

SUNDAY
SCHOOL

The Quiet Hour

YOUNG
PEOPLE

APPLICATION.*

By Rev. W. J. Clark, London, Ont.

My Father is the husbandman, v. 1. The cure of fretfulness is belief in a Father. There are hard things in life—of course there are, and every one of them is needed to correct our faults and develop our character. But how it eases the burden, and brightens the darkest places, to know that a Father's hand is controlling and directing, that a Father's heart is planning all that comes to us. And such a Father!—One made known to us in Jesus Christ, the strongest and wisest and tenderest of Elder Brothers. Not a single needless trial, we know, shall we have to endure—and the end of it all, how blessed: to make us fruitful in Christlike words and deeds.

Every branch that beareth not fruit, he taketh away, v. 2. When a stream in its flow comes to an obstacle, it either wears it through, so that it becomes part of the channel, or else makes its way around it, forming a new channel. In some way the hindrance must be got rid of. The grace of Christ is like the stream. It flows out from Him to bless the world. We are either obstacles or channels. Oh, the pity of it, to be a hindrance needing to be put out of the way when we might be blessed ourselves and the bearers of blessing to others!

Clean through the word which I have spoken, v. 3. The linen lying on the grass absorbs the rays of the sun until it shines with a dazzling whiteness. That is a picture of how the rays of truth from the teachings of Christ transform the heart naturally full of selfishness, pride, ambition, impurity, yes, all kinds of evil, into a heart reflecting His own loveliness. And the word of Christ has made this wonderful change so often, that we are sure it will not fail in our own case. What it has done for others, it will do for us.

Abide in me, and I in you, v. 4. Faith is always and everywhere a bond of union. It is so in our homes. The family is held together by the mutual confidence of husband and wife, parents and children, brothers and sisters. It is so in the business of life. For at every turn we have to trust one another, or the most ordinary transactions would become impossible. And faith binds us to the unseen Saviour, so closely that in all we do, we may draw upon His strength and wisdom. His followers dwell with Him in the closest of all unions. There is no task or temptation in

which His humblest and weakest follower may not receive the fulness of His might.

Apart from me ye can do nothing (Rev. Ver.), v. 5. We like to be independent. We admire the man who has made his own way in the world. But the most independent man in the world must receive from God as a free gift such blessings as sunlight and fresh air. Without these he could not work, or even live. We resolve and strive to be honest and truthful and pure. And this determination and effort is right, and worthy of praise. At the same time we should remember our dependence upon Christ for help. Without Him we shall fail. And it is no more humiliating to depend upon His grace than to depend on God for light and air. Indeed the smallest spark of love will transform dependence into delight.

Ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you, v. 7. A big promise; but it is a great Giver, and Almighty, who makes it. It hangs, too, upon but a little peg—"If." But the "if" goes deep: "If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you." It goes to the very heart of things. The case is practically this:—If we are one with the blessed Lord Christ in heart and will, all our prayers will be granted. Does this seem arbitrary? Or is it favoritism? Nay, for we and Christ are one; we shall not ask anything but what is proper to be done for us; and besides, we are heirs to that sweepingly gracious assurance that the Father in heaven who gave His Son for us will "with Him also freely give us all things."

That ye bear much fruit, v. 8. And what is the fruit of which Christ here speaks? Surely there need be no question as to that. Reverent, loving thoughts of Himself; kindly, helpful words and deeds for the blessing of our fellowmen; patient, quiet submission to whatever burden is laid upon one; in other words, to be like Himself, this it is to bear fruit; this it is to glorify our Father in heaven.

If ye keep my commandments, v. 10. James was beheaded and Peter was crucified for keeping their Lord's commandments. And many another disciple has suffered for obedience. What then? Were they the losers thereby? Not if this is a sure word of God; for obedience but opened wider for them their hearts of love, and who that has enjoyed even one hour only of the bliss of Christ's love would grudge life itself as the price thereof?

This is my commandment, v. 12. A "new commandment" He had called it (ch. 13:34), because the love to which it referred and to which it called was new in the world. They were to love one another, as He had loved them. What is the measure? Beth-

lehem, Nazareth and Calvary life for men's service, the death for men's salvation. So are we to love one another, with the love that gives, not merely asks. Must we so sacrifice ourselves? It is His commandment; and it is itself the commandment of love, for in our case it will be, as it was in His, that service and suffering shall be found the pathway to the joy and the glory.

MAKE ROOM FOR GOD.

"Make room for God." Ring out the urgent message.

Loud through the land, and clear in every heart

What though it means an absolute surrender

Of that part from which we thought we ne'er could part?

What though it means the yielding of earth's treasures.

Things which are fair, yet very quickly fade?

'Tis to the empty heart the Master cometh, 'Tis in the weak His strength is perfect made.

Look up and see the glory of the Godhead! Flash in the face of Jesus Christ thy Lord,

Canst thou not trust Him to fulfil thy longing?

He giveth joy the world can ne'er afford.

Open the door to Him who ever knocketh, Waiting and honing—coveting His own Yea! He's thy King, then bow thee and adore Him, Welcome His rule within thee—His alone.

Make room for God. Stand still and view the wonders.

He waits to work within thy restless soul.

See how His light, the darkness overcoming,

Shines through thy life, illuminates the whole.

Make room for Him, the Holy One so mighty,

That e'en to thee He now can freely give

Of that deep love which drew Him from high heaven,

Down to this earth, that men through Him might live.

Would'st thou be victor 'mid the battle's raging?

Would'st thou be kept in trials great and small?

Would'st do God service which will stand the fire?

Make room for Him. Let Him be all in all.

—F. M. H. L. in South African Pioneer

The study of God's Word will secure peace. Take those Christians who are rooted and grounded in the Word of God, and you will find they have great peace. It is those that do not study their Bible, who are easily offended when some little trouble comes, or some little persecution. Just a little breath of opposition, and their peace is all gone.—D. L. Moody.

Men of little minds are the hardest to convince.

*S. S. Lesson, May 7, 1905.—John 15:1-12. Commit to memory vs. 5, 6. Read chs. 14, 15.

Golden Text—Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit.—John 15:8.