

his own. **Fast**, etc.; on Mondays and Thursdays, though the law did not require this. **Give tithes** (tenths), etc.; not only of farm crops, as the law was understood to require (Num. 18 : 21), but even of small garden produce, Matt. 23 : 23.

**III. THE PUBLICAN.**—13, 14. **The publican**; one of the tax gatherers for the Roman government. These were much hated and despised by the Jews. **Standing afar off**; from the holy place, not thinking himself worthy to draw near. His every attitude and act betokens humility. **God be merciful**. He feels his need of pardon. **To me a** (literally, "the") **sinner**; as if he were the chief (see 1 Tim. 1 : 15). **Justified**; his sins forgiven, his prayer answered, and himself treated thereafter as righteous before God.

## DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

**M.**—The Judge, the Pharisee, and the publican, Luke 18 : 1-14. **T.**—Persevering prayer, Mark 7 : 24-30. **W.**—Vain prayers, Isa. 1 : 10-18. **Th.**—Unacceptable fasting, Isa. 58 : 1-8. **F.**—Penitent prayer, Ps. 25 : 1-11. **S.**—Hope in prayer, Ps. 130. **S.**—Prayer for mercy, Ps. 51 : 1-13.

**Prove from Scripture**—*That we need God's mercy.*

**Shorter Catechism**—Ques. 26. *How doth Christ execute the office of a king?* A. Christ executeth the office of a king in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

**The Question on Missions**—31. How are the teachers and preachers trained? Teachers and preachers were at first trained by the personal efforts of the missionaries. There is now at San Fernando a Training School for teachers and a Training College for preachers, to which Dr. Coffin devotes almost all his time.

**Lesson Hymns**—Book of Praise, 251 (Supplemental Lesson); 168 ; 155 ; 23 (Ps. Sel.); 154 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 152.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

**Juniors**—Whom had Jesus raised from the dead? Towards what city was He now journeying?

1-5 For what purpose did Jesus tell the story of the widow and the judge? What did the widow ask? How did the judge at first treat her request? Why did he at last grant it?

6-8 In what is God different from the judge of the Lesson? Will He answer our prayers? Why does He sometimes delay?

10-12 What two men went to pray? Whither? Who were the Pharisees? Whom did this Pharisee praise?

13, 14 Who were the publicans? How were they looked upon? For what did the publican ask? What was the result?

**Seniors and the Home Department**—What parables in the Lesson? State the purpose of each.

1-8 Where do we find encouragement for perseverance in prayer? (Matt. 7 : 7-11; Rom. 8 : 32; Phil. 4 : 6.) Give some examples of importunity in prayer. (Gen. 18 : 23-32; 32 : 24-30; Deut. 9 : 25; 1 Sam. 1 : 10.) Show the contrast between God and the unjust judge. (Ex. 34 : 6.)

9-12 What was the sin of the Pharisee? (Prov. 30 : 12; Isa. 65 : 5.) About what were the Pharisees very careful? What did they neglect? (Matt. 23 : 23.)

13, 14 How did the publican show his sense of God's greatness? Of his own sin? What is justification? (S. Catechism, Ques. 33.) Show that salvation depends on the divine mercy. (Tit. 2 : 5.)

## THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. Chrysostom, "the golden-mouthed," likens a man without prayer to a city without walls and open to all assaults; but from him that is armed with prayer the tempter starts back, as midnight robbers start back when they see a sword hanging above a soldier's bed.

2. Two went to pray: oh! rather say,  
One went to brag; the other to pray.  
One stands up close, and treads on high,  
Where th' other dares not send his eye.  
One nearer to God's altar trod,  
The other to the altar's God.—Crashaw.

3. Like the famous leaning tower at Pisa, our lives are out of line with the perpendicular of God's law. That is the only perfect standard. Measuring ourselves by it, the boast of the Pharisee will die away upon our lips.

4. "God — me a sinner." What a vast distance between the two! Yes, but the faintest cry of penitence can be heard across that space, and will bring pardon and peace to the guiltiest.

## FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How did the widow get what she asked?.....

2. What was wrong about the Pharisee's prayer?.....

3. For what did the publican ask? With what result?.....