

in their homes and at their work, and by countless other physical conditions. The more truly Christian we are, the more we must concern ourselves with the task of changing conditions so that it will be easy for every one to do right, and hard for him to do wrong.

2. *The disciples, Philip and Peter, were full of doubt; Jesus was full of confidence.*

A story is told of a famous artist who had been the pupil of a still more celebrated teacher. The artist struggled to express his dreams of beauty on canvas, but he could not complete his picture. Again and again he took up his brush only to put it down in despair, saying: "If only my master were here." One night the master returned, and visited the old studio in the absence of the painter. He saw the unfinished picture and understood the great idea with which his pupil was struggling. He said: "I will finish it for him." All night he painted, and left the studio at dawn. When the painter came to his studio in the morning and looked at his picture, he burst into tears, saying: "My master has been here; nobody but he could ever have finished my work."

Yes, God takes our efforts and carries them forward to completion. Even when we are full of doubt and hesitation, the doors fly open, the fruit appears, because he is watching over us. There is a fine illustration of this truth in the life of Elisha. One morning the servant of the prophet announced that the Syrians had surrounded Dothan where they were staying, and that nothing could save them from their enemies. What was the answer of the brave prophet? It was this: "Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them." In response

to the prayer of Elisha, the young man's eyes were opened, and behold, "the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."

3. We learn that *God can use our small resources and our weak attempts to accomplish mighty things.*

When Count Zinzendorf was a boy at school, he founded the Order of the Mustard Seed, and it grew into the influential Moravian Brotherhood. Robert Murray McCheyne gave a religious tract to a young man in Dundee. It led him to make confession of Christ. That young man was Dr. Alexander Whyte, the famous Edinburgh preacher. St. Theresa wanted to build a convent, but she had only three shillings. Nothing daunted, she said: "With three shillings Theresa can do nothing, but with God and her three shillings there is nothing that Theresa cannot do."

Christianity itself started as a despised belief and passed through ten persecutions at the hands of Roman emperors, but it expanded and waxed strong until it overcame all opposition. God takes the weak and foolish things of earth and they become strong and powerful under his blessing.

4. *Let us cast away all fear.* Our efforts are puny and we grow discouraged like the disciples of old. The storms of life beat about us and we cry out in alarm. But our Father is watching above us.

Do you dread each dark to-morrow?

God's in his heaven!

Nought can come without his knowing.

Come what may 'tis his bestowing.

All's well! All's well!

All's.. well!

### THE LESSON GRADED

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

#### For Teachers of Bible Classes

By Rev. Professor W. E. Taylor, Ph.D., Toronto

The teachings of the lesson may be brought out by a discussion of the following points:

1. *Grace abounding.* Jesus was seeking to show the people that God was near to men, interested in every life, howsoever insignificant and unworthy it might seem to be;

God was at hand to supply every need of body and of soul. God in Christ cares for our temporal needs (Heb. 4:15); our spiritual hunger (Matt. 11:27-30); our longing for immortality (John 17:3), etc. "Thank God," said an old woman at her first sight of the sea. "Thank God, there's one thing of which there's enough." And there is no lack in God's sufficiency for us. (Read Rom. 8:35-39.)