



LESSON IV.—APRIL 22.

The Centurion's Servant Healed.

Luke vii., 1-10. Memory verses 9, 10. Read Matt. ix., 27-34; Mark II., 23, to III., 19; John v.

Daily Readings.

M. Pitiful. Mt. 8: 1-13.
T. Gracious. Lk. 4: 16-37.
W. Faithful. Jn. 15: 1-25.
Th. Hopeful. Lk. 8: 4-15.
F. Honorable. Jn. 5: 1-29.
S. Patient. Ro. 10: 1-21.

Golden Text.

'Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.'—Ps. ciii., 13.

Lesson Text.

Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum. (2.) And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die. (3.) And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant. (4.) And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this: (5.) For he loveth our nation, and has built us a synagogue. (6.) Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my roof: (7.) Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed. (8.) For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. (9.) When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. (10.) And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

Lesson Hymn.

The healing of His seamless dress
Is by our beds of pain;
We touch Him in life's throng and press
And we are whole again.—Whittier.

Suggestions.

The wonderful faith of a Gentile, as compared with the unbelief of the majority of the Jews concerning the power and authority of Jesus, is the theme of our lesson to-day.

It was just after the sermon to the multitudes on the mountain that Jesus and his disciples entered the city of Capernaum on the North West shore of the Sea of Galilee. As soon as it was told around that the great Prophet and miracle worker was in the city, a Roman officer whose servant was at the point of death sent to ask Jesus to come and heal the sick man. The centurion was one of those captains of small companies of fifty to a hundred soldiers stationed all over Palestine to enforce Roman rule. This man, though thus placed in a position where he would naturally incur the displeasure and scorn of the Jews, seems instead to have won their respect and love. Evidently he saw the superiority of the Jewish morals and religion in contrasting it with that in which he had been brought up. His soul cried out for the living God, and his efforts went out in service to the God whom the Jews worshipped through the mazes of formality and tradition which hid his real glory from their sight. (Matt. ix., 13). The centurion had made friends among the most influential of the Jewish people, and had with his own means built a beautiful synagogue for them in Capernaum.

When this man heard of the coming of Jesus to his city, he made up his mind to ask him to save the life of the servant who was very dear to him. Thinking that he, being a Gentile, would not have as much

influence with this great Saviour, he sent the message by his friends the elders of the Jews. They pled his cause with great earnestness and our Lord at once started with them toward the house of the centurion. Word reached the house that the Lord was coming, immediately the centurion overcame with gratitude and humility sent another message to Jesus saying that he felt himself unworthy to even approach the Saviour, but that if the Lord would but speak the word he knew that his servant should be healed.

Recognising the authority of Jesus, the centurion compares his position with his own, as though saying, I who am an inferior officer can still exact from my subordinates implicit obedience, surely thou who hast in thyself all authority can send a messenger of healing to my servant with out troubling thyself to come farther. The man had such implicit faith that Jesus was filled with wonder and gladness, and in answer to the prayer of faith the sick servant was healed that very hour (Jas. v., 15).

He came unto his own, and his own received him not (John I., 11). Over and over was this truth illustrated in the life of Jesus Christ. When he performed the most wonderful miracles of love and mercy, the Pharisees in jealous rage accused him of being in league with the devil (Matt. ix., 34). Over and over they accused him of breaking the law and plotted to take his life, even his kinsmen said that he was beside himself (Mark. iii., 21). When he claimed to be the Son of God they accused him of blasphemy, and their worst accusations would have been true if he had been only the 'good Teacher' which so many men of to-day make themselves believe that he was. If Jesus Christ was not the living and only Son of God the Jews were right in rejecting him, for no mere man could be the Saviour and King of the world. But Jesus Christ was and is to-day the living loving Son of God, who by his death and resurrection has made it possible for us who believe to become also children of God and joint-heirs of the Kingdom. (Rom. viii., 11-17.)

Junior C. E. Topic.

RELIGION A FEAST.

Mon., April 16. The true feast. Ex. 12: 6.
Tues., April 17. God provides. Ps. 146: 7.
Wed., April 18. The poorest are to be welcome. Luke 14: 13.
Thu., April 19. The guests are satisfied. Ps. 34: 8.
Fri., April 20. It gladdens our hearts. Acts 14: 17.
Sat., April 21. The heavenly feast. 1 Cor. 2: 9.
Sun., April 22. Topic—How is religion like a feast? Matt. 22: 1-10.

