

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER
STUDIES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

LESSON V—JULY 30.

DANIEL IN THE DEN OF LIONS

Dan. 6 10-23 Memory Verses, 21-23.

GOLDEN TEXT

The Lord is thy keeper Psalm 124 5

OUTLINE

- 1 The Chamber of Prayer, v. 10-11
- 2 The Royal Palace, v. 14-19
- 3 The Den of Lions, v. 20-23.

Time—After 5:38 P. M.

Place.—Sun.

LESSON HELPS.

10. "Daniel" A saint from his youth, mighty in prayer, now a prince in Babylon, an object of envy, for envy loves, like death, a shining mark. "The writing"—That is, the royal decree. "He kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed"—He knew his danger, but he knew his God. A very busy statesman, and therefore he prayed morning, noon, and night. He prayed as did pious Jews in distant lands, with his face toward Jerusalem, the sacred and beloved city. In Jerusalem the Jews turned their faces toward the temple. 1 Kings 8. 48. "Gave thanks"—Always something to be thankful for. Paul and Silas sang praises to God in the dungeons. "As he did aforesaid"—A good habit kept up, though far from home, kindred, and native land.

11. "Found Daniel praying"—They were on the lookout for him. One might look a long time and not find some politicians praying. A pious statesman like Daniel is a blessing to a nation.

12. "The den of lions"—Kept partly for the king's pleasure and partly to devour certain criminals. "The law of the Medes and Persians which altereth not." An inflexible law may be an inflexible evil. Mercy is needed in administration.

13. "Of the children of the captivity of Judah" Hatred of the foreigners is here seen. This hatred is not yet dead, though dying.

14. "Was sore displeased"—With good reason, for he did not wish to lose a good statesman, a pillar to his throne. "Laboured"—By talking to his princes, probably. Laboured for hours "till the going down of the sun."

15. "These men assembled"—Under the guise of having a law enforced, really to judicially kill an innocent man. Law ought to be a terror to evil men, not to good.

16. A tribute to God and to Daniel in these words of the king. "Thy God"—Not the gods of Babylon. "Whom thou

servest continually"—Not occasionally, when danger threatens. The lions were not less to be feared than the fiery furnace. Both proved to be harmless.

17. "A stone . . . and the king sealed it"—Useless precautions. Daniel was safer in the den than out of it; for there he met only lions, and in the court he met cruel men.

18. "The king fasting"—As was usual in time of grief or of penitence. His sleep went from him. His conscience may have troubled him. He was the victim of that custom which said, "Always enforce law without discrimination."

20. "With a lamentable voice"—Full of grief at a wrong done.

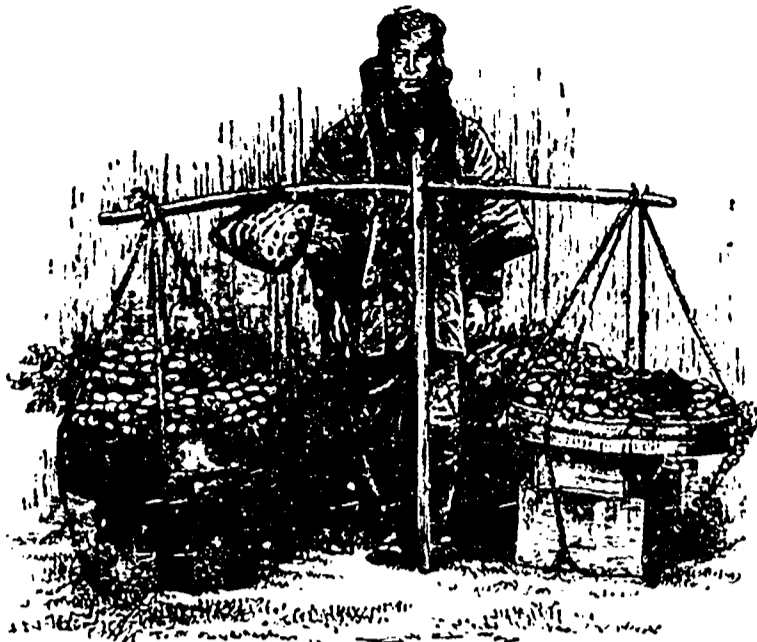
22. "My God"—With great emphasis on the "my" Not the false gods. "His angel"—A divine manifestation. He believed in his God. Faith stops the mouth of lions, as the writer to the Hebrews declares.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Conspiracy against Daniel.—Dan. 6. 1-9.
Tu. Daniel in the den of lions.—Dan. 6. 10-17.
W. Daniel in the den of lions.—Dan. 6. 18-28.
Th. Trust in the Lord.—Psalm 56.
F. God rather than man.—Acts 5. 25-32.
S. Delivered.—2 Tim. 4. 1-8, 16-18.
Su. Be faithful.—Rev. 2. 1-10.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. The Chamber of Prayer, v. 10-13. What foolish and wicked decree had Darius made? Who induced him to make it?



