

# Notes on the Lessons.

## LESSON V—May 3rd, 1896.

**Faith.** LUKE 17: 5-19.

(Commit to memory verses 17-19).

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "Lord, increase our faith." Luke 17: 5.

**PROVE THAT—**We should give thanks always. Eph. 5: 20.

**SHORTER CATECHISM.** Quest. 57. *Which is the fourth commandment?* A. The fourth commandment is, Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

**LESSON HYMNS.** *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 132, 133, 103, 140.

**DAILY PORTIONS.** *Monday.* Faith. Luke 17: 5-19. *Tuesday.* The law of cleansing. Lev. 14: 21-32. *Wednesday.* Naaman cured. 2 Kings 5: 8-14. *Thursday.* Confidence trust. Psalm 27. *Friday.* Faith and sight. John 20: 24-31. *Saturday.* Both able and willing. Mark 1: 35-45. *Sabbath.* Heroes of Faith. Heb. 11: 32-40. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

### EXPOSITORY NOTES.

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**INTRODUCTORY.** The discourse contained in the first part of chapter 17 (vs. 1-10) was probably delivered directly after the parable in our last lesson. Between verses 10 and 11 we must insert John 11: 1-54. The lepers were healed as Jesus journeyed from Ephraim to Jerusalem, by way of Perea.

**LESSON PLAN.** I. Faith Working. vs. 5-10. II. Faith Pleading. vs. 11-14. III. Faith saving. vs. 15-19.

**I. FAITH WORKING.** Christ had just been enjoining on his apostles one of the hardest duties in life, that of unwearingly exercising a forgiving spirit towards such as may be guilty of oft-committed injuries against us. **5. Increase our faith—**Conscious of their own inability to obey the duty enjoined, and knowing the source and nature of the all-sufficient remedy the apostles pleaded for an increase of faith. Faith is a personal gift, divinely bestowed (Eph. 2: 8), capable of increase only to the child of prayer. Increase of faith implies an increase of every other grace, and the cultivation of a loving disposition, and a greater readiness to forgive offences. **6. Mustard seed—**The smallest of all seeds, not absolutely, but popularly and proverbially so (Matt. 13: 32). **Sycamore tree—**the black mulberry, quite distinct from the sycomore; "cultivated in Palestine chiefly for its leaves, the favorite food of the silk worm." **And it would obey you** (R. V.).—The marvellous possibilities to a little real faith, that faith which is the evidence of the new birth, "the victory that overcometh the world" (1 John 5: 4). There is nothing impossible to faith (Matt. 17: 20), in so far as it is for the glory of God, and the confirmation of the truth. Difficulties in the spiritual life, apparently as insuperable as the displacing of a mountain, or the uprooting of a great tree, are possible to the child of faith (Mark 9: 23). **7. A servant ploughing or keeping sheep** (R. V.).—

Jesus answers the apostles' request by a parable, teaching them that with a small measure of faith, coupled with the spirit of patience and humility, they would be able to keep themselves from transgressing against the law of love and charity of which he had warned them. Servants in the east were practically slaves, enjoying no recognized rights, save the will and pleasure of their masters. Required to be ever ready in the field or in the home to minister to their masters' comfort and pleasure, not even in the hope of receiving a reward, much less any praise, but of necessity. "Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn." **8. Gird thyself—**As a servant waiting on the table (John 13: 4). It is all important to have our "loins girt about with truth" (Eph. 6: 14). **9. I trow not—I think, or believe not.** **10. So likewise ye—**Christians are not their own (1 Cor. 6: 19, 20), children not slaves. Sonship in the family of God implies a life, not of slavery and drudgery, but of freedom and holy living (2 Tim. 2: 19; Rom. 12: 2). A service worthy of the fullest self-surrender, and the consecration of all our gifts and powers to the Master's service. It is a life of co-partnership and fellowship (1 Cor. 3: 9; 1 John 1: 3-7). **Unprofitable servants—**As stewards of God's possessions we must not for a single moment allow the spirit of self-complacency and self-satisfaction to assert itself. We must ever cherish the spirit of loving, loyal and