

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From the "Little Pilgrim Question Book," by Mrs. W. Barrows. Congregational Publishing Society, Boston.)

LESSON II.—JULY 14.

THE CHILDHOOD OF JESUS.—Luke ii. 40-52.

- 40. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon him.
41. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.
42. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.
43. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.
44. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.
45. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.
46. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them and asking them questions.
47. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.
48. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee, sorrowing.
49. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?
50. And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.
51. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.
52. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man."—Ver 52.

- 1. Where was the home of Jesus in his youth?
ANS. In Nazareth.
2. What kind of a child would you expect him to be?
3. What kind of a child was he? Ver. 40.
4. Do we know much about his early years.
ANS. Very little.
5. Why did his parents go to Jerusalem every year? Ver. 41.
6. What does this show us?
ANS. That they were religious people.
7. How old was he at this time when they took him with them? Ver. 42.
8. Had he ever been at Jerusalem before?
ANS. Yes; he was carried into the temple at Jerusalem when about three months old.
9. Who saw him there, and thanked God that they had lived to see the saviour?
ANS. The aged Simeon, and Anna the prophetess.
10. How did Jesus and his parents take this long journey to Jerusalem?
ANS. They went on foot, with a large company of neighbors and friends.
11. What took place when the feast was ended? Ver. 43-45.
12. When and where did they find him? Ver. 46.
13. What did the learned men think of this boy twelve years old? Ver. 47.
14. What do you think they were talking about?
ANS. About the love of God, and other sacred things.
15. Do children of that age generally know much about such things?
16. How did the child Jesus know about them?
ANS. He was the Son of God, and knew every thing.
17. When they found him, what did his mother say to him? Ver. 48.
18. What was his reply? Ver. 49.
19. What did he mean by this?
ANS. That he had a special work to do for his heavenly Father, and he wondered that his parents did not know it.
20. Is it strange that they did not understand better who he was?
ANS. It seems so to us, for they had been told many times, and even by the angels of God.

- 21. After this visit to Jerusalem, what did Jesus do? Ver. 51.
22. What is meant by his being "subject" unto his parents?
ANS. That he was an obedient, faithful child.
23. How can you imitate him?
24. When you read of Christ's early life, what should it make you remember?
ANS. That he knows the feelings of children, and can understand all their joys and sorrows.
25. What is the Golden Text? Ver. 51.
26. Can it ever be true of any other child besides Jesus?
27. Does this lesson make the Saviour seem any nearer to you than he did before?
Motto for this week.

"NEARER, MY GOD, TO THEE."

LESSON III.—JULY 21.

MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.—Luke iii. 15-22.

- 15. And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ or not;
16. John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire;
17. Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

- 18. And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.
19. But Herod the tetrarch, being reproved by him for Herodias his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done.
20. Added yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison.
21. Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened.
22. And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven which said, Thou art my beloved son; in thee I am well pleased.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"For he shall be Great in the sight of Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink." Luke i. 15.

- 1. Who was John the Baptist?
ANS. A wonderful preacher in Judæa.
2. What prophets had foretold what he would do, hundreds of years before he was born?
ANS. Isaiah and Malachi.
3. What did the angel Gabriel tell his father?
ANS. That he should be filled with the Holy Ghost from his birth.
4. What else did the angel Gabriel say of him? Golden Text.
5. What is it to be "great in the sight of the Lord"?
ANS. To be brave and strong in doing the Lord's work.
6. Do you think his not drinking wine or strong drink helped him to be great?
7. What was his special work?
ANS. To prepare the people to receive Christ.
8. How did he do this?
ANS. He told them of their sins, and begged them to repent and be forgiven.
9. Why was he called the Baptist?
ANS. Because he baptized great multitudes of those who repented.
10. What did some people think of him? Ver. 15.
11. What did John say to this? Ver. 16.
12. Do you understand what he means?
ANS. That Christ was so much above him that he was not worthy even to take off His shoes. (Teacher will describe sandals, &c.)
13. Was John proud, or humble?
14. Can one be humble and yet bold and brave?
15. What else did John say of Jesus? Ver. 17.
16. To what does this refer?
ANS. To the Jewish custom of threshing grain, and separating the wheat from the chaff.
17. Who are meant by the wheat and the chaff?
ANS. The righteous and the wicked.
18. Who came one day among the multitude, to be baptized by John?
ANS. Jesus.
19. How old was he at this time?
ANS. About thirty years of age.
20. Where had he been all the eighteen years since he talked with the doctors in the temple?
ANS. Probably living quietly at Nazareth with his parents.
21. What wonderful things occurred when John baptized him? Ver. 21, 22.
22. Could those who saw and heard these things doubt that he was the son of God?
23. Of what is baptism a sign?
ANS. Of being consecrated, or appointed, to some special work.
24. Some time after the baptism of Christ, who put John in prison?
ANS. Herod the king, because John had boldly reproved him for his sins.
25. Did John ever come out of that prison alive?
ANS. No: his head was taken off there by the king's order.
26. Was John right, or wrong, in telling King Herod of his wickedness?
27. Is it better to die than to do wrong?
Promise for me if I am trying to do right.

