

far dirtier than if he had been making mud pies for a whole day."

Harry blushed, and his papa went on:—

"When I was a little boy I was taught that it was my duty to keep from picking and stealing—picking you know means taking little things that don't belong to you; like stealing lumps of sugar out of mamma's cupboard, or picking fruit off the young trees that I tell you not to touch."

"Then Eve made her hands dirty when she took the forbidden fruit," put in John, who feared the conversation was getting personal.

"Yes, indeed, she did; and no one can tell the number of soiled hands that have been the result of that action. Now, John, can you remember the name of a man who 'stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the Church?' That made his hands very dirty indeed."

"That was Herod, papa; when he killed James and put Peter in prison."

"Yes; and do you know who it was who tried to clear himself from the blame of a very terrible act by washing his hands?"

Both boys were silent, and Mr. Shelford asked again:—

"Who took water and washed his hands, saying 'I am innocent of the blood of this just person?'"

"O, that was Pilate, papa," said Harry; "when he let the people crucify Jesus."

"Yes, but the stain of sin was just as much on his soul after he had washed his hands as before; and it is the same with our hands, whether we call them little or great, we cannot get rid of them, or of the consequences, however we try to clear ourselves. No washing of our own will do it. So what must we do, Harry? When you make your hands dirty with doing wrong things, how can they be made clean?"

"God can wash them, papa; that is what you mean, isn't it? Because David said, 'Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow?'"

"And Peter," added John, "asked the Lord Jesus to wash not only his feet, but his hands and his head; but Jesus said he need only have his feet washed."

"Yes, because, as the Lord said, he was washed already, by faith in Christ's cleansing word. It was the same cleansing that David meant when he prayed 'Create in me a clean heart, O God.' And I want my dear boys to pray too:

'Wash me, but not my feet alone,
, My hands, my head, my heart.'

LESSON NOTES.

A.D. 60.] **LESSON V.** [August 3.

THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION; OR, THE CHRISTIAN'S MINISTRY.

2 Cor. 5. 14-21. **Commit to memory verses 18-21.**

OUTLINE.

1. The love of Christ. v. 14, 15.
2. The life in Christ. v. 16, 17.
3. The labour for Christ v. 18-21.

GOLDEN TEXT.

We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 2 Cor. 5. 20.

1. Think how much Christ loves you.
2. Show your love to him by your new life in Him.
3. Try to win others to his service.

Find at what time Paul saw and heard Jesus..... Find Christ's call to Andrew, Peter, James, and Matthew..... Find Christ's charge to his apostles.

A.D. 58.] **LESSON VI.** [August 10.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT; OR, THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE.

Gal. 5. 22-23; 6. 1-9. **Commit to memory verses 22-23.**

OUTLINE.

1. The source of character. v. 22-23
2. The test of character. v. 1-6.
3. The result of character. v. 7-9.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Gal. 6. 7.

1. Show your religion in your life.
2. Be patient and kind toward the faults of others.
3. Don't grow tired of doing good.

Find a sum in addition in 1 Peter..... Find a parable of Christ about sowing..... Another parable, about tares and wheat.