

CHILDREN.

COME to me, O ye children!  
 For I hear you at your play,  
 And the questions that have vexed me  
 Have vanished quite away.

Ye open the eastern windows,  
 That look toward the sun,  
 Where thoughts are singing swallows,  
 And the brooks of morning run.

In your hearts are the birds and the  
 sunshine,  
 In your thoughts the brooklets flow,  
 But in mine is the wind of autumn  
 And the first fall of the snow.

Ah! what would the world be to us  
 If the children were no more?  
 We should dread the desert behind us  
 Worse than the dark before?

What the leaves are to the forest,  
 With light and air for food,  
 Ere their sweet and tender juices  
 Have been hardened into wood.

That to the world are children;  
 Through them it feels the glow  
 Of a brighter and sunnier climate  
 Than reaches the trunks below.

Come to me, O ye children!  
 And whisper in my ear  
 What the birds and winds are singing  
 In your sunny atmosphere.

For what are all our contrivings  
 And the wisdom of our books,  
 When compared with your caresses  
 And the gladness of your looks?

Ye are better than all the ballads  
 That ever were sung or said;  
 For ye are living poems,  
 And all the rest are dead.

—LONGFELLOW.

What is a centurion? An officer in charge of a hundred soldiers.

What did the centurion tell Jesus? "That his servant was sick with the palsy."

What did Jesus answer? "I will come and heal him."

What is Jesus always willing to do? To help those who come to him in faith.

What was the centurion's reply? "I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof."

What did he want Jesus to do? To "speak the word only."

What did he believe? That his servant would be healed.

What did this show? His faith in the power of Jesus.

What did Jesus say? (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

Why might Jesus look for great faith in Israel? Because the Israelites or Jews knew all about him.

What did Jesus say? That many who were not Jews should live in heaven with Abraham and Isaac.

Why so? Because they had the faith of Abraham and Isaac.

What did Jesus say to the centurion? As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee."

What was the reward of his faith? His servant was healed at that moment.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Answer thoughtfully—

Which would you rather have, a sick body or a sin-sick soul?

Have you asked Jesus to make your soul well?

Will he cure all who ask in faith?

"Heal my soul, for I have sinned against thee."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The power of Christ.

Where was Jesus's home? In heaven.

Where did Jesus go with "his" disciples? Out on the Sea of Galilee.

What came suddenly upon them? A great storm of wind and rain.

Where was Jesus? Asleep in the stern of the boat.

How came Jesus to be asleep? He had been healing the sick and preaching, and was very tired.

Why did the disciples wake him? They were afraid.

What must they have forgotten? How strong and loving Jesus was.

What did they say to him? "Lord, save us: we perish!"

How did he answer them? (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT)

What did he do? He arose and rebuked the wind and the sea.

What followed? All was quiet in a moment.

What does this show us? That the winds and waves obey God.

What are far more awful than storms of wind and rain? Angry passions and sinful feelings.

What is Jesus able to do? To drive them away and send peace.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Christ is your safety in time of danger.  
 Christ is your peace in storms of trouble and temptation.  
 You need never feel afraid if he is with you.  
 "ALL power is given unto ME in heaven and in earth."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Following Christ.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

Why does not God take away the wicked at once? He gives sinners time to repent.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW.

A.D. 28.] LESSON I. [Oct. 2.

THE CENTURION'S FAITH.

Matt. 8. 5-13. Commit to mem. vs. 8-10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. Matt. 8. 10.

OUTLINE.

1. The Centurion.
2. His Great Faith.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who came to Jesus at Capernaum? A Roman centurion.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

Will all men be judged hereafter? Yes, we must all be judged at the last day.

A.D. 28.] LESSON II. [Oct. 9.

THE TEMPEST STILLED.

Matt. 8. 18-27. Commit to memory vs. 24-27.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Matt. 8. 26.

OUTLINE.

1. Faith Needed.
2. Faith Tested.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who came to Jesus and wanted to live with him? A teacher of the law of Moses.  
 What did Jesus tell him? That he had no home on earth.

"HIM THAT COMETH."

"HIM that cometh." It does not say when. He may be seventy; if he cometh, he is not cast out. He may be but seven—and, thank God, there have been many boys and girls who have come even at that age—but he will not cast them out. Your candle may be little more than a snuff, but he will not quench it; or it may be newly lit; he will accept either. The full-blown rose or the flower in the bud shall be alike received by his gracious hand. Some came to Jesus when he was on earth; he did not cast them out. A long file of sinners saved by grace has been streaming up from the cross to the crown ever since, and not one of them has ever been rejected.—Rev. O. H. Spurgeon.