

A DILEMMA.

By Mary L. B. Branch.

Little man Noah lies all in the dark,  
For Nannie has left him alone in the  
ark;  
His cows are astray, his sheep are both  
lost,  
His elephant over the sofa has crossed;  
His chickens and birds in a frightened  
heap lie,  
With a couple of foxes staring close by;  
His horse has dropped down with two  
legs broken short,  
His pigs are all prisoned in Johnny's  
block fort,  
His camel lies helpless tripped up in the  
mat,  
The rocking-chair rocks on his one  
spotted cat;  
His wife in the coal-hod, his sons in a  
shoe,—  
Pray, what in the world can the poor  
Noah do?  
Do you hear me, my darling? Run  
quick as you can,  
And out of the ark let that poor little  
man!

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

WORDS AND WORKS OF JESUS AS RECORDED  
IN THE GOSPELS.

LESSON II.—OCTOBER 14.

THE TEN VIRGINS.

Matt. 25. 1-13. Mem. verses, 1, 2.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Watch, therefore, for ye know neither  
the day nor the hour wherein the Son  
of man cometh.—Matt. 25. 13.

LESSON STORY.

This parable teaches the important  
lesson of getting ready for the Lord's  
coming. It tells of ten maidens who  
wanted to go to a marriage feast. Five  
had wisely taken oil with them in their  
lamps, but five had foolishly neglected  
to do so. When they went to buy oil  
the bridegroom came. They that were  
ready went into the marriage and the  
door was shut. Then came the foolish  
ones, but alas! it was too late. They  
could not get in.

At an hour that we know not, so  
also will come the Son of God at the  
Judgment day, and only those who are  
prepared and ready can go into the  
heavenly kingdom.

LESSON QUESTIONS.

1. What did the wise virgins do? They took oil with them.
2. What did the foolish do? They neglected to take oil.
3. What did they have to do? Go and buy some.
4. What happened when they were away? The bridegroom came.
5. Who went in with him to the marriage? Those who were ready.
6. What did the foolish then do?

They tried to get in, but the door was shut.

7. Who is the bridegroom like? The Son of God.

8. Do we know when He will come? No.

9. What must we be sure to do? Be ready and waiting.

LESSON III.—OCTOBER 21.

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS.

Matt. 25. 14-30. Mem. verse, 21.

GOLDEN TEXT.

A faithful man shall abound with blessings.—Prov. 28. 20.

LESSON STORY.

This parable teaches the value of being useful and the sin of neglect. A man took a journey, but before doing so he divided his goods among his servants. To one he gave five talents, to another two and to another one. Then he who had received the five and the two talents each doubled their amount, but he who had received one went and hid it in the ground. When the master returned his servants brought their talents. With those who had increased theirs the master was well pleased, and rewarded them for their faithfulness. But with the one who buried his the master was very angry, and took away all he had. From this parable we learn that our Lord and Master expects us to use our time and chances for Him. If we do not learn our lessons or try to get along at school, we are doing wrong, and God will be angry with us, just like the master was with the lazy, slothful servant. It is a sin to be lazy and to neglect doing whatever we can that is good and useful.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. What did the man in this parable do? He left talents with his servants.
2. What did he intend? That they should make good use of them.
3. To those who did, what did he do? He rewarded them.
4. What happened the lazy one? The master was angry with him and took away all he had.
5. What will happen the faithful person? He shall have blessing.
6. And the unfaithful? They shall be cast out.
7. What is the lesson for us? Not to be lazy but useful.

A "LITTLE MAN."

A "little man" is what I heard his mother call him one hot day in June. He was a little fellow, not quite four years old, and could not talk "straight" yet. He was playing on the front porch, having a good time with his building blocks and much interested in a store he was erecting. Presently a stray dog came along, stopped, and looked at the boy lovingly. The dog was hot and tired.

"I dess he's firsty," said the boy; "I'll dit him somefin' to dwink."

A tiny saucepan was on the porch. The little fellow poured some water in it, and set it before the dog, who lapped it eagerly.

"It's all done," said the boy; "I'll dit some more."

Five times the boy filled the little saucepan; then the dog bobbed his head, waved his tail, and went off.

The little fellow laughed gleefully. "He said, 'Fank you,' didn't he, mamma? I dess he was glad to dit some cold water, wasn't he?"

"Indeed he was," his mamma answered.

That same day, a little later, two children came along. Stopping outside the fence, they peered into the yard. They wore ragged clothes and were barefooted. They looked at the little boy within the gate with an expression similar to that with which the dog had regarded him.

"Dey want somefin', mamma," he said in a sympathetic tone; "maybe dey is firsty, too. Shall I ask 'em?"

"You may, if you wish," his mamma answered, smilingly.

"Is you firsty?" he began, peering the fence.

"Can we have just one flower?" questioned one waif, longingly.

"One for each of us," put in the other.

"You can have your hands full," was the smiling answer. "I's dot a whole bed full of flowers."

He hurried around, picking the sweet flowers—violets and pinks and June roses—which his fair little hands held out to the "unwashed," who thanked him with grateful voices and passed on with radiant faces.

"Bless my little man!" said his mother, in a low, fervent voice.

He did not hear her, but I am sure God will bless him.

A very gentle little girl came with her mother into a strange school-room. One of the little girls who was at home there "loved her right away." As soon as recess came, she asked her to play with her. After that they were real friends. Sometimes when little girls are best friends it makes them a wee bit selfish. They like to play just together; to make clothes for their doll children hid away in some cozy nook, to have secrets together. Now a friendship ought to be like the sunshine—such a warm, bright thing that it warms and brightens everybody around. See if it will not make you and your little friend happier to try together to make others happy. Jesus is the best friend. To go friends with him opens our hearts wide. There is love enough to go round.—Ex.

A great deal of talent is lost in the world for the want of a little courage. The fact is, that to do anything in this world worth doing, we must not stand back shivering and thinking of the cold and the danger, but jump in and scramble through as well as we can.—Sidney Smith.