

III. A NIGHT OF PRAYER.—22, 23. Constrained (compelled) His disciples. John says (8:15), that, after the miracle the multitudes wished to make Jesus king by force. Perhaps the disciples were in danger of being tempted to fall in with this plan and so it was needful to send them away. To pray. It may be that Jesus Himself was tempted to yield to the crowd, and needed to strengthen Himself by a night of prayer.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Jesus feeds five thousand, Matt. 14:13-23. T.—Daily manna, Ex. 16:11-18. W.—Enough and to spare, 2 Kgs. 4:38-44. Th.—Four thousand fed, Mark 8:1-9. F.—A boy's store, John 6:5-13. S.—Not by bread alone, Deut. 8:1-6. S.—The Bread of Life, John 6:41-51.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 404; 418; 81 (Ps. Sel.); 197; 559 (from Primary Quarterly); 80.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 14. What is sin? A. Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.

Q. 15. What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created? A. The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created, was their eating the forbidden fruit.

Prove from Scripture—That God gives our daily bread.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—Where did Jesus hear of John the Baptist's death? Who returned to Him about this time?

13, 14 From what place did Jesus set out? Whither did He go? Who were with Him in the boat? What other persons went to the same place? How did they travel? What was the distance? What did Jesus do during the day?

15, 16 What did the disciples advise? What did Jesus command them to do? What did they think about the command?

17-21 What was the supply of food? Who brought it? How were the people seated? What did Jesus do before giving food to the people? How much did they get? How much was left over.

22, 23 Whither were the disciples sent? Where did Jesus spend the night? How?

Seniors and the Home Department—Where did the miracle of the Lesson take place. At what time in the life of Jesus?

13, 14 Give the reasons for Jesus' going to Bethesda. What is meant by "a desert place"? What

was Jesus' feeling towards the multitudes? How did He show it?

15-21 Explain "first evening" and "second evening." What is meant by "the time is now past"? Whence did the baskets come?

22, 23 What effect had the miracle on the crowd? Why did Jesus send the disciples away? For what may He have prayed? For how long did He pray?

Seek-Further Questions—What similar miracle did Jesus work? Give other occasions on which we are told that Jesus prayed.

Topics for Brief Papers (To be ready on the day of the Lesson)—1. The lad with the loaves. 2. Jesus the Bread of Life.

THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. We may not be able to perform miracles but we are often able to render miracles possible. God takes the little service that we render and turns it to vast account in His kingdom. When He multiplies small efforts by His power, how great is the product!

2. Browning, in "The Boy and the Angel," tells how a poor boy praised God as he worked at his trade. At last, the boy, Theocrite, went away, and the angel Gabriel took his place and praised God in his stead. But the poet represents God as saying, "I miss my little human praise." It is a great thought, that God has something for every child to do, that even an angel cannot do as well.

3. "Earthly arithmetic says, 'Give and want.' Heavenly arithmetic says, 'Give and grow rich.'" (Schauffler.)

4. The character of our food may often be judged by our physical appearance. If we are feeding upon the Bread of Life, even our countenances will bear witness to the fact.

5. The supplies of Jesus are always abundant. Thousands upon thousands, century after century, have been feeding upon the gospel, and its blessings are no nearer than ever to being exhausted. There is enough and to spare for the whole world to the end of time.

6. "Gather up the fragments." That is the motto in many a great manufacturing business. The "waste" products of petroleum, for example, have millions in them. Fragments of time, of opportunity, what may not an eager soul accomplish through them!

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Describe the part of the disciples in this miracle.....

2. What was done by Jesus?

3. What was the result?