

The Sunday School

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubet's Notes.

Fourth Quarter, 1904.

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER.

Lesson III. — October 16. — Elisha and the Shunammite. — 2 Kings 4: 25-37.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. — Rom. 6: 23.

EXPLANATORY.

I. THE HOME OF SHUNNM. — Vs. 8, 9. Elisha had occasion to do considerable traveling in order to carry on his work of visiting the schools of the prophets and furthering the cause of true religion among the people. We find him oftenest at Samaria, but he seems to have had some reason for going frequently to Mt. Carmel, perhaps to religious gatherings of the people, perhaps to a school of the prophets. He went on foot, with the usual traveler's staff, and accompanied by his one servant and assistant named Gehazi.

Shunem was a small village in the most fertile and beautiful valley of the kingdom of Israel. Near here the Philistines were encamped the eve before the fatal battle on Mt. Gibeon where Saul and his sons were slain (1 Sam. 28: 4).

II. THE HOME OF THE PROPHET'S CHAMBER. — Vs. 10, 11. Elisha was so frequent a visitor, and could be so much better accommodated and refreshed by a room apart from the family that the good woman proposed to her husband to build a little room on the flat roof of the house to which he might have easy and private access by the usual outside staircase. "The chamber was built and furnished like any other simple Eastern room, with a bed, a divan to sit on, a table and a lamp; and there the weary prophet on his journeys often found a peaceful, simple, and delightful resting place."

III. THE CHILD IN THE HOME. — Vs. 12-17. Elisha was anxious to express his gratitude to the family. Money payment was out of the question, for even to hint at it would be a breach of good manners. Being well acquainted at court, he offered to say a good word for her to the king or general of the army, "just the sort of favor which an Oriental would be likely to value most." Farrar says that the sheikh, with whom he had been staying, "could think of no return which I could offer for his hospitality so acceptable as if I would say a good word for him to the authorities at Beyrout." She declined with thanks. Then, finding that her life was like the city of Jericho, beautiful for situation, but wanting in one great blessing, in that she was childless, Elisha promised from the Lord that within a year she should "embrace a son." "A Western woman can hardly realize how great a sorrow such misfortune is to her Eastern sister. A son is affection, support, position."

IV. SICKNESS AND SORROW IN THE HOME. — Vs. 18-21. Several years later, when the child had grown to be quite a boy, he went one morning into the harvest field with his father, and was taken suddenly ill, probably with sunstroke, followed by inflammation of the brain. "I know by experience," says Thomson, "that this valley glows like a furnace in harvest time." The boy was sent home to his mother, who held him till noon when he died. She took him up to the little chamber on the roof and laid him on the prophet's bed.

V. THE MOTHER'S PRAYER. — Vs. 22-31. Elisha at this time was at Mt. Carmel, sixteen miles away. The mother knows the only thing to be done. She calls for one of the servants, has an ass saddled, and presses forward with the utmost speed to the prophet.

35. THE MAN OF GOD SAW HER AFAR OFF. From his hilltop, looking down into the valley.

36. RUN NOW. Elisha knew that only one matter of great importance could bring the woman there. IS IT WELL WITH THEE? Hebrew, "Is it peace to thee?" AND SHE ANSWERED, IT IS WELL. She said but one word "Peace." The cautious mother wishes to have no words with the servant; it is his master she is in quest of.

37. SHE CAUGHT HIM BY THE FEET, etc. "The falling down, clasping the feet, etc., are actions witnessed every day in the East. I have had this done to me often before it could prevent it." GEHAZI CAME NEAR TO TRUST HER AWAY. Deeming her importunity excessive, or such liberties beneath his master's dignity, just as the disciples tried to drive away the mothers who brought their children to Jesus. THE LORD HATH HID IT FROM ME. His prayer for light had not yet been answered. Often the Lord had told him what was coming; but in this case he let him learn from the suppliant herself, as the best way for both.

38. DID I DESIRE A SON? Did I ask the favor? Was it not sent freely? Why, then, does the same power take it from me?

She did not say, but implied that her son was dead.

