

**LITTLE FRED AND THE BUBBLES.**

BY EMMA C. HEWITT.

The pretty balls! O give me one!  
I want to take it out with me  
To play with and to roll around.  
What pretty colours! Let me see!  
He caught the bubble in his hand,  
And lo! he found remaining there  
Naught but a drop of water clear,  
The rest was gone; he knew not where.  
The glittering ball, with colours fair,  
Had turned completely into air.

**LESSON NOTES.**

**FIRST QUARTER.**

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL BY MATTHEW.

LESSON I. [Jan. 2.]

JESUS AND JOHN.

Matt. 3. 7-17. Memory verses, 13-17.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**

This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.—Matt. 3. 17.

**OUTLINE.**

1. John's Address to the Pharisees and Sadducees, v. 7-12.
2. John baptizes Christ, v. 13-15.
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus, v. 16, 17.

**THE LESSON STORY.**

We open the New Year with a series of lessons on the life of Christ as reported by Matthew, one of his disciples, who left his place at the seat of customs and gave up all to follow the Saviour.

In this first lesson we learn of Christ's baptism by John. John was six months older than Jesus, and is called the "Forerunner of Christ." He was the "voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord." He lived in a retired way in the wilderness until he was thirty years old. Then six months before Christ's public appearance he began preaching repentance throughout Judea. He dressed like an ancient prophet and lived on the simplest fare.

One day he was baptizing in the Jordan when some proud, self-righteous Pharisees and Sadducees came to him. These he rebuked by calling them a "generation of vipers," and warned them to be truly repentant instead of making merely a vain show of it. He told them of the Christ to come who would baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire, whose shoe's latchet he was not worthy to unfasten. A little later this same Christ came to him to be baptized. At first John protested, deeming himself unworthy, but Jesus said, "Suffer it to be so now." He wished to set the example and show that he was "numbered with the transgressors," for he had come to bear the "sins of the world."

Therefore he was baptized, and lo! the heavens opened, and the Spirit of God descended upon him like a dove, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

**LESSON HELPS FOR EVERY DAY.**

- Mon.* Study Isaiah 40. 1-5.  
*Tues.* Study Matthew 1. 2.1  
*Wed.* Read of Christ's divine nature. John 1. 1-4; Heb. 1. 2, 3.  
*Thur.* His human nature. His descent. 2 Sam. 7. 12-16.  
*Fri.* John's witness. John 1. 15-28.  
*Sat.* Behold the Lamb! John 1. 29-37.  
*Sun.* Sent before. John 3. 23-26.

**QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON STORY.**

Who was John the Baptist? Where had he passed his youth? What was he called? What does prophecy say of him? What did he preach? Where did he baptize? Who came to him? What did he say to them? Did Jesus come to be baptized? Why? What came down from heaven? What did the voice say?

**LESSONS FOR ME.**

To be truly repentant.  
Not to be a hypocrite.  
To set a good example whenever I can, as Jesus did.

LESSON II. [Jan. 9.]

JESUS TEMPTED.

Matthew 4. 1-11. Memory verses, 4-11.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**

For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.—Heb. 2. 18.

**OUTLINE.**

1. The Testing, v. 1.
2. Temptation Through the Body, v. 2-4.
3. Temptation to Gain Good Things by False Faith, v. 5-7.
4. Temptation to Gain Success by Wrong Doing, v. 8-11.

**THE LESSON STORY.**

Shortly after the baptism of Jesus he went into the wilderness and was there tempted of the devil. This testing battle with evil before he enters on his life-work was the closing event of his preparation. After this Jesus appears among the people and reveals himself as the Messiah, the Saviour of mankind. Jesus was "full of the Holy Ghost," and it was in obedience to the call of the Spirit that he went off to this lonely place. There he remained forty days and forty nights, during which time he fasted, so he was very hungry. The devil, knowing this, thought to tempt him by suggesting to him to change stones into bread, and thereby show his divine power. But this Jesus refused to do, saying, "Man shall not live by bread alone," but that God would provide other kinds of food in his own time and way. Then Satan tried to tempt him in another way by taking him to the top of the

temple and urging him to cast himself down and to prove that he was the Son of God. Angels were to help him. This also Jesus refused to do, though had he wished he could have summoned legions of angels.

Having failed again, Satan resorted to a third method of tempting the Son of God, but in this he failed as utterly as he had done before. He led Jesus to the summit of a mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, saying that he would give him all these things if he would fall down and worship him.

As before, Jesus resisted the entreaties of the tempter and rebuked him by saying, "Get thee hence, Satan," and immediately the tempted and tried, who had conquered sin, was surrounded by angels.

**LESSON HELPS FOR EVERY DAY.**

- Mon.* Jesus tempted. Matt. 4. 1-11.  
*Tues.* "Not by bread alone." Deut. 8. 1-6.  
*Wed.* The tempter. 1 Peter 5. 6-11.  
*Thur.* Safety of the godly. Psalm 91. 1-12.  
*Fri.* Enduring temptation. James 1. 12-17.  
*Sat.* Tempted, but without sin. Heb. 4. 11-16.  
*Sun.* Able to help. Heb. 2. 9 18.

**QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON STORY.**

Where did Jesus go after his baptism? How long was he there? Did he eat during that time? Who came to tempt him? How was Jesus first tempted? What did he reply to the devil? How was he tempted the second time? What reply did he make? What method did Satan try the third time? Did Jesus yield to the wiles of the devil? How did Jesus rebuke Satan? Who came and ministered to Jesus?

**LESSONS FOR ME.**

To resist Satan when he tempts me.  
To turn my back on sin.  
To be strong under temptation and be not afraid to face it.

**A LESSON FOR THE BOYS.**

Donald and Bob were going a-fishing. "Please let me go with you," said their little brother, Jamie.

"No; you can't go," said Donald. Jamie was very angry. He went down to the boat in which his brothers were placing their fishing-tackle. He took out their lunch-box and their net for catching bait, and hid them away. But as soon as the boys were gone he felt ashamed and sorry. He ran to the river-bank with the box and net; but the boys were out of sight, and Jamie sat down and cried.

Donald and Bob were angry when they found out what Jamie had done. So they did not have a very pleasant time. When they got home Jamie came to them saying: "I'm very sorry I took your things; I'll never do so again."

"Well, we're sorry we didn't take you," said the boys.

The best thing to do with a wrong is to own it and ask forgiveness.