

And Malachi compared the Lord's work to that of a faithful purifier and refiner of silver, sitting before his pot or crucible in which the precious metal is being tried by fire, until every particle of dross is destroyed and only that which is good remains. In the same way the Lord by His Spirit shall try the hearts of His people.

Malachi also pictured the Saviour as a judge, saying, "He shall be a swift witness against the sorcerers and the adulterers, and against false swearers and those who oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, and those that turn aside the stranger from his right."

Last of all Malachi brought a loving invitation from the Lord that His people should return and serve Him, saying, "Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of Hosts." To those who had thought to gain something by holding back their offerings from Him, the Lord said plainly through His prophet, that only by giving to Him should they receive the greatest blessings for themselves.

#### Questions on the Lesson

1. How did God's people dishonor His house and worship? 2. Of whom did the prophet Malachi come to speak? 3. How did he say the Saviour should appear? 4. What was His work to be? 5. To what kind of workman did he compare Him? 6. In what other way did the prophet picture Christ? 7. What invitation did God send through Malachi to His people? 8. What did He say to those who withheld their offerings from Him? 9. What is the Golden Text?

#### Lesson Story

A little stream was hurrying down the mountain side on its way to the river. "You silly creature," said a stagnant pool, "to give away your waters now. When summer comes, you will dry up and perish. I am keeping every drop of water for my own use later on."

When the heat of summer came, the trees crowded to the bank of the little stream and threw their shelter over it in return for the life and refreshment it had brought them; but the selfish pool that kept its waters, dried up altogether.

It is thus more blessed for ourselves, as our Saviour says, to give than to receive.

#### Lesson Hymn

Hark, the glad sound, the Saviour comes!

The Saviour promised long;

Let every heart exult with joy,

And every voice be song! Amen.

—Hymn 35, Book of Praise

#### The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—64. Can a little child be a Christian? Yes. Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God."

SHORTER CATECHISM—107. What doth the conclusion of the Lord's prayer teach us? A. The conclusion of the Lord's prayer (which is, *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen*) teacheth us to take our encouragements in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him. And, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, *Amen*.

#### The Question on Missions

48. Is medical work important in missions? Yes, through it, in many cases, the missionary is enabled to gain access to the people with the gospel. Medical work is done at all our stations in either dispensary, or hospital, or both.

#### SOMETHING TO DRAW

God has sent many messengers to men. But the greatest Messenger of all was His own dear Son. And what a glad message

## MY MESSENGER

He has brought to us. He tells us how our sins may be forgiven; how we can be strong and happy all our lives, and how, at last, we may go to be with Him in heaven.

#### I Have Learned Today

THAT JESUS DWELLS IN PURE HEARTS