

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JESUS.

LESSON VI - AUGUST 6.

JESUS AND THE CHILDREN.

Matt 18 1-14. Memory verses, 12-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the Kingdom of God. Mark 10. 14.

OUTLINE.

1. The Children's Friend, v. 1-6.
 2. The Sinner's Saviour, v. 7-14.
- Time - The summer of A.D. 29.
Place - Somewhere in Galilee, probably at Capernaum, in a house, probably Peter's.

LESSON HELPS.

1. "At the same time" - Not long after the transfiguration, when Jesus and his disciples were again in Galilee, at Capernaum. "Who is the greatest" - Not, "What character is the best?" but, "Which class shall be the highest?" "The kingdom of heaven" - In the thoughts of the disciples this was an earthly kingdom which Jesus was confidently expected to found. (1) Secular ambition jars badly with growth in holiness.
2. "Jesus called" - Jesus always taught by illustration when he could. "A little child" - He must have been old enough to walk. (2) The voice of Jesus calls every child. "Set him in the midst" - He took him in his own arms. (Mark 9. 36.)
3. "Verily" - Truly, emphatically. "Ye be converted" - turned directly about, become in all things exactly opposite to what you are. "As little children" - Humble, simple, innocent, and harmless. "Kingdom of heaven" - The phrase is used by Jesus with reference to his true spiritual kingdom. (3) Before asking for the highest place in the kingdom of Christ we need to inquire whether we are fit for any place.
4. "Humble himself as this little child" - (4) He that is himself humble sees most of heaven and shall have most of it.
5. "Shall receive" - Into spiritual fellowship. "One such little child" - Referring literally to the little children, also to the lowly, poor, and weak among our Lord's followers. "In my name" - Because he is mine.
6. "Shall offend" - Cause to make spiritual decline or to fall. "Believe in me" - Has absolute trust in the living Lord. "Millstone" - This is literally "a millstone turned by an ass," meaning a heavier millstone than those turned by a woman. (5) Better for a man to lose his life than for him to cause another to lose his soul.
7. "Because of offences" - Because of occasions of stumbling. (6) A vast amount of the world's sin and misery comes from evil example and influence. "It must needs be" - The "needs be" is not in God's will, but in the fact of sinful human nature. "Woe to that man" - This had an awful meaning for one who was doubtless present - Judas - if he had only attended to it. (7) Is any one present to-day to whom Jesus thus speaks?
8. "Cut them off" - The hand and foot are necessary organs, having their innocent uses, but these must be renounced if they will lead into sin. Many a conscientious Christian has left a profitable business because of the temptations to wrongdoings, and submitted to poverty.
10. "Despise not one of these little ones" - (8) No soul worthy of salvation is unworthy of regard. "Their angels" - A belief in guardian angels was at this time very common, and Jesus recognized it in these words.
12. The "hundred sheep" represent the souls saved and in the Church of Christ.
12. "Not the will" - Children are born with propensities to sin, but they are born redeemed in Christ, and only willful wandering can separate them from his fold.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Jesus and the children. - Matt. 18. 1-14
- Tu. The searching question. - Mark 9. 33-42.
- W. Ambition rebuked. - Matt. 20. 20-28.
- Th. The humble spirit. - Prov. 16. 16-25.
- F. Clothed with humility. - 1 Pet. 5. 1-7
- S. Lowliness of mind. - Phil. 2. 1-8.
- Su. The children's blessing. - Mark 10. 13-16.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. The Children's Friend, v. 1-6.
 - What had the disciples been discussing?
 - What question did they ask Jesus?
 - How may we prove ourselves worthy to rule?
 - How did Christ answer the question?
 - What do you understand by "becoming as little children"?
 - How can we receive a little child in Christ's name?
 - What is said about "offending one of these little ones"?
 - Was this punishment in use for any offence?
 - What is the meaning of "little ones"?

What in regard to those by whom it comes?
 What is here meant by offences?
 How may the hand or foot offend?
 What do you understand by "casting them from thee"?
 Draw a lesson in regard to the "eye offending."
 How did Christ regard these offences?
 Who did Christ come to save?
 Is God a respecter of persons?
 Are we held responsible for our influence over others?
 What lesson may be drawn from the parable of the shepherd?
 What should be our attitude toward an erring one?
 What does the Golden Text teach?

He Loves Me So.

I love to hear the story
 Which angel voices tell,
 How once the King of glory
 Came down on earth to dwell.
 I am both weak and sinful,
 But this I surely know,
 The Lord came down to save me,
 Because he loved me so.

Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us.

Saviour, like a Shepherd lead us,
 Much we need thy tend'ring care,
 In thy pleasant pastures feed us,
 For our use thy fields prepare:

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

We are thine, do thou befriend us,
 Be the guardian of our way;
 Keep thy flock, from sin defend us,
 Seek us when we go astray:

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 Hear, oh, hear us, when we pray.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 Hear, oh, hear us, when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us,
 Poor and sinful though we be;
 Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
 Grace to cleanse, and power to free:

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 We will early turn to thee.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 We will early turn to thee.

Early let us seek thy favour,
 Early let us do thy will;
 Blessed Lord and only Saviour,
 With thy love our bosoms fill:

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 Thou hast loved us, love us still.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 Thou hast loved us, love us still.



SAVIOUR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US.

- In the eyes of God is it greater to serve or to be served?
 Did Christ come to be served or to minister to?
 What then must his disciples expect to do?
 Was any duty too lowly for Christ?
 Does it prove a high or lowly nature to be able to serve others well?
 Give an illustration.
2. The Sinner's Saviour, v. 7-14.
 - What did Christ say must come?



I'm glad my blessed Saviour
 Was once a child like me,
 To show how pure and holy
 His little ones may be;
 And if I try to follow
 His footsteps here below,
 He never will forget me,
 Because he loves me so.

THE CHURCH AND THE CHILDREN.

If Christ so cares for the young, the childlike, the unnoticed, if the highest angels guard them with loving care, then the Church of Christ should give its most loving attention, its best gifts, its most earnest labours to the same classes. That church is most blessed which does this. For (1) it brings its members into closest harmony with Christ and his mission. (2) Its teachings adapted to these classes, will be best for all. A theology so plain and simple and biblical, so free from metaphysical speculations that a child can understand and love it, is the best theology for the daily life of all. (3) It is better to give than to receive. - Peloubet.

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