of course, in the city, this is not always practicable.

There is considerable difficulty in driving the bicycle up hill, owing partially to the weight, the length of the sprocket chain and the balance of the machine. The sprocket chain extends from the upper sprocket wheel to the rear wheel,



and the lateral swing or play of the chain is prevented by a guide roller mounted just above the back wheel. The front wheel measures twenty-eight inches, the rear wheel thirty-six inches, and the extreme height is said to be thirteen feet. The machine was constructed in England, but the American Dunlop tire was applied after it arrived in this country. The adventurous spirit who has been seen riding this remarkable wheel is usually accompanied by a number of companions who serve as a sort of bodyguard and prevent vehicles and pedestrians from obstructing the way.

SALT.

BY BISHOP WARREN.

What is salt? Where does it come from? How do they get it? Having just come from a great factory that ships four hundred barrels a day, I want our little readers to share our pleasure and information.

A boy once said that "salt was what made a potato taste so flat when you had none." The chemist says it is the chlorid of sodium. He spells it NaCl. It is composed of a metal so light that it floats upon water and runs about with a hissing sound, sometimes setting fire to the hydrogen evolved from the water. The other element of salt is a gas so suffocating that no one can breathe it and live. Yet salt is very necessary to all human life. It crystallizes in the form of cubes. "Attic salt" is wit that saves

a conversation from insipidity. It is not food. And moral salt is what saves the world from corruption. Christians are the salt of the earth.

Go down under the part of Kansas which underlies the region about Hutchinson, and you go through various layers of gravel having inexhaustible quantities of water that would make drouths impossible if the people ever would get sense enough to use irrigation, and at a depth of four hundred feet you come to a vast body of salt, nearly pure, hundreds of miles in extent, and at this point four hundred feet thick. It would be easy to sink a shaft, send down men, quarry out the rock, hoist it up and pulverize it for the market. That would involve a very expensive plant for hoisting, and the employment of many men as miners. They have an easier way here. They put down two pipes. Down one water is forced, and when it has saturated itself with salt, it rises up the other pipe, because more water is forced down. Thus one column of water balances the other, and a very little force is required to lift the salt dissolved in the water.

This strong brine is poured into great pans forty feet wide and a hundred feet long. Two divisions are made in the first end where any impurities may settle. Then under the last end of the great pan fire is put and the water is evaporated in clean steam, the salt crystallizes at the bottom and is hoed out up the shelving sides to a platform on the edge. There it is immaculately white, in great windrows along both edges of the half-dozen pans.

To prepare this salt for the table the dampness is dried out in a thirty-foot-long cylinder that revolves over a fire with one end higher than the other, and so about thirty tons will pass through in a day. The crystals are then ground into a fine flour. A smart girl will then put up fifteen hundred bags of it for a day's work, sewing up the end of each bag. I saw a boy sew up 140 pound bags with strong twine, the mouth of the bags being fourteen inches wide, at the rate of four bags a minute.

How this immense amount of salt ever came here is not known. Two theories are suggested. First, it was created there as it is, which is not at all likely. Secondly, it was deposited there when some salt lake was evaporated. This is full of unthinkable difficulties. The Dead Sea, Salt Lake, and Caspian Sea, all put together, would not afford salt enough to much more than begin this vast amount in Kansas. None of these lakes are salt enough to deposit anything now; except in lagoons and bays where the evaporation is enormous and the inflow somewhat limited, the water is not yet saturated. There are other great salt beds in Salzberg, Bavaria, Poland, indeed in nearly all parts of the world. They were probably all produced by the evaporation of great bodies of salt water. But there are thousands of great questions about this old earth which we do not know enough to answer.

Besides the necessity of salt for animal life, it is largely used in the industrial arts. From it is taken the chlorin for bleaching. Soda is often made from it; hence it is one base of soap and glass. It is used to preserve foods, as all sorts of fish, pork and beef, butter, etc. One part of salt to two of dry snow or pounded ice gives a temperature of five degrees below zero. Until this was known there was no ice-cream.

BEGIN RIGHT.

"Boys," said papa, coming in through the yard as the rain began to fall, "put on your rubber coats and boots, and run out and clear away the heap of dirt you threw up yesterday around the cistern platform. Make a little channel where the ground slopes for the water to run off below."

Hal and Horace thought this great fun, and were soon at work. But presently papa called from a window:

"You are not doing that right, boys. You've turned the water all toward the house. It will be running into the cellar window next thing you know. Turn your channel away from the house at once."

"But this is the easiest way to dig it now, papa," called Hal. "Before it does any harm we'll turn it off."

"Do it right in the beginning," said papa, in a voice that settled things. "Be-

gin right, no matter if it is more trouble. Then you will be sure that no harm will be done, and won't have to fix things afterward."

The boys did as they were told, and were just in time to keep a stream of water from reaching the cellar window. Soon after this, papa found Horace reading a book borrowed from one of the boys.

"That is not the kind of reading that I allow," he said. "Give it back at once."

"Please let me finish the book," pleaded Horace. "Then I can stop reading this kind before it does me any harm."

"No," said papa, repeating the lesson of the rainy day, "begin right in your reading, and in all your habits, and then you will not have to change. Take the right direction first, and then you'll be sure of it."—Selected.

CRABS MARCHING TO THE SEA.

A curious point in the history of the West Indian land crab is the fact that every year, when the rainy season has set in, they make a great excursion to the sea. Straight as a bee to its hive they march to the coast. If a wall or rock comes in their way, they climb over it instead of going around. If a house is the obstacle, they will seek to get through the doors or windows; but if this is not possible, they will climb over it. Those that fall back from considerable heights and get damaged in the tumble serve as food for their companions. So closely do these crabs march together that the noise of their shelly armour as they jostle each other resembles the rattling of the arms and accoutrements of a regiment of cuirassiers.—Sel.

A young Scotchman was boating with his lady-love on a sunny and breezy evening. He asked her tenderly if she would row with him in the same boat for life. "Same as now?" she asked, shyly. "Yes, just the same—forever." "Then I will," she whispered, "for I have the helm!"

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