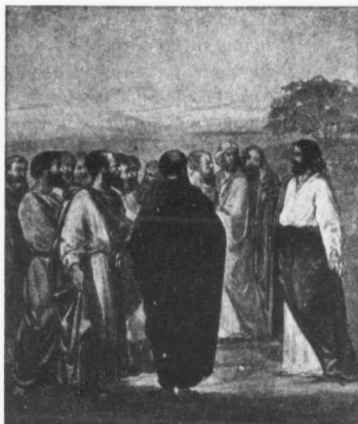


Lesson VIII.

UNPROFITABLE SERVANTS

May 24, 1914

Luke 17 : 1-10—Memory Verses, 3, 4.

Golden Text—He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.—1 Corinthians 1 : 31.

1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come : but woe *unto him*, through whom they come !

2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

3 Take heed to yourselves : If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him ; and if he repent, forgive him.

4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent ; thou shalt forgive him.

5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

6 And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea ; and it should obey you.

7 But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat ?

8 And will not rather say unto him,

Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken ; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink ?

9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him ? I trow not.

10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants : we have done that which was our duty to do.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Emily and little brother love each other. No children in any street of all the town have greater love for each other than Emily and George.

There is a little secret about their love. Mother taught them the secret, and some one else taught mother. Whenever mother speaks a certain word, the children remember the secret. Whenever Emily speaks it, brother remembers. Whenever little George speaks it, Emily remembers.

There are others who have learned the secret, and everyone who has learned it is happier. Because this is so you will want to know it, too.

It is all about the word FORGIVENESS. Jesus taught the lesson. Those who have learned how to forgive, when things go wrong, have learned how to keep love.

It is not always easy to forgive. It was not easy when little brother's clumsy fingers

tore Emily's book. It was not easy when he broke her geranium as he hunted for his ball. It was still harder to forgive when he forgot to close the gate and a strange dog almost caught one of mother Biddie's young chickens.

But little brother asked to be forgiven, and the angry feeling that was almost driving love away was gone. Emily's forgiveness made all things right again.

Jesus taught the best lessons about forgiveness. He Himself forgave many, many times a day.

Jesus said, "Forgive seven times, if thy brother ask it."

Again Jesus said : "Forgive seventy times seven ! Forgive as many times as any one needs to be forgiven !"

Jesus watched the servants plowing the fields and feeding the cattle and sheep. He watched them as they served their masters in good and right ways.