

## GOLDEN TEXT

He hath done all things well.  
Mark 7: 37.

## DAILY READINGS

M.—Luke 7: 18-23. Jesus and John the Baptist.

T.—John 10: 31-42. Testimony of works.

W.—John 5: 30-39. Fourfold witness.

Th.—Luke 1: 13-22. Gabriel's message.

F.—John 3: 22-36. The forerunner.

S.—Matt. 21: 23-32. A preacher of righteousness.

S. Matt. 11: 2-14. Prophecy fulfilled.

## TIME

Very shortly after the preceding lesson. Summer of A.D. 28.

## PLACE

Somewhere in Galilee, where Jesus was then preaching from place to place. (See Luke 8: 1-3.) John was in the prison of Macherus beyond the Jordan.

## CATECHISM

Q. 19. What is the misery of that estate wherinto man fall?

A. All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

## LESSON PLAN

I. John's Question Concerning Jesus, 18-23.

John in prison, and in doubt and discouragement, or perhaps as a lesson to his disciples, sends them to Jesus with the question: "Art thou He that should come?" the response being many marvellous works.

II. Jesus' Testimony Concerning John, 24-28.

That He is a prophet, the greatest of all the prophets, but less than the least in the Kingdom of God.

## LESSON HYMNS

45 (Ps. Sel.); 35; 26; 16; 535.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

**Juniors—18, 19** Who had imprisoned John? Why? What was his fate? (Mark 6: 21-29.) What had his disciples told him? Where did he send them? With what message? Why did he send the message?

**20-23** Was the message delivered? What works did Jesus do? What prompted these acts? How did Christ show His love? (Luke 19: 10; John 15: 13.) What was Jesus' message to John? What did He mean by it? Give instances of blindness cured? Of lameness? Of leprosy? Of deafness? What had the Jews expected the Messiah to be? Why disappointed? What is meant by being "offended in me"?

**24-26** Why does He speak to the people about John? Why refer to "wilderness"? What is the chief mark of a "reed"? What names would you suggest for John? What was John's dress? (Matt. 3: 4.) What was John's mission? (Luke 3: 4; Matt. 3: 1, 2.)

**27, 28** What prophet had spoken of John? What Eastern custom referred to? How does Christ here speak of John? Who is greater? Who can enter the Kingdom of God? (Matt. 5: 3; John 3: 16.)

**Seniors—18, 19** What caused John's discouragement and doubt? What caused Moses to despair? (Num. 11: 10-15.) What, Elijah? (1 King's 19: 1.) What preserves against despair? (Psa. 42: 51-1.)

**20-23** What did Jesus first do when John's message came? (v. 21.) What next? Why did He follow this method? How does this illustrate one chief object of Christ's miracles? What is the meaning of "Gospel"? What wonderful about its being preached to the poor?

**24-26** To whom does Christ now address Himself? With what object? How had the people regarded John? Why "more than a prophet"? With what commission had he been honored?

**27, 28** How did John prepare for Christ? How can we? What was the subject of his preaching? What is one of the chief requirements for entering the Kingdom? To what is the Kingdom compared?

(Matt. 22: 2-10; Rev. 19: 9.) Who has invited us to this Gospel feast? Have you accepted?

**Bible Side Lights—HE CURED MANY—**Ps. 107: 20; Matt. 4: 23, 24; 12: 14, 15; 14: 13, 14; 17: 16, 18. **NOR BE OFFENDED—**Matt. 13: 54-58; 15: 10-12; 20: 31, 33; John 16: 1; Rom. 14: 21.

**THE WILDERNESS—**Matt. 3: 1; 15: 33; Luke 15: 4; Acts 7: 30.

**KINGS' COURTS—**Prov. 25: 6, 7; Acts 12: 20, 21, 2 Sam. 9: 6, 8; Est. 5: 1-8.

**THE KINGDOM OF GOD** Matt. 6: 33; 12: 28, Luke 6: 20; 9: 62; John 3: 3, 5; Rom. 14: 17.

**Practical Points—1.** Don't take your doubts to a doubter, but to one who knows and believes.

**2.** Is there any better way, when in doubt or discouragement, than to go straight to Jesus?

**3.** When we are discouraged as Christ's followers, let us take time to look about us and see what wonderful things Christ has done—the difference, for instance, between the Christian and the profane man, or between Christian and heathen lands.

**4.** Has anything else ever accomplished for the suffering poor what Christ's gospel has led men to do?

**5.** "Who comes to God an inch, through doubtings dim."

In blazing light God will advance a mile to him."

—From Peloubet.

**6.** There is need of stern stuff in those who would win men from evil ways. No fickle man, and no soft-living man will do.

**7.** What a blessed work to "prepare the way of the Lord," whether in our own hearts or in the hearts of our fellow men! No courtier can have greater honor than he who does this work well.

**8.** Greater than John the Baptist. This is Christ's measure of the least child of God now. With privileges and blessings so much greater, should we not in courage and zeal and faithfulness seek to be great, too?

## FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why was John the Baptist discouraged? .....

2. How were his doubts removed? .....

3. What new truth about the Kingdom does Jesus utter? .....