

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book.)

LESSON IX.

Dec. 2, 1883. [1 Sam. 18: 1-16.]

DAVID'S ENEMY—SAUL.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VS. 14, 16.

1. And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.
2. And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.
3. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.
4. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword and to his bow, and to his girdle.
5. And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.
6. And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music.
7. And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.
8. And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?
9. And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.
10. And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times; and there was a javelin in Saul's hand.
11. And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.
12. And Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, and was departed from Saul.
13. Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand: and he went out and came in before the people.
14. And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the Lord was with him.
15. Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.
16. But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the Lord was with him."—1 SAM. 18: 14.

TOPIC.—Safety in God's favor.

LESSON PLAN.—1. THE KING'S ENVY EXCITED, VS. 1-3. 2. HIS ATTEMPT TO KILL DAVID, VS. 9-11. 3. HIS SNARES TO DESTROY HIM, VS. 12-16.

Time.—B.C. 1063. **Place.**—Gibeath.

LESSON NOTES.

V. 1. KNIT WITH—as threads are intertwined so that they seem to be but one. (Compare Gen. 41: 30.) V. 2. GO NO MORE—that is, to stay permanently. V. 3. MADE A COVENANT—entered into an agreement of perpetual friendship. V. 4. ROBE—outer garment. GARMENTS—military coat. GIRDLE—it was customary to make presents of richly-embroidered girdles as tokens of friendship. Jonathan removed the garments of the shepherd and clothed David with the garb of a prince, thus admitting him to an equality with himself. V. 5. WENT OUT—on military expedition. WISELY—prudently. ACCEPTED—approved. V. 6. PHILISTINE—here used as a noun of multitude; it probably refers to victories gained in the expeditions spoken of in V. 5. THE WOMEN CAME OUT—this was the custom in ancient times: the men fought; the women greeted them when they returned from battle. CITIES OF ISRAEL—through which the returning armies passed. TABRETS—tabourines. INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC—literally, "three-stringed" or "three-sided" instruments; either the lute with three strings or the triangle, probably the latter. V. 7. ANSWERED—sang responsively, one chorus to another. One part probably sang "SAUL HATH SLAIN," etc., and the other responded "DAVID," etc. V. 9. EYED DAVID—looked upon him with envy. V. 10. THE EVIL SPIRIT FROM GOD—a demon; a case of demoniacal possession like those mentioned in the New Testament. PROPHESED—raved in a frantic manner under the impulse of the demon. PLAYED—upon the harp, as before (ch. 16: 16), to quiet his ravings. V. 13. REMOVED HIM FROM HIM—dismissed him from his court, and sent him to his army with a military command as an honorable exile. WENT OUT AND CAME IN—attended to his official duties. V. 14. THE LORD WAS WITH HIM—prospered him in all his undertakings. V. 15. WAS AFRAID OF HIM—men are often afraid of those they have injured. V. 16. LOVED DAVID—the very means used to diminish his influence brought him into more public notice and advanced him in the esteem of the nation.

TEACHINGS:

1. An unselfish spirit gives true nobility to its possessor.
2. A selfish and jealous spirit makes men murderers in heart, if not in act.
3. Wisdom and prudence in our conduct have great power to disarm malice and multiply friends.
4. God will overrule, and finally bring to naught, the counsels of the wicked.
5. He will take care of his servants, and give them what is far better than earthly honor.

LESSON X.

Dec. 9, 1883. [1 Sam. 20: 32-42.]

DAVID'S FRIEND—JONATHAN.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VS. 41-42.

32. And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? what hath he done?
33. And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David.
34. So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no meat the second day of the month; for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame.
35. And it came to pass in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad with him.
36. And he said unto his lad, Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot. And as the lad ran he shot an arrow beyond him.
37. And when the lad was come to the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried after the lad, and said, Is not the arrow beyond thee?
38. And Jonathan cried after the lad, Make speed, haste, stay not. And Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows, and came to his master.
39. But the lad knew not anything: only Jonathan and David knew the matter.
40. And Jonathan gave his artillery unto his lad, and said unto him, Go, carry them to the city.
41. And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.
42. And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying, The Lord be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed; and Jonathan went into the city.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."—PROV. 18: 24.

