

energetic, faithful endeavor, generally succeeds. How much more will earnestness in prayer bring an answer from the God who is so willing to give.

9-11. What man . . . of you ; with ordinary human feelings. His son ; whom he loves. Ask bread . . . a stone ? Eastern bread loaves resembled stones in appearance (see Illustration). **A fish . . . a serpent ?** A serpent-like fish, without scales, is caught in the Sea of Galilee, and is thrown away as worthless. **Evil.** The point is, that even the worst fathers will scarcely treat their children as described. **How much more . . . your Father . . . in heaven ;** whose love gave His own Son (Rom. 8 : 32), and will not therefore withhold any good things.

III. KINDNESS.—12. Therefore ; because God shows so great kindness to us. **Whatsoever,** etc. This is justly called the Golden Rule. Our sympathy and love to our fellow men should reflect those of God to us. **The law and the prophets ;** a description of the Old Testament scriptures. The purpose of these is to produce in men such a heart and mind, that they will follow the Golden Rule in their daily conduct. It is clear that this rule is broken by the use or sale of strong drink.

ORIENTAL SIDELIGHT

The houses of the poor, in a village of Palestine, are square, usually of one story and with but one room, in which, during cold weather, the cattle also are housed, the portion for the use of the family being raised some two feet above that in which the cattle are herded. Light comes in through the door, or if there are windows, these are merely openings some height above the ground, sometimes with wooden gratings. There is no chimney, and the smoke from the fire finds its way out through the holes in the building. The roofs are usually flat, made of rough rafters, with brush wood laid across, and over all a plaster of mud rolled flat in showery weather with a stone roller.

LESSON QUESTIONS

1, 2 What kind of judgment is meant in v. 2 ? By whom will those who thus judge themselves be judged ? Where does Jesus say that He was sent not to condemn the world ? (John 3 : 17.) How should we treat the erring ? (Gal. 6 : 1.)

3-5 By what are the faults of our neighbors represented ? By what our own ? Which faults should be the larger in our estimation ? What is needful

before we can cure the faults of others ? For what did the Pharisees care ? What did Jesus seek ? Where is the real source of sin ? (Ch. 12 : 35.)

6 Who are meant by "dogs" and "swine" ? How should we act towards such persons ?

7-11 What threefold description of prayer is here given ? How is the answer to prayer described ? What does Jesus say that even the worst of fathers will do for his son ? How has our heavenly Father proved to us that He will give us all good things ?

12 What is the Golden Rule ? How is it broken by the use and sale of strong drink ?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Reasons for care in our judgment of others.
2. Ways in which people are injured by strong drink.

A LESSON FOR LIFE

Some shepherds once saw an eagle soar out from a crag. As they watched, the great bird became unsteady in its motions, and its flight wavered. At last, one wing drooped and then the other, and then the poor eagle, after a brief struggle, fell swiftly to the ground. While it had been resting on the crag, a serpent had fastened itself upon it. The reptile gnawed in through the feathers, thrust its fangs into the flesh, and the proud monarch of the air came reeling down to the dust. Like that serpent's poisonous fangs is the sin of intemperance. It is sure at last to destroy its victims. On guard, should be our watchword, for ourselves and others, lest we or they should be overcome by this deadly foe.

Prove from Scripture—*That we should do good to all.*

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 48. What are we specially taught by these words [before me] in the first commandment ?* A. These words [before me] in the first commandment teach us, That God, who seeth all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other God.

The Question on Missions—8. What is being done for the immigrants ? A minister of our church meets all Presbyterian immigrants who land at the ports of Halifax and St. John, and furnishes, to those who desire it, a letter of introduction to the minister in charge at the point where they intend to locate. This brief and friendly interview is highly appreciated by the newcomers.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What rules should we follow in passing opinions on others ?

2. What should we do before seeking to correct the faults of others ?

3. Show that the Golden Rule is broken by the use or sale of strong drink