

It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows,

17 And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.

18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil.

19 The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.

25 At that time Je'sus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

THE LESSON PLAN

I. The Baptist's Doubt, 1-6.

II. The Jews' Faultfinding, 16-19.

III. The Saviour's Invitation, 25-30.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—How Jesus was received, Matt. 11 : 1-6, 16-19.
T.—Warning and invitation, Matt. 11 : 20-30. W.—A question and answer, Luke 7 : 18-25. T.—A house divided, Luke 11 : 14-26. F.—A withered hand, Matt. 12 : 9-14. S.—A band of believers, John 6 : 60-70.
S.—A Man of Sorrows, Isa. 53 : 1-6.

Primary Catechism—Ques. 126. What will hap-

26 Even so, Father : for so it seemed good in thy sight.

27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father : and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father ; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me ; for I am meek and lowly in heart : and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Ch. 12 : 14 Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.

pen at the Judgment Day ? A. At the Judgement Day the dead will be raised to life again ; and Jesus will separate the good from the bad.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 105-107.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise : 3 (138), 45 (180), 102 (274), 134 (408), 558 (761), 140 (405). (The numbers of the Praise Selections in brackets are those of the new Book of Praise.)

Special Scripture Reading—Isa. 53 : 1-6. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slide—For Lesson, B. 133, "Come Unto Me." (Slides are obtained from PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATIONS, Church and Gerrard Sts., Toronto.)

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—A.D. 27 and 28 ; Galilee.

Connecting Links—Since the arrangement of the materials in Matthew's Gospel is logical, rather than chronological, the various parts of to-day's lesson do not all belong to the same time or the same place. The visit of the Baptist's disciples probably took place several months prior to the sending forth of the Twelve (see last lesson), while vs. 25-30 belong to a later period, when the Seventy (see Luke 10 : 1-22) had returned from their mission. Again, the incident (ch. 12 : 1-13) which led the Pharisees to take council against the life of Jesus (v. 14) was considerably earlier than the coming of the deputation from John.

I. The Baptist's Doubt, 1-6.

V. 1. *It came to pass . . . made an end ;* a favorite formula with Matthew at the close of our Lord's discourse (compare 7 : 28 ; 13 : 53 ; 19 : 1 ; 26 : 1). *He departed ;* from the unknown place where the address to the Twelve was given. *Their cities ;* the cities of Galilee, choosing others than those to which the disciples would go. No one would listen to them if he were present.

Vs. 2, 3. *John had heard in the prison ;* the fortress of Machaerus, on the east of the Dead Sea, where Herod had imprisoned the Baptist (ch. 4 : 12) and where the great forerunner was afterwards murdered, ch. 14 : 1-12. Apparently Herod permitted John's disciples to visit him. Indeed, the king himself used to converse with his prisoner, Mark 6 : 20. *The works of Christ ;* the Messiah. John recognized that the works of Jesus were such as the Messiah should perform, but thought that these works were insufficient. "He wished Jesus to come forward more publicly and decidedly as the Messiah" (Plummer). *Sent two of his disciples.* John had still disciples whom he had not passed over to Jesus. (Compare Acts 19 : 1-17.) *He that should come ;* "the Coming One," the Messiah, Ps. 118 : 26 ; Heb. 10 : 37. *Do we ;* "are we to." *Look for another ;* "a different kind of person," one who would suddenly and forcibly establish the Messianic kingdom after a signal act of judgment (see ch. 3 : 10, 12). That was John's idea of what the Messiah should do, and because Jesus did not act in agreement with his idea, he was filled with doubt.