

pare Acts 26: 11). **I will arise and go to my father**; a picture of real repentance (see Isa. 55: 7; Jer. 3: 12; Hos. 14: 1, 2). **I have sinned**; taking all the blame to himself. **Against heaven**; a word commonly used by the Jews for God (compare Ps. 51: 4). **No more worthy**. He owns that he has lost all claim on his father's kindness. **To be called . . . son**. Sin robs us of our sonship in God's family. **One of thy hired servants** (see v. 17). The lowest place in the home was better than all the pleasures of the "far country."

20-24. He arose, etc.; acting on his new resolve as promptly and decidedly as he had upon his impulse to depart, v. 13. Then comes the father's glad welcome of the returning wanderer.

III. THE ANGRY BROTHER.—**25-32.** The elder brother was jealous of the younger. The feast of welcome seemed more to him than the enjoyments of all his years in the father's home. Like the prodigal himself, he loved his own pleasures more than he loved his father.

DAILY READING

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

M.—Lost and found, Luke 15: 1-10. **T.**—Parable of the two sons, Luke 15: 11-24. **W.**—Parable of the two sons, Luke 15: 25-32. **Th.**—The far country, Jer. 2: 9-19. **F.**—Repent and turn! Ezek. 18: 26-32. **S.**—Promise of mercy, Hos., ch. 14. **S.**—Returning to God, 2 Chron. 33: 1-13.

Prove from Scripture—*That we ought to confess our sin.*

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 25. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?* **A.** Christ executeth the office of a priest in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

The Question on Missions—37. Is anything being done specially for women and girls? For years, Girls' Homes have been set up at some of the stations by the wife of the missionary, and a central Home has now been established at Princetown under the care of Miss Archibald. Ten Bible women are employed to teach women in their homes.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 251 (Supplemental Lesson); 129; 152; 76 (Ps. Sel.); 548 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 151.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—What three parables in the Lesson chapter?

11, 12 How many sons spoken of? For what did the younger ask?

13-16 Whither did he go? Why did he leave his home? How did he live at first in the "far country"? What brought this kind of life to an end? From whom did he ask help? What was he sent to do? How hungry was he?

17-24 What did he resolve to do? What place in his father's house did he expect? How did his father receive him?

25-32 How did the elder brother feel? What had he enjoyed? Which did he love more—his own pleasures or his father?

Seniors and the Home Department—What was Jesus' purpose in the parables of the Lesson chapter?

11-16 Whom does the father represent? Whom the two sons? What temporal blessings does the heavenly Father give us? (Acts 14: 17.) What does He provide for us in heaven? (John 14: 2.)

17-19 Show that only those who confess their sin will be forgiven. (Prov. 28: 13.)

20-24 Quote a promise of divine forgiveness. (1 John 1: 9.)

25-32 How should we feel when sinners repent?

THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. God leaves us free. He will not compel us, though He lovingly persuades us, to choose aright.

2. In a well-known painting of the prodigal, he is seated at a table in a garden before an inn. A man is playing a guitar, and two children are blowing bubbles. Like those bubbles, the spendthrift of money and time and opportunities will find his joys melting quickly away.

3. I know not where His islands lift

Their fronded palms in air;

I only know I cannot drift

Beyond His love and care.—Whittier.

4. Deeper than the chasm at Niagara is the gulf sin has dug between us and the joys of God's favor. But His love has flung a bridge across, and whosoever will, may walk upon it, without toll or tax.

5. "I was poor yesterday,

But not to-day;

For Jesus came this morning

And took the poor away;

And He left the legacy

He promised long ago.

So peace and joy and love

Through all my being flow."

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why did the younger son go to the "far country"?

2. How did the father show his gladness at the wanderer's return?

3. In what was the elder brother like the younger?