

... *pots full of wine.* Their fidelity to their father Jonadab and his covenant is to be tested. *We will drink no wine.* Their loyalty is complete and unhesitating.

II. THE RECHABITES' REWARD.—12-14a, 18, 19. *Thus saith the Lord . . . go tell.* The loyalty of the Rechabites is to be used as an example for Israel. *Will ye not receive instruction?* Should not Israel be as obedient to God as the Rechabites were to their father Jonadab's authority? God's love, God's gracious dealings with his people should all keep them loyal in the time of trial. Jeremiah's whole message from God to Israel was that if Israel was faithful, God would save. *Jonadab . . . shall not want a man to stand before me.* For a family to die out was considered a great misfortune. For it to abide was great glory. The Rechabites afterwards became united with the Levites in the service of God in the temple.

Lesson Questions

Tell what you know about the Rechabites.
How was their loyalty tested?
What was the lesson for Israel?
What blessing did their loyalty receive?

For Further Study and Discussion

1. What other class of people resembled the Rechabites? (Num., ch. 6.)
2. What great man was tempted like the Rechabites? (Dan., ch. 1.)
3. Should Christians deny themselves all luxuries?
4. Is temptation necessary to the strengthening of character?

PROVE FROM SCRIPTURE—That strong drink is a mocker.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Qucs. 76.

THE LESSON IN DAILY LIFE (Daily Readings)

Monday—Keeping the commandments, Jer. 35 : 1-11.

Self-control and self-denial are not the whole of life, but they are a very real part of it. The commandments of life must be, "Thou shalt not," as well as "Thou shalt." There must be brake as well as driving rod.

Tuesday—Rewards and penalties, Jer. 35 : 12-19.

The laws of God are not simply according to his will. They are according to our nature. They are written in our members. We cannot fight against God, without fighting against ourselves. When we obey him, we are realizing the best and highest of which our nature is capable.

Wednesday—Do all to the glory of God, 1 Cor. 10 : 23-33.

Paul teaches that there is a way of lifting all our common life up to God. Zebedee can cast and draw and mend his nets for God, even if he is only a fisher of fish. The gospel knows nothing better than the common man who does common things as unto God.

Thursday—The woes of the drunkard, Prov. 23 : 29-35.

The condemnation of intemperance is found in its history, everywhere and in all times. What intemperance does for the individual, for the home, for the nation, is a never changing record of shame and sorrow. There is but one safe policy in the matter, and the wise man of old points it out, "Look not . . . upon the wine."

Friday—That I make not my brother to stumble, 1 Cor. 8 : 4-13.

Paul teaches that among the things we are called upon to surrender at times, are our rights and liberties. Paul will not eat of meat offered to idols, because one who has not come to the same understanding of truth may be caused to stumble. For his sake, he will abstain.

Saturday—Fruits of flesh and spirit, Gal. 5 : 16-25.

Religion is a spirit, but it must manifest itself in conduct. Christ must make a difference to us and a difference of us. Christ comes to change the rootage and the fruitage of our lives. The kingdom of heaven is within us, but it cannot be kept within us.

Sunday—Burden-bearing, Gal. 6 : 1-10.

There are burdens of life that we must insist on bearing alone. There is a divine yoke that makes the burden light, promised for such. There are burdens that we must not suffer another to bear alone. The burden that a man cannot carry alone is the one that we must share.

A PRAYER

We magnify thee, O God, because of the revelation of thyself in the hearts of men. We praise thee for the dawning of the day when the liquor traffic is becoming illegal as well as immoral. Quickened us, we pray thee, that we may be eager to do our part in taking temptation from the way of others. For Jesus' sake. Amen.