

God except through him? Who are thieves and robbers? Why? What blessing will come to those who enter by the door? What is life here? What is it to have life abundantly?

IV. JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD (vs. 8-18).—What qualities of a good shepherd has Jesus? Who are the sheep? What is the fold? From whom does Jesus defend? Where does he guide? What are the pastures? In what respects does he go before the sheep? What is meant by giving his life for the sheep? Who is meant by the hireling? By the wolf? What by knowing his sheep? Who are the other sheep? What is the one flock? What qualities do you find here describing the sheep? Meaning of v. 17.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. The fold is the kingdom of God, the true church.
2. The sheep are those who trust in Jesus, follow him, obey him, know him.
3. Their enemies are those who teach false doctrine, set bad examples, instil wrong principles, and seek their own advantage at the expense of the flock.
4. The good shepherd (1) leads his flock to the green pastures of truth, righteousness, love, communion with God. (2) He knows each sheep by name; loves each as an individual, guides and directs each one in the best way for him. (3) He guards and defends from all evil. (4) He seeks the wandering. (5) He gives his life for the sheep.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

6. To what did Jesus compare his people? **ANS.** To sheep who obeyed their shepherd. 7. To what did he compare himself? **ANS.** To the door of the sheepfold. 8. To whom did he liken himself? **ANS.** To a good shepherd. 9. What does the good shepherd do? **ANS.** He knows, guides, guards, feeds, and gives his life for the sheep. 10. Repeat the Shepherd Psalm.

A.D. 30.] LESSON III. [July 18.

THE DEATH OF LAZARUS.

John 11. 1-16. Commit vs. 1-4.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.—John 11. 11.]

CENTRAL TRUTH.

God's seeming delays in helping his children are to bring larger and better blessings.

DAILY READINGS.

M. John 10. 19-42. Tu. John 11. 1-16. W. Luke 10. 38-42. Th. John 12. 1-11. F. Ps. 30. 1-12. Sa. Isa. 25. 1-9. Su. 2. Cor. 4. 1-18.

TIME.—January to February, A.D. 30. Three months after the last lesson.

PLACE.—Jesus was at Bethabara, beyond Jordan, in Perea. Lazarus was at his home in Bethany, about two miles south-east of Jerusalem, on the Mount of Olives.

INTERVENING HISTORY.—In the three months between the last lesson and this we must place Matt., chap 11, and Luke 9. 51 to 17. 10, including several miracles and parables.

JESUS.—33 years old, having completed more than three years of his ministry. Two or three months before his crucifixion.

INTRODUCTION.—After the parable of the good shepherd Jesus makes his final departure from Galilee, sends out the 70 in Samaria, crosses the Jordan into Perea, where he slowly journeys to Jerusalem, reaching there about the time of the Feast of Dedication, in December, A.D. 29. At this feast he speaks the words following in John, our last lesson, chap. 10. 22-39, and then he retires to Bethabara, in Perea, beyond Jordan, where we find him at the opening of to-day's lesson.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. Lazarus.—The Greek form of Eleazar. He and his sisters had a home in Bethany, at which Jesus loved to stay. 2. That Mary.—The anointing here spoken of took place later, John 12. 27. 3. Sent unto him.—At Bethabara beyond Jordan, 10-40—about 30 miles. 4. Sickness not unto death.—Death would not be the final result. For the glory of God—(1) By showing his divine power in raising up Lazarus; (2) in strengthening the faith of the family and the disciples; (3) in leading many to believe; (4) in giving comfort through all ages in the hours of sickness and death by the assurance of immortal life; (5) in leading to the crucifixion and thus the

glorification of Jesus. 6. Therefore.—Because Jesus loved them. He abode two days still—So that all would know that Lazarus was dead and the resurrection was by divine power. 8. Of late.—A month or two before; chap. 10. 31. 9. Twelve hours.—A definite limit set by God himself. If any man walk in the day—Symbolizing the time and place appointed by God, in the way of duty, guided, enlightened, and strengthened by God. So long as he was about God's business, his enemies could not harm him till God's time came.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Lazarus.—The home at Bethany.—How we can have a home where Jesus will love to be.—How the sickness of Lazarus was for the glory of God.—v. 9.—Sleep as a type of death.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—Where was Jesus in our last lesson? How long between that lesson and this? What took place in the interval? Where was Jesus at the time of to-day's lesson? How long was it before his crucifixion?

SUBJECT: LESSONS FROM THE SICKNESS OF LAZARUS.

I. THE FAMILY THAT JESUS LOVED (vs. 1, 2, 5).—Where did this family live? Name the members of it. By what act was one of them widely known? (v. 2; ch. 12. 3-7.) Why did Jesus love this family? What blessings would this friendship bring? Will Jesus be a member of your family? (John 14 17, 20 21.) What must we do to have his presence? (John 14 15, 23; 15. 10; Luke 24 29.) What proofs can you find that this family loved Jesus? (Ch. 12. 2-7; Luke 10 38,42.)

II. SICKNESS IN THE FAMILY (vs. 1-4).—Which one of this family was taken sick? What did his sisters do for him? How far away was Jesus? Should we do the same in case of sickness? In what way would you send to him? Does this require that we should not use every means in our power to be cured?

III. JESUS' MYSTERIOUS DEALINGS WITH THE AFFLICTED (vs. 4 10, 15).—What did Jesus say was the object of this sickness? Did Lazarus die? How was his sickness to the glory of God? Why did Jesus remain two days before he went to help his loved friends? In what ways was this delay a benefit to the family? How to the disciples? (v. 15.) In what ways may we gain good from sickness? Why did the disciples hesitate to go back to Judea? What was Jesus' reply? What did he mean here by "walk in the day," "walk in the night"? Apply this to yourselves.

IV. THE STEEP TO DEATH (vs. 11-16).—When about to go to Bethany, what did Jesus say to Lazarus? What did his disciples think he meant? What did he mean? In what respects is death like sleep?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. Blessed is the home where Jesus loves to dwell.
2. We may have such a home, (1) by casting out all that is uncongenial to him; (2) by cultivating those qualities which are pleasing to him; (3) by inviting him to come.
3. Sickness and sorrow come to every household.
4. We should go to Jesus for guidance and help.
5. God's mysterious delays are for the purpose of bringing to us a higher good.
6. There is a time appointed for all our duties, and help given from God to do them.
7. The duties must be done at the time, and with God's light, or there will be failure.
8. Death is like sleep, (1) in unconsciousness; (2) in continued existence at the same time; (3) in the fact that there is an awakening.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. What family did Jesus love? **ANS.** That of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, of Bethany. 12. What betell one of them? **ANS.** Lazarus was taken dangerously sick. 13. What did his sisters do? **ANS.** They sent word to Jesus beyond Jordan. 14. What did Jesus do? **ANS.** He remained two days before he went to help them. 15. For what purpose? **ANS.** That he might do greater things, and teach them higher lessons.

CONDUCT is the great profession. Behavior is the perpetual revealing of us. What a man does tells us what he is.

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