

that it is not the getting of riches by right means that is condemned, but the allowing of riches to become one's master. Help them also, to see that the right time to make the choice is at the beginning of life's road. Then, when any difficulty rises as to what is right to do, it is necessary only to ask what God would have us do.

Lesson VII.

THE POWER AND AUTHORITY OF JESUS

November 14, 1920

Matt. 8 : 5-13 ; 9 : 35-38.

GOLDEN TEXT—And Jesus went about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of disease and all manner of sickness.—Matt. 9 : 35 (Rev. Ver.).

5 And when Je'sus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,

6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

7 And Je'sus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof : but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me : and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth ; and to another, Come, and he cometh ; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

10 When Je'sus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham,

and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness : there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

13 And Je'sus said unto the centurion, Go thy way ; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Ch. 9 : 35 And Je'sus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few ;

38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

THE LESSON PLAN

- I. The Centurion's Servant, 8 : 5-13.
- II. The Needy Multitudes, ch. 9 : 35-38.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—The centurion's faith, Matt. 8 : 5-13. T.—The ruler's faith, Matt. 9 : 18, 19, 23-26. W.—The leper's cry, Mark 1 : 40-45. T.—Healing many, Matt. 9 : 27-38. F.—Enduring temptation, James 1 : 1-8. S.—Heroes of faith, Heb. 11 : 32-40. S.—The Son of God, Heb. 1 : 1-9.

Primary Catechism—Ques. 123. *What is heaven ?* A. Heaven is the holy and happy place where Jesus is. Ques. 124. *What is hell ?* A. Hell is a place of woe, where the devil and evil spirits are.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 106. *What do we pray for in the sixth petition ?* A. In the sixth petition (which is, *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*), we pray, That God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise : 23 (162), 79 (234), 116 (280), 207 (419), 544 (752), 538 (785). (The numbers of the Praise Selections in brackets are those of the new Book of Praise.)

Special Scripture Reading—Heb. 1 : 1-9. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slide—For Lesson, B. 177, The Centurion Meets Jesus. (Slides are obtained from PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATIONS, Church and Gerrard Sts., Toronto.)

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—A.D. 27 ; Capernaum and Galilee.

Connecting Links—Matthew follows the Sermon on the Mount (chs. 5 to 8 : 1) with a passage (ch. 8 : 2 to 9 : 34), in which he gives an account of nine miracles as illustrations of the work of Jesus, arranging these in groups of three each. In these miracles Matthew sees, and would have his readers see, proofs of the Messianic power and authority of Jesus. After the nine acts of Messianic sovereignty, we are told (ch. 9 :

35 to 11 : 1) how the fame brought to Jesus by these and other works of power led to the extension of his ministry. "He no longer works single-handed, but selects twelve disciples to help him" (Plummer). Ch. 8 : 5-13 of the lesson narrates one of the nine miracles, the Healing of the Centurion's Servant ; ch. 9 : 35-38, after summarizing (v. 35) Jesus' work of teaching (chs. 5 : 1 to 8 : 1) and healing (ch. 8 : 2 to 9 : 34) describes the impression made upon him by the need of the common people and their