

LESSON VIII—February 23rd, 1896.

Faith Encouraged. LUKE 8: 43-55.

(Commit to memory verses 43-50).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace." Luke 8: 48.

PROVE THAT—Jesus wishes us to trust him. Luke 8: 50.

SHORTER CATECHISM. (Quest. 48. *What are we specially taught by these words, "before me," in the first commandment?* A. These words "before me," in the first commandment teach us, That God, who seeth all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other God.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*. Nos. 40, 38, 223, 188.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday*. Faith Encouraged. Luke 8: 41-56. *Tuesday*. Great faith. Matt. 15: 21-28. *Wednesday*. Examples of faith. Heb. 11: 1-10. *Thursday*. Faith failing. Matt. 14: 22-33. *Friday*. Weak faith helped. Mark 9: 17-29. *Saturday*. Trust in the Lord. Psalm 62: 1-8. *Sabbath*. Come boldly. Heb. 4: 11-16. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Matthew, or Levi, the publican, when bidding farewell to his old occupation and companions in order to follow Jesus, made a great feast in his own house, at which Jesus was present. While this was in progress a messenger came from Ja'ir-us, a ruler of the synagogue, requesting him to come and heal his only daughter, a girl about 12 years of age, who lay at the point of death. He at once arose and followed the messenger. Parallel passages Matt. 9: 18-26; Mark 5: 22-43.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Timid Woman. vs. 43-48. II. The Anxious Father. vs. 49-55.

43. Twelve years—Her disease would by that time have become chronic and incurable. Neither could be healed of any—Mark tells us that they made her worse instead of better. She is a type of those sinners who seek peace without coming to Christ. (Isa. 55: 2). 44. The border—Rather "the tassel." There was a tassel at each corner of the outer robe of a Jew, as required by law. (Num. 15: 38-40). One of the four usually hung over the shoulder at the back, and this was the one which the woman touched. 45. Who touched me?—Jesus asked the question in order to draw forth a confession from the woman. (Gen. 3: 9; 4: 9; 2 Kings: 5: 25; Luke 24: 19). Jesus knew the difference between the touch of faith and the touch of rudeness. 46. Virtue is gone out of me—(6: 19)—We cannot tell how Jesus knew this, but we may be certain that Christ, not his garment, healed. Compare Acts 19: 11, 12. 47. She came trembling—Such humility is well pleasing to God. (Isa. 66: 2; Acts 16: 29). Before all the people—Christ still bids us to tell openly what blessings he has brought to us, that others may be helped and his name glorified. 48. Daughter—The only occasion on which our Lord is recorded to have used this gentle and affectionate term. Thy faith—By thus drawing her out he corrected her superstition, and pointed her to the real cause and ground of her healing.

49. The ruler of the Synagogue—Jairus. Trouble not—worry not. They could not have heard of the miracle at Nain. 50. Heard it—Mark says that he overheard it, and immediately reassured the sinking faith of Jairus. Believe only—Compare John 11: 25, 26. There was no limit to our Saviour's healing power but the want of faith on the part of those who came to him. (Matt. 13: 58). 51. The same three that were with him on two other solemn occasions. (Mark 9: 2; 14: 33). 52. Wept and bewailed her—Matthew tells us that the "minstrels and people" were making a noise. The hired mourners usually set up a great wailing. She is not dead but sleepeth—Jesus hints that she is about to awake. He does not deny that she is really dead. (John 11: 11-14; 1 Cor. 15: 6, 51; 1 Thess. 4: 13). Our word *anemoria* means a "sleeping place." 53. Laughed him to scorn—Literally, "were utterly deriding him." This is a proof that she was really dead. 54. Took her by the hand—How often we read of the gentle touch of Jesus. Maid, arise—Mark gives the actual words, "*Talitha cumi*," in the language of the common people and of his own home—as sweet to him and them as Gaelic to Highland cars. 55. She arose straightway—Not only restored to life, but cured of her disease, and ready to engage in all life's duties. Jesus, thoughtfully, bids them give her food to strengthen her.

LESSONS. 1. The only cure for the malady of sin is to touch Jesus with the hand of faith. 2. We should bear testimony for him before men. 3. Answers to prayer are often delayed in order that a richer blessing may come with the answer. 4. Death is but a sleep to the Christian. 5. Jesus is the resurrection and the life.