29. THEN HE SAID TO GEHAZI, GIRD UP THY LOINS. In preparation for a journey. TAKE MY STAFF. His prophetic staff, the symbol of his authority. IF THOU MEET ANY MAN, SALUTE HIM NOT. The Jewish salutations, like those common in the Orient to-day, were elaborately formal, and occupied so much time as to be a serious hindrance when there was reason for haste. LAY MY STAFF UPON THE FACE OF THE CHILD. In expectation that through this the prophetic power would go forth and restore the child. He may have thought that the child was not really dead (vs. 32).

30. BUT THE MOTHER OF THE CHILD WAS NOT WILLING TO TRUST HER HOPES TO GEHAZI AND THE STAFF. What they could do she did not know, but she did know that power was with the prophet.

31. GEHAZI . . . LAID THE STAFF UPON THE FACE OF THE CHILD, but without effect, and he went back to meet the prophet and report his failure.

VI. THE CHILD RESTORED. THE MOTHER'S PRAYER ANSWERED. — Vs. 32-37. 32. Elisha went with the Shunammite to her house, and found the child dead upon the bed in his chamber.

33. HE . . . SHUT THE DOOR UPON THEM TWAIN. Thus like Jacob wrestling alone with the angel for the blessing could the prophet come into closest communion with God, and learn his will.

34. AND HE WENT UP, AND LAY UPON THE CHILD, etc. He used whatever means were in his power, though the means alone could never have brought the child to life. So James tells the elders who pray with the sick to also anoint him with oil, one of the commoner remedies of the day. So Christ sometimes used means as the channel of his healing power.

35. HE RETURNED, AND WALKED IN THE HOUSE TO AND FRO. There had been signs of life in the flesh of the child becoming warm. Put there was a great struggle of faith in the prophet. This was a new experience of what the Lord might do through him, and he could not know the Lord's will at once. THE CHILD SNEEZED SEVEN TIMES, AND . . . OPENED HIS EYES. "These were the first acts of restored respiration, and they are described as successive steps."

36. TAKE UP THY SON. Compare Eli's action (1 Kings 17: 23) and our blessed Lord's (Luke 7: 15).

37. SHE . . . FELL AT HIS FEET. The first impulse, even before taking up her son. She was full of gratitude for the great blessing.

HONEST CHRISTIANS.

The man who is not just as honest in trading as he is in praying is not a Christian. It is not possible to be a sinner in business and a saint in religion. The thief in the board of trade is a hypocrite in the church. We do not believe that all successful business men are dishonest. It is a satisfaction to believe that in every department of trade and commerce there are men whose principles are as pure as gold. There are merchants, bankers, mechanics, farmers, and

OPERATIONS NOT ALWAYS NECESSARY.

Doctors Frequently Mistaken.

"I suffered untold agony with piles for over three years. Two doctors told me nothing but an operation would cure me. I tried different remedies, but nothing did me any good until I used Pyramid Pile Cure. I bought six fifty cent boxes at the drug store, and now I can do my work and go out, where before I spent most of my time lying down. I thank God for giving the discoverer the knowledge to make such a cure. I recommend it to all my friends, and if I ever have piles again will certainly use this remarkable remedy. You can use this in any way you wish to make known the wonderful merit of Pyramid Pile Cure." Mr. and Mrs. Muchy, 81 Marshall Street, Elizabeth N. J.

The experience of this lady is that of thousands of others who have been assured that nothing short of an operation would rid them of this distressing complaint. On the face of it, it appears as if too many surgeons operate in order that they may keep their hand in, and lose no portion of their skill; then, again, too many surgeons are anxious to experiment (like the scientific man in Mark Twain's pathetic story of a dog and her little puppy), and do not have proper regard for a patient's physical welfare or condition.

