

A LESSON ON FORGIVENESS. Matt. 18: 21-35.

I. GOLDEN TEXT: "Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven." Luke 6: 37.

II. REVIEW THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER: Jesus our Loving Lord.

III. REVIEW THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY'S LESSON: Jesus our Forgiving Lord.

IV. REVIEW:

1. Where did Jesus go with three of His disciples?
2. What were their names?
3. What happened upon the mountain?
4. How does God speak to us?

V. INTERVENING EVENTS, AND SYNOPSIS OF LESSON:—After the transfiguration, Jesus, accompanied by Peter, James and John, came down from the mountain, where they rejoined the other disciples. Here a demoniac boy was cured, whom the disciples could not heal. Again on the way to Capernaum, Jesus prophesied as to the manner of His death and resurrection. On the road the disciples contended who should be the greatest. Jesus saw this contention, and taking a little child, taught them a lesson in humility. He also exhorted them to forbearance, and brotherly love.

On being addressed by Peter with the question "How oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him," Jesus taught them, that Christ's way is better than man's way, and gave them, and us, a "Lesson on Forgiveness." In the lesson we have the parable of the ungrateful servant, who, having been forgiven, forgave not again.

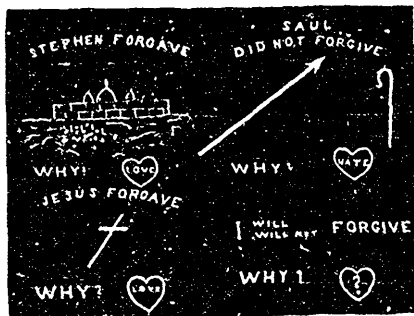
VI. SUGGESTIVE STEPS IN TEACHING THE LESSON:

1. Tell the story of Stephen. (Acts 6 and 7) emphasizing especially the last verse of chapter 7.
2. Write the words "Stephen Forgave." Tell the story of Saul's hatred for David. To gain, and keep attention, as these two stories are being told, draw roughly a picture of the city walls, and some simple dots, or strokes for the men stoning Stephen, and pin to the board a seal and shepherd's crook, as the story of Saul's pursuing David is told.

3. Tell the story of the crucifixion of the Saviour, emphasizing particularly the words "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

4. Tell the story of a boy who though badly treated by another, forgave him. Positive stories, are better than negative ones, but at times it may be necessary, to impress a point, to tell a negative story. In this case it might be well to tell about a boy who would not forgive another. What was the difference between the two boys? Before this question is answered, let us go back and show:

1. That there was love in the heart of Stephen.
2. That there was dislike that quickly grew to hate in the heart of Saul.



3. That though Jesus was being nailed to the cross He so much loved His enemies, even those who were nailing him to the cross, that He forgave them.

4. Teach that if there is any dislike in the heart, it will soon grow to hate, and to worse things. We can never be forgiving until, like Stephen and like Jesus, we are loving.

5. How shall we get love instead of dislike into our hearts?

6. Make Jesus the Lord of the Life.

Stephen did.

Saul did not.

I will.

Our Lord will then fill our hearts with His love.