

adorned with the kingly crown, but he was still a subject. He was not "in the form" of the king. Joseph was given by Pharaoh authority over all the land of Egypt, and had the king's signet wherewith to seal his orders, but he was not "equal with" the king—"only," said Pharaoh, "in the throne will I be greater than thou."

We see one who "emptied" himself that he might become man. Just as the bud grows, and opens, and expands, that it may become the perfect flower, so must the infant take in nourishment, grow, expand, and have its mental and physical faculties cultivated and developed, that it may become a perfect man. But the one whose picture is given us here had to be stripped, not filled, emptied, not developed. And he did it himself.

We see one whose name is above every other name, and whom every tongue must acknowledge as Lord. This is no mere man, for Jehovah has said: "My glory will I not give to another." Isa. 42. 8. It is the God-man whose picture is drawn for us here, and it is the God-man whom we are bidden to copy.

But how are we to do so? How can man copy God—the human imitate the divine? The mighty wind sweeps over land and sea, turning the mill-wheels, and speeding the vessels on their way. The little leaf on the tree cannot do all that the wind does. Yet it can copy it, for it can turn and point in the same way—can move in the same direction. Is the wind hasting from north to south? That is the way the leaf is moving, too. We all know why. It is because the leaf is given up to the influence of the current—because there is no resistance in it. The mind (if we may so speak) of the wind is infused into the leaf.

So we are not bidden to do every thing that Christ did. We cannot bear the sin of others, and work out redemption for them, as he did. But he bids us "have the same mind." He would have us go the same way. Was he willing to empty himself for our sakes? His servants must take thought for others, must deny themselves for others, that they may be "lights" and messengers of "life" to others. We have seen the picture of the great example. Look at the description of the copy made from it: "without murmurings and disputings, . . . blameless and harmless, without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, . . . as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life. Is not one picture a fitting pendant to the other?"

But how can any one have "this mind"? That is part of the "salvation" of which the passage speaks—"your salvation"—won by Christ and given freely—the salvation which had been accepted by the Ephesians to whom Paul was writing. None can have the "mind" of Christ but those who are saved and forgiven through him. But his saved people are not like a leaf which must go with the wind whether it will or no. The salvation given them must be "worked out," used with their own consent and purpose, and then they will find that as the wind moves the leaf, so God works in them "to will and to do of his good pleasure."

Berean Methods.

Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

An opening talk (or questions) about Philippi, situation, planting of the Church, Paul's relation to it, etc. . . . The Epistle to Philippians, circumstances of writing, scope and aim, and subjects. (See General Statement.) . . . A map might be drawn showing the journey of Epaphroditus, the bearer of this epistle, from Rome to Philippi. . . . Two aspects, of this lesson. 1. **What it teaches about Christ:** 1.) Pre-existence; 2.) Glory; 3.) Humiliation; 4.) —; 5.) —. 2. **What it teaches about Christians.** They should be: 1.) Humble; 2.) Loyal to Christ; 3.) Obedient; 4.) —; 5.) —. . . . See Thoughts for Young People. . . . ILLUSTRATIONS. Vers. 5-8. There is a story of a missionary who, finding that he could reach the blacks in the West Indies by becoming a slave, caused himself to be made a slave, so that he could preach among them. How much greater was the voluntary humiliation of Christ! . . . Vers. 9-11. When a Japanese official or soldier sees a piece of paper containing the emperor's signature, he casts himself on the ground before it. . . . Vers. 15, 16. The statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World," which will soon stand in New York harbor, with upraised hand holding a torch, is an image of every Christian.

Lesson Word-Pictures.

O wonderful descent and humiliation of infinite love! I am looking at Bethlehem. I see the stable, the manger, the wondering shepherds, and the dumb creatures in their stalls. I see a form vanishing alone into the dreariness of the wilderness, and against that soul break the forces of hell even as the waves throw themselves upon the rocks of the shore, and in vain. I am looking at the hot, weary, hungry way-side, at twelve toiling, dust covered men who follow that "Man of Sorrows," halting at some door as he halts over some couch of sickness, or penitent child of sin, or crippled, leprous, demoniac form. I am facing the stormy shadows of Gethsemane, out of which comes an agonizing cry, and beyond is the sight of Calvary, against whose dark sky I see the form of that pitiful sufferer writhing on the cross. And then I am dazzled by the glory breaking out of the tomb in the garden and then vanishing into the clouds of ascension-day as if passing behind marble-portals. O that in the lives of those who bow to the Saviour in love and reverence may be repeated his example! May others see the outlines of Bethlehem's manger in our lowliness of spirit, the victory of the wilderness in our pure lives, the tolling by the way-side in our efforts of love, Gethsemane's accepted cup in our resignation, and Calvary's cross in our self-forgetful sacrifices!

Primary and Intermediate.

BY M. V. N.

LESSON THOUGHT. *Jesus our Pattern.*

Show a letter again. What did we talk about last Sunday? Yes, letters. Who was the writer of the letter we read then? Paul. Open the Bible, and show that there are many letters in it written by Paul. Show a picture of Paul and Silas in prison, or make word-picture of the night scene. Tell that this took place in Philippi. Ten years had passed since then. Paul was a prisoner in Rome, and some of the friends who loved him in Philippi had sent him a present. Paul wrote this letter to thank them, and to give them some good advice.

What is a pattern? Once a little girl had some patterns for making pretty toys which she offered to give

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