

II. A LESSON IN TOLERANCE.—51-56. *Should be received up*; into heaven after his crucifixion. *Stedfastly set his face*; with determination, even though it meant a cross. *Sent messengers*. A large company followed Jesus, which had to be prepared for in advance. *Did not receive him*. The Samaritans were bitterly hostile to the Jews, because, long ago, they had been refused a share in building the temple. They had a rival temple on Mount Gerizim. *Will thou that we command fire*. James and John show signs of a fiery disposition. This is possibly why they were called "Sons of Thunder." *As Elias did*; when he consumed Ahaziah's messengers, 2 Kings 1 : 10-12. *What manner of spirit ye are of*. It was anger, not love, that prompted the proposal. *Not come to destroy . . . but to save*. The proposal was very human and very natural. But Jesus' spirit was divine. His kingdom could not come by methods of violence or compulsion.

## Lesson Questions

About what did the disciples dispute?  
How does Jesus reprove them?  
What does Jesus teach about neutrality?  
What was wrong in the proposal of James and John?

## For Further Study and Discussion

1. When does the same dispute arise? (Luke 22 : 24-26.)
2. When were the Samaritans refused part in building the temple? (Ezra 4 : 2-4.)
3. Is war unchristian?
4. Can a true Christian be unselfish?

PROVE FROM SCRIPTURE—That none are neutral in the cause of Christ.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Ques. 79.

## THE LESSON IN DAILY LIFE (Daily Readings)

**Monday**—Jesus corrects John's narrowness, Luke 9 : 46-56.

There is a zeal according to knowledge, and a zeal which is not according to knowledge. John's zeal was born of love, but not guided by vision. John's proposal was the contradiction of the very spirit of Christ's mission. The right motive is not enough. There must be the right method.

**Tuesday**—The value of the little ones, Matt. 18 : 1-6, 10-14.

We have too much childishness among us and too little childlikeness. The child has no subtle sins and motives. This openness and frankness of motive Jesus enjoins on his disciples.

**Wednesday**—Doing good in Jesus' name, Mark 9 : 38-50.

Jesus demands moral surgery, ruthless, remorseless, relentless. But above all, this moral surgery is to be exercised not on others, but on ourselves. It is our offending eye that we are to pluck out. It is our offending hand we are to cut off. To others we are to be kind, tender-hearted, forgiving.

**Thursday**—Of such is the kingdom, Mark 10 : 13-16.

Joseph Parker calls this the Magna Charta of the children. It is good that Jesus set a child in the midst of men. It is better that he called them to himself, and took them up in his arms and blessed them, showing that they were set in the midst of his love.

**Friday**—The centurion's servant healed, Matt. 8 : 5-13.

The centurion's faith was strong and straight and enduring as a Roman road. He expresses his faith, not like a courtier, in many words, but like a soldier, in few words. Every manifestation of faith gladdens the heart of Jesus. To have faith in Jesus is simply to believe in him.

**Saturday**—God's fellow-workers, 1 Cor. 3 : 1-9.

We are God's fellow workers. We are God's tilled fields. We are God's temple. In this way, Paul sought to lift the minds of the Corinthian Christians above the things that did not matter, to the things that did matter. All our strife is about life's lesser and lower things.

**Sunday**—Fellow-citizens with the saints, Eph. 2 : 11-22.

The temple has its upholding pillars, illuminating windows, inviting doors, protecting arches, but all these are but parts of one whole. So Christians have different gifts and responsibilities, but they form parts of one great temple in Christ. Christianity knows of no differences that divide.

## A PRAYER

Speak to our hearts, Lord Jesus, that we may appreciate thy love. We are slow to understand thee, so slack in following thee, so half-hearted in our devotion to thee. O for a will to do thy will, a desire to yield to thee, a heart to love thee without hesitation. Amen.