We advise every sufferer to think twice before submitting to an operation for piles, and suggest that those interested write to the Pyramid Drug Co., Marshall, Mich., for their little book on the causes and cures of piles, which is sent free for the asking.

professional men everywhere who live a uprightly in their business transactions a they do in their domestic relations. There are men who would prefer poverty to ill-gotten wealth. Granted that a man might gain money by lying, what kind of reward is it, after all? Riches gained at the expense of conscience are like corroding acids; they eat away the foundations of life and leave their possessor poor indeed. It never pays to lie. It matters not what the motive may be, the loss is always greater than the gain. Exemption from punishment or disgrace is a poor compensation for a tarnished conscience. Masses of wealth have no power to confer lasting joys. Titles, wealth, learning honor and fame are trifles compared with a clear conscience. — The Angelus.

THEY PROTECTED THE JUDGE.

After the jury in a Texas case had listened to the charge of the Court and gone to their room to deliberate upon the verdict, one of the twelve men went right to the point by saying: That that Pike Muldrow order be convicted on general principles. He's bad as they make 'em.

As the hum of approval went around, a weazened little juror said: "I heard that Pike gun' it out that he'd go 'gunning' fur us if we sent him up, jes' soon's he got out, and fur the Judge too."

"We must protect the Judge," they agreed, and the verdict was 'Not Guilty.'

Stanstead Junction, P. Q., 12th Aug. 1798
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"YOUNG WOMEN: — I had frequent headaches of a severe nature, dark spots before my eyes, and at my menstrual periods I suffered untold agony. A member of the lodge advised me to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, but I only scored good advice and felt that my case was hopeless, but she kept at me until I bought a bottle and started taking it. I soon had the best reason in the world to change my opinion of the medicine, as each day my health improved, and finally I was entirely without pain at my menstruation periods. I am most grateful." — NETTIE BLACKMORE, 28 Central Ave., Minneapolis, Minn. — \$5000 forfeit if original of above letter proving genuineness cannot be produced.

If there is anything about your case about which you would like special advice, write freely to Mrs. Pinkham. She will hold your letter in strict confidence. She can surely help you, for no person in America can speak from a wider experience in treating female ills. She has helped hundreds of thousands of women back to health. Her address is Lynn, Mass.; her advice is free.

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Notice of Sale.

T. James A. McHale (or McHale) of Halifax in the Province of Nova Scotia, Hotel Clerk formerly of the City of Saint John, in the Province of New Brunswick and Mary Elizabeth McHale his wife.

Notice is hereby given that under and by virtue of a power of sale contained in a certain Indenture of Assignment of lease by way of mortgage bearing date the second day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and three and made between the said James A. McHale and Mary Elizabeth McHale his wife, of the first part, and Allen O. Earle and J. Roy Campbell of the said City of Saint John, Barristers at Law Trustees of the second part and duly registered in the office of the Registrar of Deeds in and for the City and County of Saint John in Libro 54 of Records folio 585, 584 and 585 there will for the purpose of satisfying the moneys secured thereby default having been made in the payment thereof be sold at public auction on Monday the twenty eighth day of November next at twelve o'clock noon at Chubb's Corner (so called) on Prince William Street in the said City of Saint John all the term of years yet to come benefit of renewal right title interest property claim and demand at law or in Equity of them the said James A. McHale and Mary Elizabeth McHale in and to a certain lot piece and parcel of land situate lying and being in Brooks Ward on the western side of the harbor in the said City of Saint John known and designated on a plan of that part of the said City of Saint John on file in the office of the Common Clerk of the said City by the number (515) five hundred and thirteen the said lot being fifty feet front on Saint James Street and extending back preserving the same breadth one hundred feet more or less and which said lot of land was demised by the Mayor and Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of Saint John to one Mary Campbell by a certain Indenture of lease dated the twenty sixth day of February A. D. 1887 and registered in said office in Libro 50 of Records folio 420 to 422 for the term of twenty one years on said last mentioned date next to selling at the yearly rent of twelve dollars together with the said Indenture of lease and the buildings improvements, privies, outhouses and appurtenances to the said land and premises belonging or in any way appertaining. Dated this twenty second day of August A. D. 1904.

T. T. LANTALUM, Auctioneer.
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J. ROY CAMPBELL, mortgagees.

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