

Lesson IV.

JESUS REBUKES SELFISHNESS

April 28, 1918

Mark 9 : 33-42. Study Mark 9 : 30-50. *Scripture Memory Verse, Matt. 9 : 25.

Golden Text—If any man would be first, he shall be last of all, and minister of all.—Mark 9 : 35 (Rev. Ver.).

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33 And he came to Caper'naum : and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way ?

34 But they held their peace : for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who *should be* the greatest.

35 And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, *the same* shall be last of all, and servant of all.

36 And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them : and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them,

37 Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me : and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.

38 And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us : and we forbad him, because he followeth not us.

39 But Je'sus said, Forbid him not : for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me.

40 For he that is not against us is on our part.

41 For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not

lose his reward.

42 And whosoever shall offend one of *these* little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Jesus and his disciples went back again to Peter's house in Capernaum, after Jesus had been transfigured on the mountain top. On the way home Jesus had overheard the disciples quarreling with one another, and what do you think it was all about ? They were quarreling about which of them should be greatest ! Now was not that very childish indeed ? We can imagine how very sad Jesus would feel as he listened to them as they walked along the way.

He did not say anything about it at the time, but one evening as he sat in Peter's house he called the twelve disciples to him and asked them to tell him what they were quarreling about that day. They were

ashamed to tell him what it was about, so they did not say anything. Then Jesus said, "If any man would be first, he shall be last of all, and minister of all." And this is our Golden Text. Jesus meant that the greatest one is the one who is willing to be last and willing to wait upon the others in an unselfish, kindly way.

Then Jesus called a little child who was amongst those listening to him. The child came running to him, for the gentle Jesus loved the little children and they knew it and loved him too. The little one, without the least fear, climbed on his knee, just as our picture for to-day's lesson shows us.

Jesus put his arms around the child and the

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