

understand, but if you follow Him, He will bring you to a place where knowledge and understanding and mystery are lost in light, and love is all and in all.

I will, v. 22. Our planet is but a small member, comparatively, of a great system of heavenly bodies, and beyond this system are

others in countless numbers.

We Can Trust Him There is not a member of these systems, which would not every moment bring destruction upon itself and the whole universe, were not the forces operating upon it so exactly balanced and under such perfect control. And the hand that holds the suns in their places and guides the planets in their courses is the hand of our Saviour. They obey His will. Surely we can trust Him with the directing of our lives.

What shall this man do? v. 21. The captain of a certain coasting craft was given to the habit of watching very closely the course of other ships. He would persist in steering other ships, while in the wheel-house of his own. One day, coming into a narrow harbor mouth were two ships besides his own, and each man had his hands full to keep off the rocks. The other two were, in the opinion of this captain, out of their course. He was

sure they would run ashore. He called a sailor to signal them a warning, and just as he gave the order, his own boat gashed her side on a sharp sunken reef. It cost him a large sum to learn that it was his first duty to run his own ship well, and when he had done that, he might criticize and caution his companion captains.

Lesson Points

While the disciples toil on earth, the Master is preparing a feast for them in heaven. v. 12.

The world says, "Get others to serve you"; Jesus says, "Spend yourself in serving others". v. 14.

Love is the root, and obedience is the tree with all its goodly fruits. v. 15.

Jesus trusts us; therefore we should never disappoint Him. v. 15.

"The service of man is the garb of love to God." vs. 15, 16, 17.

"I will" should always be in subjection to "I ought". v. 18.

With Jesus as our Guide, the way is sure to be safe, and the goal blessed. v. 19.

Jesus must be divine, since human life depends on His will. v. 22.

Tarrying for quiet communion with Jesus, will make our work for Him all the more effective. v. 23.

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school

For Teachers of the Older Scholars and Bible Classes

The last lesson properly closed the story of the Gospel. Ch. 21 is a supplementary appendix. Its aim is not to show proof of growing faith in the resurrection, but rather to picture the way in which Jesus acted while He remained on earth before His ascension. The first part describes the appearance of Jesus at the Sea of Tiberias (Galilee), while the disciples were fishing. They had returned to their usual work, uncertain as to the future. Jesus was not recognized,—possibly in the early dawn was not clearly seen, but probably there was an unusual hiding of His identity. It is only after the success of the great catch of fish, that John recognizes Jesus.

The meal, with its fellowship, is a beautiful scene.

1. *The risen Lord as Host*, vs. 12-14. Note the mysterious Presence which seems to have profoundly affected the disciples. They shrink back, even, when they know Him; and only when He advances, do they feel a return of the old confidence. In this case He does not partake of food with them.

2. *The risen Lord and His disciples*, vs. 15-23. These verses must be interpreted in the light of Peter's boastful declaration (ch. 13 : 37) and his subsequent denial, ch. 18 : 17, 25, 27.

(a) *Jesus and Peter*. There are two things here. The first is the personal dealing (vs. 15-18), which issued in the instruction to Peter. He was to be a shepherd of God's flock. Every word is full of meaning. Note Jesus' three questions, Peter's three answers