

is being done for us ; but some day we shall see and know. Some day Peter would understand why this strange thing was done by his Master. Meanwhile, we must trust and

obey and submit. Our Lord is wise and loving. He will see to it, if we love Him, that all things will work together for our good, and our joy shall be larger than our sorrow.

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school.

For Teachers of the Older Scholars and Bible Classes

Follow the course of John's narrative, noting the triumphal entry (ch. 12 : 12-13) and the visit of the Greeks (ch. 12 : 20-33), in each of which, special aspects of Jesus' character is seen. The remaining part of the Gospel deals with the days of close personal revelation to the inner circle. It falls into two parts : (1) The ministry of love (chs. 13-17); (2) The triumph of the Saviour, chs. 18-20. The first three Lessons are taken from the ministry of love, and contain teaching about humility, the heavenly home and the Holy Spirit. To-day's Lesson falls naturally into two main divisions :

1. *The self-sacrifice of love*, vs. 1-11. Study v. 1 as introductory to the whole section, chs. 13-17; and vs. 2, 3 as preparatory to the footwashing. John notes that Jesus now directs His attention to "His own which were in the world." This determines the character of Jesus' messages. Note also that Jesus is now fully aware that His hour has come. The outstanding feature in His self-revelation is love, remarkable in its extent and intensity. Having seen the setting, note :

(a) The occasion of the footwashing. The strife of the disciples must have been exceedingly painful to Jesus (see Luke 22 : 24-30). It is necessary to understand their temper, in order to appreciate the after teaching of their Master. (b) The symbolic reference. Jesus invests the observance of a social custom with a spiritual meaning. This is in keeping with His usual method of illustrating His teaching from nature and human life. (c) Peter's characteristic conduct, as showing pride, self-dependence and self-assertion. Carefully study Jesus' reply and the authority which Peter recognizes. Bring out the full significance of Jesus' words

as bearing upon the cleansing of the soul. The self-knowledge of Jesus, and His understanding of the disciples are both worthy of careful thought.

2. *Jesus' commentary*, vs. 12-20. This shows the practical bearing of Jesus' act, and is a picture of true Christian service. In getting it clearly before the class, note :

(a) The claim of Jesus to be the standard and ideal of Christian life and service. What he was, was apparent in what He did, and He was the pattern of what the disciples should do and be. (b) The obligation of the disciple to follow the Master in practical experiences. The disciples should not expect better treatment than the Master received. (c) The secret of success,—the joyful acceptance of Jesus' authority.

The bearing of this Lesson upon modern problems is most important. Jesus lets the emphasis fall on the spirit of true Christian service, the willingness, nay, eagerness, to perform any service, however humble, for the good of others. This is the only way to bridge the chasm between the Christian and the non-Christian world.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

The title of the Lesson indicates its scope : "Jesus Teaches Humility". Courage, aggressiveness, to know how "to take care of oneself"—these are the qualities admired. Humility is classed with poor-spiritedness, insipidity, weakness. Seek to display Jesus, in the Lesson, in His beautiful acts and words. This will be the strongest recommendation of humility.

1. *The time and place*. The other Gospels tell of Jesus and His disciples going from Bethany into Jerusalem, and there sitting down to the Passover supper in an upper room, alone by themselves. Supper is about to begin ("during supper", Rev. Ver.: supper being on the table).

Have the class pick out (in vs. 1 and 3) four wonderful things that Jesus knew, and