

that he would talk with wicked people at all. He told them he came to seek and to save such people; they were the ones who needed him most. He said if a woman had ten pieces of money and lost one she would spend all her time looking for the lost piece until she found it, and then she would tell her friends and they would be glad with her.

A little girl or boy is worth a great deal more than a lamb or a piece of money, and when any child does wrong Jesus is trying always to bring that little one into the right and safe way again, because he loves each child so much more than any shepherd could love his sheep. If a shepherd were not very loving he might say: "I am not going out after that naughty lamb. If it will not obey me and come when the others do to the safe fold it will just have to stay out on the mountain all night alone and in danger." But a true and good shepherd would want to look for the lost, disobedient lambs and bring them back where they would be safe. Jesus loves the children so much that when they disobey he is very sorry, and is all the time trying to bring them back into the right way; and he says that not only he but all the angels in heaven are glad when a child who has been doing wrong is sorry and wants to do right.

**GOLDEN TEXT FOR THE QUARTER:** "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness." How good the Saviour is to love and watch over us even when we are disobedient!

#### LESSON IV. (Oct. 28.)

##### THE PRODIGAL SON. Luke 15. 11-24.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "I will arise and go to my father." Luke 15. 18.

#### Primary Notes.



**Introductory.** Tell me which is better—doing exactly as we please or doing what we are told to do by some one much wiser than we? Do you always like to do as you are told? It is not always just what you wish to do, is it? But no matter for that. It is best, is it not? When you disobey, and do wrong, do you feel as glad to see papa or mamma as if you had been good

and obedient? When you are really sorry for what you have done—sorry enough to do so no more, what do you say? "Please forgive me?" To forgive is to give back one's place again, as if he had not done wrong. Then the happy feeling comes back, and we love more than we did before. A father once said to his boy, "Don't touch that little box." But one day Arthur wanted a box of that size. He took this down, carried it out on the pavement, opened it carelessly, and spilled some very precious seeds that were so small he could not gather them up. They were all wasted. He was sorry, but did not tell his father. He went to bed, but his heart was so heavy he could not sleep. At last he called his father in, and told him all. When he heard the words, "I forgive you," his heart was full of love and joy. How good his father was! How glad the boy was, now that he had told him all about it and said, "I am sorry!"

**A lesson of forgiveness.** Forgiveness is something so precious that Jesus wanted everyone to understand how God forgives, how loving and tender he is, even to those who disobey and grieve him. Nothing shows our Father's goodness more than this, and we will put the jewel of forgiveness on our crown. Now see how the story shows us the picture of this goodness. It is the story of the prodigal son. Prodigal means wasteful, and one of a certain man's two sons became a prodigal, that is, one who wandered away and wasted what his father had given him. This boy grew tired of staying at home, and asked for the money that was to come to him by and by. The father gave it to him, and the son went off to a far country. His heart was far away, so he took his body away too. He wanted to spend money and have what he called a good time, away from home. In the far country he wasted all his money in eating and drinking and in what he called pleasure. There were plenty to help him waste money. By and by it was all gone. No one cared for the boy then. When he grew hungry he hired himself out to feed pigs. He would have been glad to eat their food, and "no man gave unto him." Then this poor, starving, sinful, sorrowful son began to think of his father and his home. There was bread enough at home, and more than enough. He had nothing, but his father was able to take care of him. Did he love him still? He

F  
GOLDE

Poin  
his fat  
App  
be read  
ing right  
L  
Emphas