

The Price of a Drink.

"Five cents a glass!" Does any one think
 That that is really the price of a drink?
 "Five cents a glass," I heard you say;
 "Why, that isn't very much to pay."
 Ah, no indeed, 'tis a very small sum
 You are passing over 'twixt finger and
 thumb,
 And if that were all you gave away,
 It wouldn't be very much to pay.

The price of drink let that one tell
 Who sleeps to-night in a murderer's cell,
 And feels within him the fire of hell
 Honour and virtue, love and truth,
 All the pride and glory of youth,
 Hopes of manhood, wealth of fame,
 High endeavour and noble aim,
 These are the treasures thrown away
 For the price of a drink from day to day

"Five cents a glass!" How Satan
 laughed
 As over the bar the young man quaffed
 The beaded liquor! for the demon knew
 The terrible work that drink would do.
 And before the morning the victim lay
 With his life-blood ebbing swiftly away.
 And that was the price he paid, alas,
 For the pleasure of taking a social glass.

The price of a drink! If you want to
 know
 What some are willing to pay for it go
 through that wretched tenement over
 there,
 With dingy window and broken chair,
 Where foul disease like a vampire crawls
 With outstretched wings o'er the mouldy
 walls.

There poverty dwells with her hungry
 brood,
 Wild-eyed as demons, for lack of food,
 There shame, in a corner, crouches low;
 There violence deals its cruel blow,
 The innocent ones are thus accurst
 To pay the price of another's thirst.

Five cents a glass! Oh, if that were all,
 The sacrifice would indeed be small,
 But the money's worth is the least
 amount
 We pay, and whoever will keep account
 Will learn the terrible waste and blight
 That follows the ruinous appetite,
 Five cents a glass! Does any one think
 That is really the price of a drink?

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JESUS.

**LESSON X DECEMBER 9
 BARTIMEUS HEALED**

Mark 10 46-52 Memory verses 50-52

GOLDEN TEXT.

Lord, that I might receive my sight.
 Mark 10. 51.

OUTLINE.

1. Seeking a Saviour, v. 46-48.
2. Saved by Faith, v 49-52

Time.—Near the end of March, A.D. 30.
 Place.—Near to Jericho.

LESSON HELPS.

46. "They came to Jericho"—Jesus was now making his last journey to Jerusalem. "Blind Bartimeus"—Blindness is specially frequent in the East. While in northern Europe there is only one blind in a thousand, in Egypt there is one in every hundred; indeed, very few persons there have their eyes quite healthy.—Gekkie. "Timeous"—Of him nothing is known. Like many other fathers, he lives in the renown of his son. "Sat by the highway side begging"—A true picture of Syrian life at the present day. The traveller is beset



on every side by mendicants. The word "Bar" in his name signifies son. The mention of his name would indicate that he was a well-known beggar of Jericho.
 47. "When he heard it was Jesus of Nazareth"—According to Luke, the blind man himself heard the disturbance and asked the cause, in answer to which inquirers the multitude told him of the passing of Jesus. "He began to cry out"—Immediately. But what if he had remained silent? (1) What destinies turn on a cry! "Thou Son of David"—Though modern commentators have differed as to the genealogy of Jesus, this son of Timeous, with his companions, confessed the pedigree of Christ.—Whedon. The descendant of the son of Jesse stood before Bartimeus in the person of the Son of man. "Have mercy on me"—It would be a small thing for Jesus to put his fingers on his eyes and make him see. (2) He is greater than our uttermost requests.
 48. "Charged him that he should hold his peace"—It was an offence against de-



he did not bear the cross and suffer martyrdom for Christ? (3) Soul-sight is the world's greatest need. And Jesus of Nazareth still passes by.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Bartimeus healed.—Mark 10. 46-52.
- Tu. Son of David.—Matt. 21. 1-11.
- W. Earnest cry.—Luke 18. 35-43.



SNOW BIRDS.

"It is going to snow," we say as we look up and see a flock of snow-birds passing over our heads, like a white cloud against a background of grey; and, especially if they stay with us, we are very sure winter is not far distant. Snow-birds belong to a family called Fringillidae. They are migratory birds, leav-

ing us in summer, and coming back in winter. The old birds are distinguished by their white breasts, which are quite dark when they are young. The snow-birds in the picture are but young, and, being caught out in a snow and rain storm, are almost overpowered before they can reach the shelter of an old tree, which has fallen close to the hillside.

corum for a wayside beggar to salute the passing Rabbi. "He cried the more"—He cared more for eyesight than for decorum. (3) It is such opportunity as this that wins the blessing.

49. "Jesus stood still"—The world's Sacrifice on his way to the cross had time to stop and give sight to a ragged beggar. "Commanded him"—Nor could they disobey Christ's command. "Be of good comfort"—And he surely was. All the pulses of his soul leaped for joy.

50. "Casting away his garment"—His outer robe, that hindered his rapid movement. "Came to Jesus"—The literal suggests the figurative. (4) Have you so come for sight?

51. "What wilt thou"—Not that Christ was ignorant, but that he might test their faith. "Lord"—In reverence. "That I might receive my sight"—How many years since he had seen? Had he ever seen?

52. "Thy faith hath made thee whole"—It was an evangelical and earnest faith. "Immediately he received his sight"—Matthew says that Christ touched his eyes. Compare this cure with the healing of other blind men. "Followed Jesus"—"In affectionate disobedience" to Christ's command. His future history we do not know. Who can say that

Th. Invited to come.—Mark 10. 13-16.
 F. The will to heal.—Luke 5. 12-17.
 S. The healing touch.—Matt. 9. 27-31.
 Su. Matthew's narrative.—Matt. 20. 29-34.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Seeking a Saviour, v. 46-48.
 Between what two places was Christ journeying?
 Who accompanied him?
 Who sat by the roadside begging?
 What did he do when he heard that Jesus was passing by?
 Were beggars permitted to ask alms for alms?
 Were those about him sympathetic?
 Did this discourage him?
 Of what is blindness a type?
 Could the blind man heal himself?
2. Saved by Faith, v. 49-52.
 How did Jesus feel toward him?
 Compare the human and the divine sympathy?
 What joyful message was brought to Bartimeus?
 What is the joyful message for sinners to-day?
 How did Bartimeus respond?
 What spiritual lesson may be drawn from the "casting away of his garment"?

What did Jesus say to him?
 What did Bartimeus desire? Gold or Text.
 What triumphed?
 What wise example did Bartimeus set after he was healed?
 Could he have believed on Christ if he had never heard of him?
 What missionary lesson does this teach to us?
 What inheritance does God offer to us?

Jesus shines a light in the world, dispelling the darkness of sin and error. Wherever he is preached the shadows



are lifted and the true light shines. He is the light of salvation to all who call upon him and desire it of him. The one wish of poor blind Bartimeus was that he might receive his sight, for that was his chief need. What wilt thou?

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