

Notes on the S. S. Lessons.

Jesus and the Blind Man.

John 9: 1-17.

A LONG while ago there was a blind beggar in Jerusalem. One day Jesus passed by. He saw this blind beggar, and at once he proceeds to cure him.

You will be surprised to hear the strange manner in which He cured him. He made a plaster of the dust of the ground by wetting it with His spittle, and then he put it on the blind man's eyes. You would have thought that by this way his eyes would be made worse. God's way of working is not the way man would adopt.

Then Jesus told the beggar to go and wash in a pool, called Siloam. The beggar went and washed, and when he had washed he found he could see.

Everybody was very much surprised to see him walking along the streets with his eyes open. Some people wondered whether it was the same man who once sat and begged. Other people were sure it was the same man, while others thought it could not be the same, but only a man very much like the blind beggar.

But the Pharisees were mad because Jesus had healed him, and they put a great many questions to try and puzzle the man, but he *knew* what had been done for him; and because he would not speak as they wished him to do, against Jesus, they turned him out of the Temple. But Jesus never leaves a man without comfort who is suffering for His sake—so He came to the man and revealed Himself as the Son of God, and the man was made happy.

Everybody will be happy who believes in Jesus, as this blind man did. If Jesus were to say to you, "Do you believe on the Son of God?" could you say, "Lord, I believe?"

If you believe in Jesus, then you love Him, and you will try to please Him. Can you from your heart sing the beautiful hymn of invitation to others:—

' Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee;
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me;
Once I was blind, but now I can see:
The Light of the world is Jesus.'

Jesus the Good Shepherd.

John 10: 1-18.

THE Pharisees were the religious teachers of the people, and they ought to have acted as shepherds, caring for the flock entrusted to them, but instead of doing so they had just turned out of the Temple one who should have been cared for. Instead of leading him and teaching him, they had driven him out, calling him hard names. Jesus had sought for him and encouraged him; and now, in our lesson, Jesus says:

"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know my sheep, and my sheep know me."

That poor blind beggar was one of these sheep.

Jesus knew him first, and afterwards he knew Jesus. He must have felt glad when he heard those words about the shepherd and the sheep.

Very likely the most of the people who heard Jesus speak these words owned sheep themselves, for there were, and still are, many flocks kept in that country. At any rate, they all knew very well how a faithful shepherd cared for his sheep—leading



THE BLIND MAN WASHING IN THE POOL OF SILOAM.

them out every morning to the greenest pastures and the clearest waters he could find; teaching them to know and follow his voice; carefully defending them from robbers and wild beasts, often at the risk of his own life; going quickly in search of such as foolishly strayed away into the dark woods and tangled thickets, and carrying the feeble lambs in his arms. Did those who listened to Jesus that day remember that Isaiah had written of the Saviour, years before, "*He shall feed his flock like a shepherd*"? Did they know this Saviour's voice and follow him? Alas! then, as now, there were many "wandering sheep," who "did not love the Saviour's voice," who "would not be controlled." Have you entered the Door?

'OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.'

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