"FEAR NOT: I WILL HELP THEE."

LESSON IV.—JULY 28.

JESUS AT NAZARETH.—Luke iv. 16-30.

- 16. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up to read.
17. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book he found the place where it was written:
18. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.
19. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.
20. And he closed the book, and gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.
21. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.
22. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?
23. And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.
24. And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.
25. But I told you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;
26. But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.
27. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

- 28. And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,
29. And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him into the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.
30. But he, passing through the midst of them, went his way.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power."—Ver. 32.

- 1. Where did Jesus live until he was thirty years of age?
2. How could he be in any place so long, and the people not know who he was?
ANS. He did not show his divine power during these years; and yet they must have thought him a very remarkable person.
3. How long was he absent from Nazareth at the time of his baptism?
ANS. We do not know exactly; but it must have been several weeks.
4. What did he do on his return? Ver. 16.
5. What does this fact show us about his habits?
ANS. That it was his custom to go to church every Sabbath.
6. What book did he read? Vers. 17-19.
7. Why did he choose this prophecy of Isaiah?
ANS. Because it was about himself, and he wished them to know it.
8. How did they receive it? Ver. 20.
9. Had they not always thought these words of Isaiah referred to the Messiah?
ANS. Yes; but they could not believe that Jesus, the son of Joseph, was the Messiah.
10. How did Jesus make the truth still plainer to them? Ver. 21.
11. Can you see how these words of Isaiah describe the work of our Saviour?
12. What did Jesus suppose they would want him to do?
ANS. To perform miracles to show that he was the Son of God.
13. Why would they not believe him if he did show them miracles? Ver. 24.
14. Can you explain the meaning of verse 24?
ANS. It means that people seldom think much of any one living among them, even though he may be very wonderful.
15. What did Jesus then tell them of the old prophets? Vers. 25-27.
16. What truth does he try to show the people of Nazareth?
ANS. That they would not believe him to be the Saviour, whatever he should do.
17. What made him so sure of this?
ANS. He could see their hearts, and read their thoughts; for he was the Son of God.
18. How did they like what he said to them? Ver. 28.
19. Do people generally like to be told of their faults?
20. Why can we not see our own faults as plainly as we can see those of other people?
21. In their anger what did the people of Nazareth try to do with the Saviour? Ver. 29.
22. How did he escape from them? Ver. 30.
23. What effects had Christ's preaching at Capernaum? Golden Text.
24. Why do not the words of Christ have more power over us?
ANS. Perhaps because we have heard and slighted them so often.
25. If we love Christ with all our hearts, how shall we feel about his commands?
ANS. We shall be careful to learn and obey them all.
26. Whose help is necessary to make us feel our need of Christ, and trust him as our Saviour?
ANS. The help of the Holy Spirit.
27. When you wish very much to please God, of what may you be sure?
ANS. That the Holy Spirit is near.
28. What is it to grieve the Holy Spirit?
ANS. To wish he would leave us, and try to think of something else, and forget holy things.

Caution for this week.

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