

Teachers' Preparation Leaflet

LESSON 11.

SEPTEMBER 9th, 1894.

3rd QUARTER.

Jesus and Nicodemus. John 3: 1-16.

GOLDEN TEXT: "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3: 16.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VERSES 1-3. CHILDREN'S HYMNAL 26, 79, 144, 170.

PROVE THAT—We need new hearts. Ps. 51: 10.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Quest. 92. What is a sacrament? Quest 93. Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?

DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association.)

MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	SATURDAY.	SABBATH.
John 3: 1-16	Num. 21: 4-9	Rom. 8: 1-11	2 Cor. 5: 14-21	Ezek. 36: 22-27	John 6: 25-40	Rom. 8: 31-39

NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS.

INTRODUCTORY. The connection of this narrative with the preceding chapter has been variously understood. Some regard it as an illustration of that penetrating insight into human nature just spoken of; others, of the kind of faith that Jesus accepts in contrast with that of the superficial believers from whom he held himself aloof. There is however, no such logical connection. The evangelist continues his account of the events connected with the first passover. The discourse is given at length because containing important doctrine and it occupies the same place in the gospel of John that the sermon on the mount does in that of Matthew. John may have been present and was able, with the help of the Spirit of inspiration (14: 16) to recall the words of our Lord concerning a doctrine which he had, at the time this book was written, preached for more than half a century. Nicodemus could not have been one of those who believed on Christ for the miracles alone and to whom he did not trust himself, for he takes him thoroughly into his confidence and utters to him in private some of the most important teachings that ever fell from his lips.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Timid Inquirer. vs. 1, 2. II. The New Birth. vs. 3-9. III. The Uplifted Saviour. vs. 10-16.

I. THE TIMID INQUIRER. 1. A man of the Pharisees—"A certain pharisee." This sect observed rigidly, not only all the requirements of the law, but the superadded traditions of the elders." They were orthodox, but unspiritual. They taught that a Jew was saved just by being a Jew, and that there was a place in Abraham's bosom for every circumcised descendent of his. Hence our Saviour's teaching is a surprise to Nicodemus.

NICODEMUS—We know nothing more about him than is told us here and in ch. 7: 50; 19:

36. A RULER—A lay member of the sanhedrim (ch. 7: 50). This court consisted of 70 members and the High Priest was president. It was the supreme tribunal of the nation and held in great veneration.

2. By night—He was one of those referred to in ch. 12: 42. He was in a general way convinced by the miracles of Jesus that he must be a divinely commissioned and divinely supported teacher, and he therefore sought, by a confidential interview, to determine more exactly his half-believing judgment,

The **TEACHER'S PREPARATION LEAFLET** is published weekly by the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee, Presbyterian Church in Canada, at 35 cents a year, or 25c. if four or more copies are sent to one person. Address Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, 107 Hazen Street, St John, N. B. Editing Committee: Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, Jas. Turnbull and Principal Kirkland.