FRUIT VENDOR IN NORTHERN CHINA.

Why did they hate Daniel? What did Daniel do when he knew that the decree was signed?

Why did he pray with his face toward Jerusalem?

Who discovered Daniel praying "as he did aforesaid"?

What question did they ask the king? What did the king reply?

What charge did they make?

2. The Royal Palace, v. 14-19.

How did the king feel when he discovered into what a trap he had been led?

What did he set his heart on? How long did he continue to try to keep Daniel from the lions' den?

Who came to the king at sunset? How did they show the king that it was impossible to set aside his decree?

What command did the king give concerning Daniel?

What did he say to comfort the victim of his decree?

How was the lions' den made secure? Why was the stone sealed?

What other instance of sealing a stone can you recall? Matt. 27. 66.

How did the king pass the night? What did he do early in the morning?

3. The Den of Lions, v. 20-23.

To whom did he call out?

What did he say?

What says Peter about God's power to deliver? 2 Peter 7. 9.

What is our Golden Text?

To whom did Daniel ascribe his safety?

Why had the Lord kept him?

How was the king affected by the reply?

What command did he at once give?

Was Daniel in any way injured?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where in this lesson are we taught—
1. That wrongdoing destroys one's peace?
2. That rightdoing insures God's favour?
3. That it is safe to trust God?

Daniel's trust.—He showed it by keeping right on with what he knew he ought to do. He was not ashamed or



afraid to pray just as before. When a boy says his prayers in bed because he is ashamed to kneel lest others make fun of him, can he expect God to answer him? Trust in God makes us brave.

FRUIT VENDOR NORTHERN CHINA.

In China there are, as might be expected from its vast extent, ranging through twenty degrees of latitude and as many of longitude, great varieties of climate. In the south it is sub-tropical, in the north it is sub-arctic, consequently every variety of product of almost every clime is raised. A peculiarity of the life of this populous nation is the multitude of itinerant vendors of food of all kinds, as will be seen in many of our illustrations. They all carry their burdens on a flexible bamboo pole, generally with a wooden rest to support it when not on their shoulder. The illustration on this page shows a fruit vendor in one of the northern provinces. As will be seen, he is tolerably well equipped against the cold.

FIRST TELEPHONE EXPERIENCE.

An old Scotch woman who had never heard about or seen a telephone, went into a butcher's shop for a rabbit. The butcher had two shops, which were connected by telephone. As they did not have a rabbit in that shop, they telephoned to the other shop and got one sent up. The old lady, on meeting a friend, at once said to her:

"I've just been at the butcher's for a rabbit, and he gaed to a hole in the wa'an' said, 'Bring up a rabbit,' and in twa or three meenits in comes a laddie wi' a rabbit. Ma certie, I'll no eat it; it's no cannie. Ye can dae what ye like wi't."



DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN.