

CHRISTIAN, DOST THOU SEE THEM?

Christian, dost thou see them
On the holy ground,
How the powers of darkness
Rage thy steps around?
Christian, up and smite them,
Counting gain but loss;
In the strength that cometh
By the holy cross.

Christian, dost thou hear them,
How they speak thee fair?
"Always fast and vigil?"
"Always watch and prayer?"
Christian, answer boldly.
"While I breathe I pray:"
Peace shall follow battle,
Night shall end in day.

"Well I know the trouble,
O my servant true;
Thou art very weary,
I was weary too;
But that toil shall make thee
Some day all mine own,
And the end of sorrow
Shall be near my throne."

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL BY JOHN.

LESSON VII. [Feb. 12.]

CHRIST'S DIVINE AUTHORITY.

John 5. 17-27. Memory verses, 24-27.

GOLDEN TEXT.

This is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.—John 4. 42.

A LESSON TALK.

The Jews laid great stress upon their petty rules for keeping the Sabbath, and other things, and Jesus, who kept the law of God in his heart, did not always agree with them. God's law never forbids our doing good, even on the Sabbath day. It made the Jews still more angry when Jesus told them that he was doing the same kind of work his Father was doing all the time. They said he made himself equal with God, and that was a great sin. Notice that it was not ignorance only that made the Jews treat Jesus as though he was only a common man. They had seen him do miracles, which they knew very well no man could do! They had not forgotten how he turned the water into wine, and how he healed the sick man at Bethesda. This lesson shows some of the ways in which we may honour the Son of God. A child who does not listen to his parents and believe their words, does not honour them. Just so we shall not honour the Saviour of the world if we do not hear his words and believe and obey them.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where was Jesus now? In Jerusalem.
What miracle did he work there? He healed a sick man.

Who were angry about this? The Jews.
What did they try to do? To kill Jesus.

What sin did they say he had committed? Broken the Sabbath.

Who was Jesus? God's own Son.
Who had given him all power? God, his Father.

Whom does God tell us to honour? Jesus.

What is true if we do not honour Jesus? Then we do not honour God.

How do we honour our parents? By believing and obeying them.

How can we best honour Jesus? By following him.

When should we begin to follow him? While we are young.

LESSON VIII. [Feb. 19.]

CHRIST FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND.

John 6. 1-14. Memory verses, 9-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I am the bread of life.—John 6. 35.

A LESSON TALK.

A whole year passed between the miracle of the last lesson and the feeding of the five thousand. This time was spent in Galilee, where Jesus taught and worked many miracles. Now he went across the Sea of Galilee, or Tiberias, followed by great crowds who hoped to see miracles worked. Jesus and the disciples were tired and needed rest, but when the sick and sinful people crowded around them Jesus began to teach them out of his great heart of love and pity. All day long he taught and healed them, and then he fed them, for he knew how hungry and tired they must be. Do you think it strange that Jesus could make food grow right there? But you remember that we have learned that Jesus was God, and that he made all things. It is his life and divine power that makes all the food we have. The wonderful thing was to see it grow then and there! Are you not glad that Jesus used the little boy's lunch to feed the great multitude? It shows that he thinks about the little things. How good it was that the boy was near Jesus so that he could use his loaves and fishes!

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where did Jesus go to rest? Out in the green fields.

Who followed him there? Crowds of people.

What did he do all day? He taught and healed them.

What did he want to do before sending them away? Give them something to eat.

What did he ask Philip? Where to get bread for the people.

How many were there to feed? More than five thousand.

What did Andrew tell Jesus? That a little boy had some food.

How much was there? Five loaves and two little fishes.

What did Jesus do with these? He blessed them and fed the crowd.

How do we get our food? From God's own hand.

How could Jesus make food grow there? Because he was God.

What does this lesson teach us? That little children can help.

TINY, THE FLOWER-SELLER.

Fanchette and grandmother and Tiny lived away over in Italy, where the skies are so blue and the sun is so warm. Grandmother tended the house and Fanchette sold flowers. Tiny went with Fanchette and sat by her feet and watched everything around him with his sharp black eyes. Tiny was only a dog, but he was a very smart dog.

One day Fanchette was sick. Her head ached so badly that she could not get up. Who would sell her flowers? Fanchette did not know what to do.

After a while she thought of a plan. She managed to get up and dress, although the poor head still ached. She took her basket and went to the next house, where the florist lived, and got her usual supply of flowers. Then she went home and called Tiny.

She tied the basket around his neck, kissed him good-bye and pointed to the door and said, "Go sell my flowers, Tiny." Then she had to lie down on the bed again.

Tiny trotted off to the corner where his mistress always stood. I think Fanchette's customers understood the case, for they picked out their posies and dropped the money into the basket. When the flowers were all sold, Tiny trotted home. The headache was gone. Fanchette was watching at the door for him, and she found more money in the basket than she had ever made before.

The next day Fanchette's customers found the little red checked girl in her old place, and they told her what a good flower-seller Tiny was.

WILLIE'S ANSWER.

"One afternoon," writes a teacher, "just after school had closed, as I was locking my desk, little Willie stole softly to my side, and putting his arms around my neck, kissed me. 'I love 'oo, teacher,' he said.

"Does Willie know what love is?' I asked.

"It's what makes us dood to folks," he replied."

Was not that a good answer, and as true as it was good? It was our Lord's love that made him so good to us in living and dying for our sake. Let us all try to get a great deal of the love that makes us good to folks.