

religious about the influence of mountains? Elijah has been called the grandest and most romantic character that Israel ever produced. His wild and weird mountain home may have contributed something to the making of such a man. What was it that contributed most to making him what he was? Bring out that his faith in God was the source of his strength, and that without faith we can do nothing that is worth while. The Lesson contains three scenes in the life of this great prophet:

1. *First Scene*, v. 1. Where was this? Question the class about Ahab, the worst of the kings of Israel, who had a wife worse than himself. What was the moral and religious condition of the country at this time? Note how abruptly Elijah appears upon the scene, and what amusement there must have been in the court at the sight of this shaggy, long-haired, sheepskinned sheik of the desert, and by the seemingly wild words which he uttered in the unpolished dialect of his mountain home. As they looked into the face of this man the corrupt courtiers must have been sobered a bit for there was something of the Spirit of God in that face. What message had Elijah for Ahab?

2. *Second Scene*, vs. 2-7. Note how completely Elijah's life was under the control of God. His was a God-led life. How did he spend those months of solitude by the brook? Communing with God and with nature and with his own heart? Coleridge's *Ancient Mariner* found the wide, wide sea so lonely that God Himself seemed scarcely to be there. Is this true of human experience? Does not God seem nearer to us in solitude than in society? Jesus Himself went away into solitude to pray. Still we need to remember that we can carry the music of the gospel in our hearts through all "the loud stunning tide of human care," as the poet teaches. Note that this brook was unlike Tennyson's, it dried up. It was like many things in life which are good in themselves and which minister to our strength and happiness which do not always last. What sources of strength and happiness are never-failing? What could Elijah do without the brook?

3. *Third Scene*, vs. 8-16. Question out what took place at Zarephath, and quote some lines of Mrs. Charles' beautiful poem:

"Is thy cruse of comfort failing?
Rise and share it with another:
For the heart grows rich in giving."

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

The Lesson may be treated as a story in three chapters, with Elijah for its hero. It should be the aim of the teacher to make this story live before the minds of the scholars.

CHAPTER I. *A Drought Predicted*, v. 1. Help the scholars to form a mind picture of the great prophet, Elijah. Tradition describes him as a man of short stature and rugged face, with thick, black hair streaming over his shoulders, wearing a heavy mantle, the skin of a camel or sheep, the rough side out, strong, temperate, hardy and swift. Next, ask the class about Ahab, the wicked king. Bring out how, to please his wicked wife, Jezebel, he had introduced the worship of Baal into Israel. Take up the message which Elijah brought to the king,—from whom the message came, what it was, the reason for the drought sure to follow (the sin of king and queen and people), on whose word the coming of the rain once more was to depend. Lay stress on the courage of Elijah, and its secret,—he was God's servant, with God's power behind him.

CHAPTER II. *Fed by the Ravens*, vs. 2-7. We are not told how "the word of the Lord" came to Elijah, but the teacher should lead the scholars to think of some ways in which it comes to them,—through the Bible, in the voice of conscience, in the commands and counsels of parents, etc. Emphasize the faith shown by Elijah in his obedience, without question, to that word, going away to the "brook Cherith,"—likely some ravine in Gilead. Discuss the provision of food, what it was and how it was brought to Elijah, dwelling on the wonder of the miracle and its proof of God's power over nature. Speak also of the supply of water, and how it failed at last, how this would test Elijah's faith; was he to die of thirst at last?

CHAPTER III. *In a Widow's Home*, vs. 8-16. Point out how again "the word of the Lord" came to Elijah. He was constantly under divine direction. Dwell on the timeliness of the summons to the prophet to change his abode. With no water to drink, how