

SUNDAY
SCHOOL

The Quiet Hour

YOUNG
PEOPLETHE ENTRY OF JESUS INTO
JERUSALEM.*

By Rev. W. J. Clark, London.

On the next day, v. 12. Each morning summons us farther to our daily task. How much may happen any day before we return in the evening. The most splendid opportunity, the most powerful temptation, the greatest danger of our life may meet us. Or, it may be any morning, that we have crossed our threshold for the last time. Of one thing we can be certain. Jesus Christ, our strong and wise Elder Brother, our almighty Saviour, is waiting at the door, to go with us through the duties and events of the day. If we place ourselves under His guidance, we need have no fear, whatever happens.

Took branches of palm trees and went forth to meet him, v. 13. For centuries the Israelites had waved their palm branches at the great feasts which, year by year, reminded them of their wonderful deliverance from Egypt's bondage and their guidance into the promised land of Canaan. But, though they gloried in their freedom, they were all the while wearing the shackles and fetters of sin. There stood one before them now, and He stands before us today, who can break the power with which sin binds men and bring them out into glorious liberty. Who would be any longer a slave, when the Son of God has come to set us free?

Thy King cometh, v. 15. A king means a kingdom. That of Jesus was then but small, a few honest, earnest souls. One day it shall be universal:

"Kings shall fall down before Him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all people sing."

O let me know
The power of Thy resurrection!
O let me know
Thy risen life in calm and clear reflection!
—Havergal.

Slowly, in truth does that blessed time seem in coming. But let us not be discouraged. At the end of 1,000 years after this day of small beginnings, there were 50,000,000 people under Christian government. In 1500 there were 100,000,000; doubled in 500 years. In 1800 there were 400,000,000; doubled in 90 years;—more gain in those 80 years than in the previous 1800; and the gain has been more rapid still in the 25 years just ended.

But when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they, v. 16. A visitor to a large factory sees each workman busy with his own special task, and bits of machinery lying about here and there.

To the unpractised eye, all is confusion. But, by and by, he is shown a completed machine, and is told that all the work is being directed towards the making of machines like that. In like manner, now that Christ has died and risen and ascended to His throne, we see that every event in His life, joyful or sad, was a step towards His enthronement. And more than this, we know that the same wise and loving Father who controlled and shaped His life, has His hand also on our lives, and will one day bring a beautiful result out of the things that grieve and puzzle us now.

Sir, we would see Jesus, v. 21. We may recall the story of the old woman who, coming out of church one day, asked a gentleman if he had found the Saviour. "No," was the reply, "but I am seeking." "Then," she said, "I am sure you will find Him; for He is seeking you, too." Where there are two seeking they must meet. A seeking Saviour and a seeking sinner—where is the power that can prevent their coming together?

If it die, it bringeth forth much fruit, v. 24. Every year farmers carefully save the best sample of grain for sowing. They might sell it for a high price. It would make excellent flour. But they know they will get more out of the wheat in the end by sowing it and letting it die. Our life is like that grain. We may make up our minds simply to enjoy it as it passes. A far better use of it is to spend it in serving others. Then we shall reap the abundant harvest of their gratitude and love.

DOING THE EXTRA THING.

It is doing the little extras,
The things we're not asked to do,
The favors that help one's brother,
To trust in God and you;—

It is stepping out of one's pathway,
To show some poor child his home,
And the laying aside one's pleasure
To help some poor, suffering one;—

It is doing I say, "the extras,"
The things not looked for, you know,
That will bring us our King's kind notice,
A "Well done" as on we go.

PRAYER.

I desire, O God, this day most earnestly to please Thee; to do Thy will in each several thing which Thou shalt give me to do; bear each thing which Thou shalt allow to befall me contrary to my will, meekly, humbly, patiently, as a gift from Thee to subdue self-will in me; and to make Thy will wholly mine. What I do, make me do, simply as Thy child; let me be, throughout the day, as a child in his loving father's presence, ever looking up to Thee. May I love Thee for all Thy love. May I thank Thee, if not in words, yet in my heart, for each gift of Thy love, for each comfort which Thou allowest me day by day. Amen.—Selected.

AN ABIDING INFLUENCE.

The ministry is a calling for which any man might well thank God. There is certainly on this earth today no profession that will compare with it. Recently I sat in a large congregation while the people were assembling for divine worship. The pastor was in his place waiting the hour of service. His eyes were upon his gathering people, thoughtfully noting the old and the young as one and another came reverently forward and took their places in the pews; and we said: Here is a man with power, greater, possibly, than that of any one in his congregation. Why? Not because of his wealth; for he has little in comparison with some of those before him. Not because of his great culture; for there are those in his congregation who have equal, if not superior, scholarship. Not because of his distinguishing knowledge of civic affairs or his ability to lead men into wonderful achievements. He has a power because of his calling, and the consecrated head and heart which he has brought to his high office. There are hundreds of people present to hear his message, and not one will leave the house without some good thought having found its way to his heart from the lips of the pastor. Into all their homes his influence will go. His mind will hold theirs captive for an hour. His thought for this hour will influence their thinking. His words will send many to their homes comforted. He will give a stimulus to young minds, a bias, probably, to many destinies. And surely every life before him will be influenced more or less by the message of the morning, or, at least, of his past ministry. These lives will become centers from which the society about them will be more or less influenced in its plans and purposes. There is positively no limit to the good man's power for good. To use, therefore, one's own personality in shaping the characters, and likewise the destinies, of hundreds of human souls, is surely a privilege without an equal and one for which any sane man might well thank God. There is no profession like it for imparting blessedness to the human race. As an opportunity the ministry stands alone.—United Presbyterian.

Oh, do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men! Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks! Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle. But you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the richness of the life which has come in you by the grace of God.—Phillips Brooks.

The thing that God has approved cannot be injurious to man.

*S. S. Lesson April 23, 1905.—John 12: 12-26. Cn. mit to memory vs. 12, 13. Read vs. 12-59. Golden Text.—Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.—Matthew 21:9.