

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From the "Little Pilgrim Question Book," by Mrs. W. Barrows, Congregational Publishing Society, Boston.)

LESSON VII.—AUG. 18.

THE WIDOW OF NAIN.—Luke vii. 11-17.

- 11. And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.
12. Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead prophet risen up among us, and the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.
13. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said unto her, Weep not.
14. And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.
15. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.
16. And there came a fear on all; and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and that God hath visited his people.
17. And this rumor of him went forth throughout all Judaea, and throughout all the region round about.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not."—Ver. 13.

- 1. To what city did Jesus go the day after healing the centurion's servant? Ver. 11.
2. Why did the disciples and much people go with him?
3. What is a disciple?
Ans. A pupil, or one who is trying to be like his teacher.
4. Who were the disciples of Christ when he lived on earth?
Ans. All who believed on him, and tried to obey his commands.
5. How many did he choose from among these for his special friends?
Ans. Twelve disciples, and they are also called apostles.
6. Have you been studying about any of them in these lessons?
7. How many of the names of these twelve disciples can you remember? Chap. vi. 14-16.
8. When Jesus came near the gate of the city, what did he see? Ver. 12.
9. How did the Lord feel towards this sorrowing woman? Ver. 13.
10. How did he show his pity and love for her? Vers. 14, 15.
11. What did the multitude see in this act?
Ans. Christ's divine power.

- 12. How do we know there was a multitude about the gate of the city?
Ans. Because "much people" went with Jesus, and "much people" came out of the city with the weeping mother.
13. How were the people affected by seeing the one who was dead made alive again? Ver. 16.
14. What kind of a fear was this that came on them?
15. Who besides Christ has ever raised any one from the dead?
Ans. The old prophets.

- 16. What difference was there between their act and Christ's?
Ans. When they brought any one back to life, they said plainly that they did it by the help and power of God; but Christ did it by his own power.
17. Have there ever been cases where persons were supposed to be dead, and then restored by physicians?
Ans. Yes; but this could not have been such a case.

- 18. Why not?
Ans. The young man, when spoken to by Christ, sat up instantly, and began to speak; but, when any one has been restored by physicians, it was a very slow and difficult process.
19. Why did Christ raise this young man to life?
Ans. Because of his sympathy for the mother, and to show the people that he was the Messiah.

- 20. Are the love and compassion of Christ any less now than when he was at the gate of Nain?
21. If he is so pitiful, why does he not take away all sorrow and pain from his children?
Ans. He will do so in heaven, and he would do it here if it were best.

- 22. Why are sorrows and pain sometimes best for us?
Ans. To make us more like Christ.

Let us remember this week, what St. Paul says,— "IF WE SUFFER WE SHALL ALSO REIGN WITH HIM."

LESSON VIII.—AUG. 25.

THE FRIEND OF SINNERS.—Luke vii. 40-50.

- 40. And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.
41. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.
42. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?
43. Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.
44. And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.
45. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.
46. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.
47. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

- 48. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.
49. And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?
50. And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"This man receiveh sinners."—Luke. xv., 2.

- 1. Who had invited Jesus to come and dine with him?
Ans. A Pharisee named Simon.
2. Who were the Pharisees?
Ans. A sect of the Jews who thought they were better than anybody else.
3. Did the Jews sit at table as we do?
Ans. No; they were placed on couches, partly lying down, with the feet extended backward.
4. What do you remember about sandals, and the custom of washing the feet on entering a house?
5. What occurred while they were at dinner?

- 6. Was this woman an invited guest?
Ans. She was not; but, wherever Jesus was, the people would press in.
7. What did Simon think of this act?
Ans. He was vexed with the woman for coming into his house, and vexed with Jesus for letting her touch him.

- 8. Did he say anything?
Ans. He did not, but Jesus knew his thoughts.
9. What beautiful story did Jesus tell him? Vers. 41-43.
10. How did he explain this to Simon? Vers. 44-46.
11. Did Jesus know how wicked this woman had been?
Ans. Yes; and he knew how sorry she was, and how much she loved him.