TOPIC.—True Christian Friendship.

LESSON PLAN.—1. JONATHAN INTERCEDES FOR DAVID, VS. 32-34. 2. HE WARNS HIM OF HIS DANGER, VS. 35-40. 3. HE RENEWS HIS COVENANT WITH HIM, VS. 41-42.

Time.—B.C. 1062. **Place.**—At the stone Ezel, near Gibeath.

LESSON NOTES.

V. 32. JONATHAN ANSWERED—at the risk of further enraging his father, he stands firmly by his absent friend. WHAT HATH HE DONE—a true answer would have been David's best defence. V. 33. CAST A JAVELIN AT HIM—Jonathan's defence of David only added fuel to his father's rage. V. 34. IN FIERCE ANGER—at the unreasonable conduct of his father. WAS GRIEVED FOR DAVID—he did not resent the insult offered to himself so much as the wrong done to his friend. V. 35. MORNING—of the third day. (See V. 19.) V. 36. SAID UNTO HIS LAD—this was the signal agreed upon to signify to David that he must flee for his life. V. 38. HASTE, STAY NOT—words spoken to the boy, but intended for David. V. 39. KNEW NOT—did not understand the meaning of what he had seen and done. V. 40. ARTILLERY—an old English word used for weapons, as bow and arrows. GO—he wished no one to witness his interview with David. V. 41. FELL ON HIS FACE . . . BOWED—in token of gratitude and loyalty to Jonathan as the king's son. KISSED . . . WEPT affection, gratitude, sorrow. V. 42. GO IN PEACE—it was not safe to linger, and he hastens his friend's departure. FORASMUCH AS WE HAVE SWORN—they had made this covenant of friendship at their first acquaintance (ch. 18: 3); they had confirmed it when they were last together (vs. 14-17); they now renewed it at parting. Then they parted to meet only once more.

TEACHINGS:

1. Selfishness leads to hatred, hatred to malice, and malice to murder.
 2. We should choose our friends among the good and the true.
 3. True friendship will stand firm in time of trial, reproach and danger.
- It is disinterested and self-sacrificing.
5. Jesus is a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

THE LORD'S MONEY.

"Bertie, Bertie, isn't this a shame?" cried little Caspar Deems, as he held up a silver quarter for his older brother Jim to look at.

It was a bright quarter, and at first sight there was nothing the matter with it, but closer inspection showed that it had been bored, and the hole had afterwards been carefully filled up.

"They wouldn't take it where I bought my slate," said Caspar ruefully, "and then I tried to pass it at the candy-shop, and the lady shook her head, and when I offered it to the conductor of the car, he was quite cross, and asked me if I didn't know how to read. When I said 'Yes, of course I did,' he pointed to a notice in big letters, 'No mutilated coin received here.' What shall I do with it?" finished the little fellow with a sigh.

"You have no idea who gave it to you, have you, Caspar?" said Bertie.

"Not the least. It is part of the change I had from Uncle John's Christmas gift to me."

"Well, you must be sharper next time. Now, if I were you, I would put it into the Missionary Box. The Society will work it off somehow."

"But I don't want to put a whole quarter in the box."

"It is not a whole quarter, Casp, it's a quarter that's had a hole in it. Nobody'll take it from you. You may just as well get rid of it in that way as any other."

Bertie and Caspar Hall were in their father's library when this conversation took place. They thought themselves alone. But just on the other side of a curtain which divided the room from the parlor, their little cousin Ethel was sitting. As Caspar moved towards the mantel where the family missionary box stood in plain sight, Ethel drew the curtain aside and spoke to him.

