

distinguished from Bethany near Jerusalem, the home of Lazarus and his sisters. Bethabara may be the name of the ford of the Jordan, 14 miles south of the Sea of Galilee, and Bethany the name of the district.

II. POINTING TO CHRIST.—29-31. **The next day**; after the visit of the deputation from Jerusalem. **Jesus coming unto him**; likely from the temptation in the wilderness, Matt. 4: 1-11. **Behold the Lamb of God**; a title taken from Isa. 53: 7. There is a reference to the Lamb of the Passover, then close at hand. (See Ex. 12: 3-14.) **Which taketh away the sin of the world**; by bearing it as His own burden and suffering for it, Isa. 53: 5; 1 Pet. 2: 24. **I knew him not.** Like the rest of the Jews, John did not at first know Jesus as the Messiah. **But that he should be made manifest.** This was John's mission—to make the Messiah known to Israel, God's chosen people.

32-34. In these verses John tells how he came to know Jesus as the Saviour. (Compare Matt. 3: 13-17; Mark 1: 9-11; Luke 3: 21, 22.)

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—The witness of John the Baptist to Jesus, John 1: 19-34. **I.**—Isaiah's prophecy, Isa. 40: 1-5. **W.**—He must increase, John 3: 22-36. **Th.**—Witness from heaven, Mark 1: 1-11. **F.**—Witness of the Father, John 5: 31-39. **S.**—The beloved Son, Matt. 17: 1-13. **S.**—True witness, John 10: 31-42. **Prove from Scripture—That Jesus is a sinless Saviour.**

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 58. *What is required in the fourth commandment?* **A.** The fourth commandment requireth the keeping holy to God such set times as He hath appointed in His word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy sabbath to himself.

The Question on Missions—2. What was the command given by our Lord to His apostles? The command given to the apostles was,—“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16: 15).

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 418 (Supplemental Lesson) 54; 23 (Ps. Sel.); 155; 179 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 225.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—Where was Jesus tempted?

19-23 Who were sent to John? By whom? For what purpose? Give their questions and John's

answers. What does John call himself? For whose coming did he prepare? What did he bid the people do? What did this mean?

24-28 With what did John baptize? What is the real baptism? Who alone can give it? How did John show his humility? What did he say of Jesus' greatness? Where were these things done?

29-31 Whence did Jesus come to John? What did John call Him? How does Jesus take away sin? What was John's work?

32-34 How did John know that Jesus was the Son of God?

Seniors and the Home Department—Give the date of the Lesson. The place. Upon what event did it follow?

19-23 What opinions about John were held among the people? To what did he liken himself? What scripture did he quote?

24-28 Of what is baptism a sign? What command did Jesus give concerning it? (Matt. 28: 19.) Who should be baptized? (S. Catechism, Ques. 95.) What prophet did John resemble?

29-34 Whence is the title “Lamb of God” taken? Show that the Saviour is without sin. (1 Pet. 1: 19.) That He bore our sins. (2 Cor. 5: 21.)

THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. Sail under your own colors. Be yourself. To try to be someone else is to fail.

2. We believe without question what some people say. They have a reputation for telling the truth. This we may have; but we must earn it.

3. Many are proud of being like some great man in feature, or of bearing some famous name. It is far more worth while to be like the great and good in character.

4. A boaster soon makes himself despised, and he deserves to be. It is a mark of manliness to speak modestly of our own deeds and give the fullest credit to others.

5. John knew the Lord, and how very great was His power; he knew himself and how small was his own power;—this is the beginning of true humility.

6. God needs some workers to be like foundations, out of sight, but supporting the building. He knows them and will reward them.

7. “There is life for a look at the crucified One, There is life at this moment for thee;

Then, look, sinner, look unto Him, and be saved, Unto Him who was nailed to the tree.”

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What did the Jews think about John the Baptist?

2. What did he say (1) of himself; (2) of Jesus?

3. How did he know Jesus to be the Son of God?