

caravans, and the great market for balsam, consequently there would be numerous collectors of taxes and customs dues residing there. **He was rich**—One in his position had many ways of enriching himself dishonestly, but he could not have carried out his proposal in verse 8, if his wealth had been gotten in that way. **3. Who he was**—*i. e.* which of all the crowd was Jesus. He wanted to get a look at him. His interest, doubtless, was more than mere curiosity (John 12: 21; Luke 9: 9). **4. Sycomore tree**—This is not the tree called by that name in America, although in general appearance it resembles it. It had leaves like the mulberry, and bore a worthless kind of fig.

II. FINDING. 5. He looked up—Probably the jeers of the crowd would draw his attention to him. Jesus, however, knew his heart, and made amends to him for the ridicule he endured by inviting himself to be his guest. At this mark of distinction the scoffers would be silent. **Abide at thy house**—He may have remained over night. This was a most unexpected honor, and Zacchaeus showed by his joyful welcome that his heart was ready to receive Christ. **7. They all murmured**—The Jews who accompanied Jesus, or saw what he had done, were greatly

displeased. **A sinner**—Zacchaeus would have been called a sinner, no matter how good his character, because he was a detested publican (Matt. 9: 11; Luke 5: 30).

III. SAVED. 8. The half of my goods—He was willing to do what the rich young ruler would not. He gives himself and all he has to Christ. **By false accusation**—R. V. "Wrongfully exacted aught of any man" (Luke 3: 14). He does not mean that he is not conscious of having done so, but rather implies that he had. **Fourfold**—See the Jewish law, Ex 22: 1, 4; Num. 5: 7. He need have added only a fifth part, but he is willing to bear the extreme penalty (Compare 1 Sam. 12: 3; 2 Sam. 12: 6). This resolve shews the sincerity of Zacchaeus' repentance. **9. Salvation**—The people called him "a sinner," Christ pronounced him saved. **A son of Abraham**—However much the people might despise him and call him "a false Jew," his penitence and honesty showed that he was "an Israelite indeed" (John 1: 47). **To seek**—See Luke 15: 4; Matt. 9: 13; 18: 11. **That which was lost**—(Matt. 15: 24). We are most like Jesus when we are following his example in trying to turn others from sin to his service.

LESSONS.

1. No one ever sought Christ sincerely that did not find him. 2. There are places where Jesus passes by (church, Sabbath school, Bible, prayer, etc.) We should go there to meet him. 3. Jesus never passed that way again. We may not have another opportunity of coming to him. 4. The proofs of conversion are repentance, confession, restitution, and benevolence. 5. Jesus came to save the lost. Have you found him?

LESSON XII—March 24th.

Purity of Life. ROMANS 13 : 8-14.

(Commit to memory verses 10-12.)

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Abstain from all appearance of evil." 1 Thess. 5: 22.

LESSON HYMNS.

CHILDREN'S HYMNAL, Nos. 2, 100, 116, 101.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Quest 14. *What is sin?* A. Sin is any want of conformity unto or transgression of the laws of God.

PROVE THAT

God honors the pure. Matt. 5: 8.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Purity of Life; Rom. 13: 8-14. *Tuesday.* Dead to Sin; Rom. 6: 11-18. *Wednesday.* A Living Sacrifice; Rom. 12: 1-9. *Thursday.* Be Separated; 2 Cor. 6: 11-18. *Friday.* Resist; James 4: 1-10. *Saturday.* Be ye Holy; 1 Peter 1: 13-23. *Sabbath.* For Christ's Sake. 1 Peter 4: 1-7. (*The I. R. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The Epistle to the Romans was written by Paul, from Corinth, in the spring of A. D. 58, towards the close of his third missionary journey. He had resided in Corinth for some months, and was just about to leave for Jerusalem (Acts 20: 2-3; 1 Cor. 16: 6). The Epistle deals chiefly with the cardinal doctrine of "Justification by Faith," and concludes with practical exhortations (chaps. 12-16) regarding the various relations in which the Christian stands. Our lesson deals with personal character and holiness of heart.