

who was not one of their number. This will afford a fine opportunity to impress on the children a lesson of liberality of feeling toward all who are doing good in the name of Jesus, whether they do it precisely as we do or in some other way.

"The mind of Christ" was lowly and liberal. He was the servant of all, and he gave a welcome to all. Recite the GOLDEN TEXT, and also Rom. viii. 9 (last clause).

Whisper-Song.

Time and health,
Love and wealth,
We should give
To Jesus,
We should live
For Jesus.

Miscellaneous.

FREEMAN: Millstone about the neck, 676.
PRAYER-MEETING TOPIC: The way to greatness.
TEXTS: James iv. 10; Isa. lvii. 15; Num. xi. 27-29.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1874.

LESSON IV.—BLIND BARTIMEUS.

Mark x. 46-52.

GOLDEN TEXT: Psalm cxix. 18.

Berean Notes.

I. GENERAL STATEMENT.

Here is a man who knows of Jesus; hears of his presence; believes in him; calls upon him persistently; refuses to be silenced, and who receives a call and a cure from the Christ he so firmly believed in and so perseveringly sought.

II. NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

1. THE WAY-SIDE BEGGAR. Poor, blind, helpless. Three degrees of human wretchedness, each an illustration of the unrenewed man's religious state. *Poor*, if without God and having no hope in the world. *Blind*, if not able to see the love of God and sinfulness of sin. *Helpless*, could not restore his sight, or mend his condition. Could do one thing—pray to Jesus. This he did. Note his prayer. "Son of David." Illustration of *faith*—people said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Note his *earnestness*—

"he cried aloud." Note his *importunity*—"so much the more." All this for sight, which he called a "mercy." How much more should we pray believingly, earnestly, importunately, for greater mercies! Do we feel our need of them as deeply as Bartimeus did his need of sight? If not, should not our insensibility concern us! How great the concern of God! How little our own!

Jericho, two miles from Jordan, twenty from Jerusalem. Beautiful, rich, voluptuous place, city of palms, (Josh. 6.) Bartimeus—son of Timæus. *Bar*, Aramaic—son of. . . . (Barnabas, son of consolation; Barjona, Barjesus. Bartholomew, son of Jona, etc.) *begging*, he was blind and poor. . . . *heard*, having probably asked what the tumult meant. *Jesus of Nazareth*. Most likely spoken in scorn, (John xix. 19.) Nazareth proverbially contemptible. . . . *Jesus, son of David*, that is, thou true Messiah; this faith was superior to popular opinions, (John ix. 22; xii. 42; Luke i. 69, 70,) Messiah was to heal the blind, (Isaiah xxxv. 5.) *have mercy*, the Jews believed that bodily ailments were punishment for sin, (John ix. 2.) Hence prayer for sight was a cry for mercy in the wider sense.

2. THE MISTAKEN SPECTATORS. Mistaken about Jesus. Only—"Jesus of Nazareth!" A wonderful man—nothing more. If only a man they might be right in thinking he would not notice a poor blind beggar. Neither the priest nor the Levite took practical notice of the wounded traveller. But he was more than a man. "His thought not as our thoughts." He who feeds the ravens will listen to the poor and needy. "*Charged him*." We, too, have been thus "charged" by Satan, the world, our own hearts. Jesus so rebuked these men, that the hinderers became helpers. He that is not with Christ is always against him.

Many, even of the disciples, who often made mistakes, (Matt. xix. 13; Mark ix. 35.) . . . *charged*, peremptorily ordered. . . . *hold . . . peace*. Jesus too busily engaged, (Mark v. 35.) . . . *cried . . . more*: earnestness in proportion to hindrance; with him it was now or never. He might not see Jesus again. Many, through lack of earnestness, have missed the blessing that was near.

"All the uncalled ceremonialists in the royal procession of Christ are unable to suppress the cry of faith sent forth to him."

3. THE WONDERFUL CURE. Performed by Jesus in the midst of important conversation; in view of his death; a few days only before his crucifixion; about which he was talking at the time. See vers. 31-34. There is nothing now to hinder his hearing our prayer. He ever liveth to make intercession. "Commanded;" the very