"Boys," she said, "I did not mean to listen but I could not help overhearing you, and Caspar, dear, don't drop that quarter into the box, please."

"Why not, Ethel?"

"The Lord's money goes into that box."

Bertie looked up from his Latin grammar to meet the glowing face of the little girl. Her eyes were shining, and her lip quivered a little, but she spoke gravely.

"It was the lamb without blemish, don't you know that the Hebrews were to offer to the Lord. If you saw Jesus here in this room, you wouldn't like to say, 'I give this to Thee, because nobody else will have it.' It was gold, frankincense, and myrrh the wise men offered the infant Jesus."

The boys drew nearer Ethel. She went on.

"It isn't much we can give to him who gave himself to us, but I believe we ought to give him our best, and what costs us something. Excuse me, but it seems mean to drop a battered coin into God's treasury, just to get it out of sight."

Caspar and Bertie agreed with Ethel. They were about to do wrong from want of thought. Are there no older people who should remember that the Lord's money ought to be perfect, and of our best?—M. E. Sangster.

DIRECT ANSWERS.

"Aunt Patsy," said I, "I believe in direct, immediate answers to prayer, and I know you do, but I do not think I ever experienced one; at least I cannot now put my finger on any special event, and say that it came as an answer to prayer—can you?"

"I have no doubt, my dear," answered my sweet, quiet old lady, "that in my long life I have had many prayers answered, which I have not the grace to remember; some that I do remember, I could not talk about, even to you; but if it will strengthen your hold on God's willingness to hear and answer his children, in things small and great, I will tell you of two experiences which lie so far back that I can with less hesitation lift the silence with which we do well to cover those solemn mysteries."

"Years ago, when I was a young mother, with a nursery full of little ones, I was unavoidably alone with them in our country home for some weeks. During a bad spell of weather Reuben was seized with croup, and as baby Will's eye-teeth pressed more and more, his high fever and disordered condition made me very uneasy about him. I was in feeble health myself at the time, and I remember one stormy night when Reuben was drawing harsh, painful breaths in his sleep, and coughing in that sharp metallic way, and baby was tossing in a burning fever, and I myself utterly prostrated with nights of watching and days of anxiety, I locked my doors, and threw myself on the bed, too much exhausted even to kneel; but from my great need and helplessness went up a cry for strength to meet whatever God should send, and then I went to sleep, between these two sick children! And Reuben did not cough again that night, and I waked the next morning, when the sun came in at the window to find Will in such a gentle, moist slumber as he had not known for a week. 'He knoweth our frame and remembereth that we are dust.'"

"The other experience takes hold of higher things. For many years after I had been a member of the church, I had a dearly loved friend who did not make any public profession of faith, though her hope was the same as mine, and her daily life gave surer proof of her walk with God. I grieved exceedingly over the difficulties that held her

back, and on one communion Sunday, when she left my side and sat among those who did not call themselves God's children, I felt as if I could no longer bear the separation. I resolved to make it a matter of special intercession, not only in my daily prayers, but particularly during the Sunday morning church hour that by the next communion season, which occurred in three months, she might share the blessed privilege with me. I asked my father and mother, and my two brothers and their wives, to join me in this petition at that eleven o'clock hour of prayer on Sunday morning, when almost all the Christian world turn their faces heavenward but I said nothing of all this to the friend herself.

"It shames me to say how much surprise mingled with my joy, when, a few days before the next communion, she said to me, 'M—, I have been to see the Session, and am to be admitted to church membership next Sunday.'"

"I had knocked, like the boy in the story, and had not waited for the answer. But our Father is always more ready to give than we are to receive."

"And now, my dear, let me remind you of a sentence of Bishop French, which is better than anything I can have to tell you: 'Prayer is not an overcoming of God's reluctance, but a laying hold of his highest willingness.'—*Illustrated Christian Weekly*."

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