- 12. Can any one truly love Christ, and yet continue to sin against him?
Ans. True love to Christ will finally conquer sin, and drive it out of the heart and life.
13. Why can it not conquer sin all at once?
Ans. Because sinful habits are so hard to overcome.

- 14. Mention some wrong habits which are specially hard to overcome.
15. What did Jesus say to this woman's sins? Vers. 47, 48.
16. When the people heard this, who did they think he was? Ver. 49.

- 17. What was it that saved this sinful woman? Ver. 50.
18. What do you see in her conduct that is worthy of praise?
Ans. She believed in Christ; she was determined to find him; and she did not stop to think what people would say.
19. When she had found Christ, how did she show her love to him?
Ans. By doing something for him.

- 20. In what was Simon wrong?
Ans. He was proud, and thought himself too good to have any thing to do with this woman "who was a sinner."

- 21. What example has Christ here given us to follow?
Ans. To love and pity those who have done wrong, and to try to do them good.

- 22. Is there any danger that such people might lead us into sin?
Ans. Not much, if we depend on God for help and strength.
23. What astonished the Pharisees more than anything else in Christ's conduct? Golden Text.
24. Why could they not see the beauty and loveliness of it?
Ans. Because their hearts were filled with self, and in such hearts there is no room for Christ.

Watchword for this week,

"SEEK, AND YE SHALL FIND."

ONE PETITION.

I have sometimes asked my myself: If I were allowed to present but one petition at the throne of grace, and that a single verse of Scripture, what verse would it be? And I have thought that it would be the one in Ps. 51: 10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." This has long been a prominent petition in my prayers, and becomes so more and more the longer I live. I feel there is nothing more to be desired than that "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." Nothing seems to me so beautiful, and I feel that without it I can never be truly happy, either in this world or in the world to come. But I feel that with it I shall have all the happiness that is best for me here, and that I shall be unspeakably happy hereafter. "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God." If purity of heart be mine, I shall be admitted within the gates of that city into which nothing entereth that defileth. I shall be prepared to be a companion of angels, and of the spirits of just men made perfect in heaven. The infinite God, who is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, will look with complacency upon me, and Christ, my Redeemer, to whom I owe all my salvation, will admit me to the closest intimacy. More earnestly, therefore, than I would seek gold and silver, or all created good,

would I seek to "shine in blest resemblance" to Him whose name is Holy.

There is also another verse of Scripture to offer as my one petition, and in the choice of which I might seem to be less selfish than in making choice of the other. The verse to which I now refer is contained in the "Lord's Prayer," and is as follows: "Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." If this petition be granted, and the will of God be done in earth, as it is in heaven, then it will be done in others as well as in myself, and in myself as well as others, and both myself and they will have the clean heart and the right spirit asked in the other petition. And thus I would like this even better than that. I would therefore cordially accept it, and fervently urge it at the Mercy-seat.—N. Y. Observer.

TRACES OF THE BURIED BIBLE.

In the Library of the British and Foreign Bible Society's House stands a glass case, containing several interesting specimens of the Scriptures in various languages. Among these specimens, perhaps, the most interesting is a Bible once buried in the island of Madagascar. Many of our young friends are acquainted with the story of the Malagasy Christians, who, for so many years, with no human teacher to instruct them, and through days of fiery persecution, remained true to their Saviour and the principles contained in his word.

The buried Bible in the Bible Society's library is one of those few which remained in the island when the voice of the human teacher was silenced. The divine word was still read, loved and acted upon by the Christians when left to stand alone.

This particular Bible consists of the whole Scriptures bound in a rough cowhide. But whilst the words of the book are complete, the type and size of the pages throughout are not uniform, the truth being that the poor islanders could not obtain the complete book without binding together different sized pages. In doing this they bound in, at the same time, a few blank sheets of paper, and on these sheet wrote down references to passages in the word, which had been found precious to them during their long waiting time ere the missionaries returned.—Gleanings for the Young.

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