

He distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down, v. 11. The source of blessing for the world is Christ Himself, but Christians are His

Source and
Channel

followers. It is our business to see that the channel is free and

open, so that the life-giving stream shall not be obstructed. It is a glorious thought, that when the Lord has given us life, we may give life to many others. Does it seem to us that we have little power for this work? Let us use what we have, and it will be multiplied, in the using of it.

When therefore the people saw the sign (Rev. Ver.), v. 14. Not by deeds of might does Jesus desire to win people to Himself, but by love. And how love shines out

Won by Love in all that He did while on earth! Providing for the needs

of men, bearing their burdens, sharing their sorrows, at last dying for their sins—is not this a Saviour whom we can love and trust with all our hearts? It is an irresistible argument that He addresses each of us when He says, “I have loved thee, and therefore I seek thy love.”

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school.

For Teachers of the Older Scholars

How to deal with the crowd! That was the problem with which the disciples were confronted. Christ, in order to prove His disciples, at first left them to work it out by themselves. How did they go about it? They went at it by arithmetic. This was Philip's solution, v. 7. They went at it by despairing. This was Andrew's solution, v. 9. They went at it by evasion. This was the solution finally reached by all, evidently after prolonged debate, Luke 9: 12. Send the crowd away, and let them forage for themselves.

How did Christ want them to go at it? By faith. Make this your strong point. They knew themselves unable. Did they not know yet that Christ was able? It is not a question of our resources *minus* Jesus, but *plus* Jesus.

Boldly turn the situation into a missionary lesson—it may be all the more effective that it is not announced as such. Let the discussion revolve round the question, How shall we give the Bread of Life to a famishing world? It seems a big crowd to overtake. Study some good book, like Mott's “Evangelization of the World in This Generation,” and you will find your mind bristling with points. Show:

1. *What system can do.* “Make the men sit down.” Study up such questions as the recognition of territories and division of laborers, so desirable to avoid overlapping

and confusion in the ranks of the workers. Everybody cannot go everywhere, but everybody can go somewhere. Show:

2. *What co-operation can do.* Do not overlook the lad. Great movements often begin in a small way. See, too, how the disciples co-operate. Human co-operation with the divine has been the ruling principle of history. Illustrate by the miracle at the Red Sea, and at the Fall of Jericho. Discourage everyone from thinking, “There is nothing I can do.” Co-operate with Christ, and you can “do all things,” Phil. 4: 13. In Mott's book you will have no difficulty in finding a store of facts which demonstrate that the church has enough now in her hands, both to start and to complete the work of distributing the Bread of Life to the whole world within our generation, if she only makes up her mind to use what she has, and to put it in Christ's hands. Be sure to reserve time to show:

3. *What divine power can do.* All our plans, preparations and efforts will fall short without the supernatural work of the Spirit of Christ. See Zech. 4: 6.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Out in the country now. The Exposition of v. 1 will show why they went there. Look a little more closely. It was a sad and busy time. John the Baptist had been foully murdered Matt. 14: 1-12. His murderer was perplexed about Jesus; he might seek His life next, Luke 9: 9. The twelve have just returned from their mission and were making their report, Luke 9: 10. Crowds were following Him. He needed time alone with His