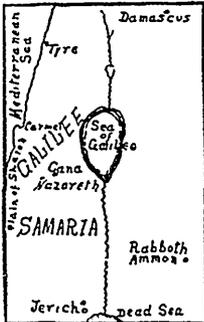


full well what a fool his father must think him. No more worthy. His sin has destroyed all his claims to be treated as a son.

IV. THE RECEPTION.—20-24. *Afar off* (Rev. Ver.), his father saw him; having been on the lookout for him and able to recognize him at a distance, even in rags. Moved with compassion (Rev. Ver.); full of pity for the wretched prodigal. *Ban*; regardless of Eastern dignity and advancing years. *Kissed*; fervently and frequently, the son folded in his arms. The father said; interrupting the son's confession. *Best robe*; a stately robe worn on ceremonial occasions. *A ring*; likely with a signet giving some authority. *Fatted calf*; prepared for some approaching feast, perhaps the elder son's wedding. *Dead*; gone away apparently forever. *Alive*; restored to his old home.

Vs. 25-32 describe the conduct of the elder son.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



A picture of a house in CANA, a town of Galilee, shows the kind of home which the prodigal may have left. Standing in a large space entirely surrounded by high walls, but open to the sky, we see the various parts of the house built of massive gray stone. Two arched openings in one of the walls lead to dark stables and storerooms. One small window opening at a higher level gives light to a room on an upper floor.

A doorway gives access to a room on the same level, and from the door a stair case leads down to the big sunny courtyard.

LESSON QUESTIONS

11, 12 Who, in the Lesson parable, takes the place of the shepherd and the woman in the parables of last Lesson? Whom does the younger son represent? What did he ask? What was the younger son's portion?

13, 14 How soon did the younger son leave home? What did he do? How did he live there? What calamity occurred? Why was the young man a

special sufferer? Where is he likened to an armed man? (Prov. 6:11; 24:34.)

15, 16 From whom did the prodigal seek help? What work was given to him? Why was this a specially hateful task? What was the prodigal compelled to eat? How did his companions treat him?

17-19 How is repentance here described? What did the prodigal resolve to do? Show that all sin is against God. (Ps. 51:4.) Quote a promise of forgiveness to those who confess their sin. (1 John 1:9.)

20-24 Describe the prodigal's reception by his father.

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Which was the more undeserving, the younger or the elder son?
2. Is God's willingness to forgive an encouragement to sin?

A PRAYER

Teach us the joy of fellowship with Thee, Father. Give us confidence in Thee. Keep us ever near Thy side. When we wander from Thee, bring us back, confessing our sin, and once more start us on the road with Thee. Bless with us our loved ones. Be near those who have been yielding to the snare of strong drink. Protect those who may yet be tempted. Hasten the day when no one shall put a stumbling-block in his brother's path. And to Thee shall be all the glory. Amen.

Prove from Scripture—That all men are God's children.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 91. *How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation? A.* The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

The Question on Missions—5. What was the attitude of the Honanese towards the missionaries? It was at first cordial, but owing to the circulation of evil and untrue reports, the people became unfriendly, attacked and looted mission property, and finally, in 1900, compelled the missionaries to flee from the country. They were able to return in 1901.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: Ps. Sel. 68 (Supplemental Lesson), 151, 161, 38 (Ps. Sel.), 169 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 152.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What was the prodigal's sin?.....
2. How was he punished?.....
3. What proof of repentance did he give?.....

SIGN NAME HERE.....