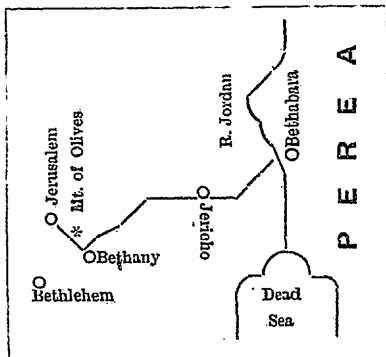


for his answer. See Gal. 3: 24. **27. Thou shalt love, etc.**—Deut. 6: 5; 10: 12; Lev. 19. Compare Rom. 13: 9; Gal. 5: 13, 14; Jas. 2: 8. He gave Jesus' own answer (Matt. 22: 37-40). By such an answer this lawyer shewed how well he had caught the true spirit of the law, and that he was "not far from the kingdom of God" (Mark 12: 34). **Heart and soul**—We use the expression "with all my heart and soul," to mean entire and warm approval. **Strength and mind**—with full and supreme devotion of all the powers of mind and body. **28. Thou shalt love**—Rightly understood this embraces everything, for it



means complete surrender of the heart to God (Rom. 13: 10; 1 John 4: 16). **29. Justify himself**—Shew that he had not asked a question that could be so easily disposed of. The rabbis understood "neighbors" to mean Jews

only, appealing to Lev. 19: 18. (Read Matt. 5: 43, 44.)

II. ANSWERED BY AN EXAMPLE. 30. From Jerusalem to Jericho—about 20 miles. The road descended 3,500 feet, through a deep ravine, abounding in caves and infested with bandits. It was called the "Bloody way." Even at the present day travellers require an armed escort. **31. Priest**—Jericho was one of the cities of the priests. Perhaps he thought there was danger and he had better hurry on; he would be ceremonially defiled by touching the man if he were dead, or died on his hands; somebody else would help him, perhaps, etc. It is easy to make excuses if we are selfish and cowardly. The Levite acted precisely as the priest, doubtless from similar motives. **32. Samaritan**—(See Bible Dictionary.) More hated and despised by the Jews than any other nationality. (John 4: 9; 8: 48.) The Samaritans treated the Jews in a similar manner (ch. 9: 53). The kindness of this one is thus made the more striking. **34. Oil and wine**—The wine would cleanse the wounds, and the oil would help to heal them. He treated him as kindly as possible. **An inn**—The only place where an inn, such as we understand by the word, is mentioned. Eastern inns were usually empty buildings without any resident host. **35. Two pence**—A *denarius* was equal to about 17 cents, but would purchase ten times as much of anything as 17 cents would with us. **37**—Had Jesus at first answered "A Samaritan is your neighbor," the lawyer would have had any number of good reasons for denying it. But his prejudice is disarmed and his conscience touched by the beautiful story. Anyone is your neighbor who needs kindness at your hand.

LESSONS.

1. Jesus is very patient with inquirers.
2. The Bible is a complete guide to duty.
3. The essence of religion is love.
4. We should love God supremely.
5. We should do a kindness to others whenever possible.
6. Be always "neighborly."

LESSON VIII—February 24th.

Christ and the Man Born Blind. JOHN 9: 1-11.

(Commit to memory verses 1-3.)

GOLDEN TEXT.

"I am the light of the world." John 9: 5.

PROVE THAT
Christ works wonderful cures. Matt. 11: 5.

LESSON HYMNS.

CHILDREN'S HYMNAL, Nos. 5, 23,
35, 176.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Quest. 10. *How did God create man?*

A. God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Christ and the Man Born Blind; John 9: 1-11. *Tuesday.* Questions by Pharisees; John 9: 13-23. *Wednesday.* Cast Out; John 9: 24-34. *Thursday.* Spiritual Light; John 9: 35-41. *Friday.* Bartimæus; Mark 10: 46-52. *Saturday.* Light in the Heart; 2 Cor. 4: 1-6. *Sabbath.* Light of the World; John 1: 1-3. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)