

was talking, but in his kingdom there is room for little children, and Jesus wants them to come. One time when some mothers brought their children to Jesus and wanted him to bless them the disciples tried to send them away, but Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God." What he meant was, Let the little children come to me. Do not send them away. I love them, and they have a place in my kingdom.

Children who give up their own way because they love Jesus and want to please him, and who do kind and loving things every day, will be very happy.

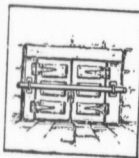
GOLDEN TEXT FOR QUARTER: "Be ye doers of the word." "Let us love in deed and in truth."

LESSON VII. (Aug. 12.)

THE FORGIVING SPIRIT. Matt. 18. 21-35.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Matt. 6. 12.

Primary Notes.



Introductory. Remember the motto for the whole quarter: "Hear and Do." It is not enough to listen; we must do as we are told. Suppose you should spend all your time eating, and never

stir from your place, do you think you would grow in the right way? No, you must run about and play and work. We call this exercising, or using the hands and legs and all the body, and we can't grow and be strong and well without this. Jesus says we must do the things we *know*, just as we must use the strength we have. To-day we have another lesson to listen to and to obey. It is about a forgiving spirit. Have you that sort? A forgiving spirit inside keeps the hands from striking back when another strikes us, keeps the lips from answering back with cross words when other lips speak harsh words to us; it keeps the mind from remembering and thinking about what has hurt our bodies or our feelings, and makes us wish to do good to those who trouble us instead of wishing to "pay them back," as boys and girls sometimes say. Is your spirit like that? To forgive one who has hurt us

in any way is to love him still and to treat him as kindly as if he had done nothing to us. That is hard, is it not? But it is right, and so it is not too hard, or Jesus would not say that we must do it.

Peter's question. Peter wanted to know about this matter of forgiveness, and how often he should forgive his brother, or whoever wronged and hurt him; so he came to Jesus asking how often he ought to do it—seven times? But the answer was, "Not seven times, but seventy times seven." That would be four hundred and ninety times. No one would keep count as far as that, but would keep on forgiving always, and that was what Jesus meant.

The two debtors. Jesus told a story of two debtors, or men who owed something which they ought to pay. One owed many thousands of dollars which he ought to pay back to his master, but could not. When his kind master saw that he had nothing, and could not pay, and the man begged, "Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all," he forgave the debtor all his debt. How thankful the man should have been! But how did he show it? He found another servant in the family who owed him about sixteen dollars, and as he had nothing to pay, and begged for more time to get the money, the servant whose master had forgiven him so much cast his fellow-servant into prison till he should pay the little debt he owed. Then the other servants told the master all about it. He was grieved, and said to the man that as he had himself been forgiven so much he ought to have pity upon his friend and forgive, as he had been forgiven. Since he had had no pity on others, pity could not be shown to him, and now he must go to prison till he could pay his own big debt.

What do we owe? If some one gives us money to use for a while, but not to keep, of course we must pay it back, or we shall be thieves. We must not keep what is not our own. We owe it—that is, we ought to pay it back as soon as we can. What do we owe to God? He gave us our life, and we owe him for that. He gives us our days, and we owe him for that. He gives us all we have, and we owe him for everything good. We have a large debt, you see. We owe love for all these things which God has given, and we owe him obedience and trust. We owe so much that we never can pay all. We often forget and do wrong and make our