

Notes on the S. S. Lessons.

The Nobleman's Son.

John 4 : 43-54.

WHEN Jesus met the woman at the well, He was on His way from Jerusalem, through Samaria, to Galilee. After staying two days in the city of Sychar, He went on to Galilee, till He came to the city of Cana, where He made the water into wine. People not only remembered this, but some had been to Jerusalem, and seen Him do wonders there. Among those who had either seen or heard of these things was the poor father who came 20 or 25 miles, believing that Jesus could help him.

The lesson shows how his belief grew stronger and stronger, and what Jesus did for him ; and in the last verse we see the whole family happy Christians.

Such *belief* is called *Faith*. And we read so much about faith in the Bible, and it is so important, that I want to talk to you a little about it. When you hear grown-up people talking about faith, do you not feel sometimes as if it is some strange, mysterious thing, that you cannot understand, and that you must wait till you are older before you can have it? You are mistaken. Faith is a very simple thing, and even a very little child may have it. If I have faith in a person, I shall believe all that he tells me. If he has promised me something, no matter how great it may be, I am just as sure of it as if I had it already. Or, if he tells me about something which has taken place, I am just as sure of it as if I had seen it myself. If you have doubts about the truth of what he says, it is a proof that you have not faith in him. You trust your mother in that way, and would feel hurt and grieved to have any one doubt her. Now, nothing pleases God so much as to be trusted and believed. He had made himself known to us through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. He says that Jesus shall save us from our sins. God expects that we shall place our trust in Jesus as our Saviour. And if we do not, we dishonour Him, and this is a fearful sin in the sight of God.

See what this nobleman's faith did. (1) It led him to go to Cana. (2) It made him earnest. (3) It led him to obey.

Jesus at Bethesda.

John 5 : 5-18.

SOME time after Jesus had healed the Nobleman's son, He went up again to Jerusalem. In that city there was a great pool. A very wonderful thing happened at that pool once a-year. An angel came down and stirred about the water to make it able to cure one weak or sick person. The first sick person who stepped into the water after it was stirred about, was made well.

The place was called Beth-es-da, which means "House of Mercy."

One Sabbath-day Jesus came to the pool of Bethesda, and saw the poor creatures lying in the porches. There were crowds of other people who were not sick. They came to see the troubling of the water.

Jesus saw amongst the sick a poor man who was very weak. Many sick people had friends taking care of them, but this man had no one near him to help him.

Jesus pitied this poor, lonesome, friendless man. He knew that he had been sick for a long time—even for thirty-eight years. So He went up to him and spoke kindly to him, and healed him.

When the people saw the man carrying his bed, they said, "It is wrong for you to carry your bed on the Sabbath day," and asked him who had told him to do so ; but he could not tell them.

Soon after when Jesus again saw the poor man He said, "Sin no more—lest a worse thing come upon thee."

The man went back to the proud Jews and told them it was Jesus who had cured him.

These men hated Jesus so much that they wanted to kill Him. Their real reason for hating Him was because He told them of their sins.



JESUS AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA.

'OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.'

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