C. E. Topic.

April. 22.—Serving God joyously. Matt. 22: 1-14.

If it is our fixed purpose to make the children understand, we will devise some way by which to accomplish our object. A few years before his death Charles Spurgeon and his wife crossed the Alps. Mrs. Spurgeon burned her face badly. She requested her husband to go to a drug store and get her some elder-flower water. He went, and found a Frenchman in charge. He looked over his various jars and bottles, but discovered no elder-flower water. Then he tried to talk French, and that was a sad failure. It was not French or anything else. He left the place, wandered up a small brook, and came upon an elder-flower tree. He picked a handful of flowers and returned to the drug store. He held up his flowers, was at once understood, and received what he wanted. It is the high purpose of every Sunday-school teacher to bring the truth of God into the minds and hearts of the children. In order to do it, ways by which to simplify the truth must be sought out. Like Spurgeon, we may be obliged to wander around for some time in searching for something that will convey our meaning. An illustration from the nursery, from the playground, from the school-room, from the store, from the birds, the fields, the woods, the clouds—in other words, from the surroundings of the pupil's life—must be sought for. And in this we are only following the wise example of the Saviour himself.—Rev. E. J. Bleckink.



Alcohol Catechism.

(Dr. R. H. Macdonald, of San Francisco.)

CHAPTER X.—EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL UPON THE BRAIN AND NERVES.

1. Q.—Does alcohol injure the brain and nerves?

A.—Any use of alcohol injures the brain and nerves, but the excessive use of alcohol absolutely ruins them.

2. Q.—Why first felt in the brain?

A.—Because the blood circulates in little blood-vessels all over and through the brain, and the brain being so delicate is easily injured.

3. Q.—How does alcohol injure the brain and nerves?

A.—It changes the soft substance of the brain until it is almost as different from a healthy brain as a rotten apple is from a sound one. It also makes the texture of the nerves flabby and weak.

4. Q.—How does alcohol affect the nerves of the tongue?

A.—It destroys their feeling, the tongue is not easily controlled and the speech becomes indistinct.

5. Q.—Does alcohol starve the brain?

A.—Yes; the healthy brain needs and uses a great deal of good blood, and when it does not get enough it is like a man who has little to eat, it grows poor, weak, and unhealthy.

6. Q.—In what other way does alcohol injure the brain and nerves?

A.—By weakening and almost destroying the control of the brain over the muscles, so that the man loses power over his limbs and goes shuffling staggering about like a drunken person.

7. Q.—Does anything feel right about the man?

A.—No; because the nerves are poisoned and benumbed.

8. Q.—What causes apoplexy?

A.—Apoplexy is caused by the tiny vessels of the brain becoming clogged, with blood that is loaded with carbonic acid, and deprived of life-giving oxygen.

(To be Continued.)

How Tom Ellis Changed His Place.

Tom Ellis, a bright lad of thirteen, had been errand boy at Battson's, the grocer's, for twelve months, and felt himself quite equal to all the duties of the situation. But, one day, he had an accident. Whilst pushing his truck rapidly along, he suddenly caught it in the curb and his heavy basketful was emptied in the road.

For two seconds, Tom looked very troubled, and then he and a friend, who happened to come up, began to see how much damage had been done.

'My!' said Tom. 'Three bottles of champagne broken, won't I get into a row!'

However, there was no help for it, and Tom who never allowed disasters to overwhelm him, proceeded to pack up his goods again. Then he went to a house near and borrowed a broom from a maid whom he knew, in order that he might sweep the broken glass into the gutter. Before he had finished he heard a bicycle-bell and a lady cyclist came riding by.

'Now then, Miss, mind your tyres,' shouted Tom cheerfully, 'there's a lot of broken glass about.'

'Is there?' said the lady, and dismounted hastily. She was proud of the fact that she had never had a puncture, and did not mean to get one then if she could help it.

'Why, boys,' she said, as she saw the broken bottles and smelt the wine, 'what have you been doing?'

'Running too fast, I guess,' answered Tom, looking up with a broad smile.

'And come to grief in consequence,' said pretty Miss Montague, smiling too. 'Well, that's a pity, isn't it, but,' she added, as she rode away, 'I should not be sorry if all the wine bottles in the world were smashed. I wish you did not sell such stuff.'

Tom left off sweeping and looked after her.

'Guess she's one of those people who be-