

Our Young People

Study of the First of Missionaries.

Topic for April 8.—"Christ Our Missionary Model."—John 4:5-15.

"I am come that they might have life."

For Dominion Presbyterian.

Christ our Missionary Model.

BY WOODFORD.

Christ was a home missionary, in the house of Lazarus.

Christ was a foreign missionary, when the Greeks came to Him.

Christ was a city missionary, when He taught in Samaria.

Christ was a Sunday-school missionary, when He opened up the Scriptures and set men to studying the Word of God.

Christ was a children's missionary, when He took them in His arms and blessed them.

Christ was a missionary to the poor, when He opened the eyes of the blind beggar.

Christ was a missionary to the rich, when He opened the spiritual eyes of Zaccheus.

Even on the cross, Christ was a missionary to the robber and His last command was the missionary commission, Amos 9: Wells.

The spirit of missions is the spirit of Jesus, manifest in His followers.—Bishop Leonard.

Topic.—Had Christ not been altogether a missionary there were many reasons why, at this time, He should have let missionary work alone—He was wearied; as a Jew, race prejudice would be expected to be strong in Him. His errand was to a place further on than Samaria. It was His missionary zeal that fitted Him to miss no opportunity. And because He so worked while it was day, the night found Him saying "It is finished." Jesus, at this time might have emphasized the point of difference between the woman and Himself: to have done so would have meant antagonism. With her he stands on the platform of common humanity; if more of us thought of others in this way there would be less race and class prejudice. Having the confidence of the woman He arouses her sense of the supernatural, then her sense of sin. The appeal is then made to her insinuated worship, with the result that she recognizes Jesus as a prophet, so leading her to God that she is enabled to lead others to God through Him. Souls so aroused forget all else and hasten to their fellows with a message, that will bring them to God. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

Monday.—The true missionary is always about the Father's business. So many are waiting for great opportunities,—waiting for the vision of a man of some Macedonia, while they are in Macedonia, and some acquaintance is waiting for the message of God from them. Such opportunities are sure to be missed by any who are not always about the Father's business; they are never missed by them who are.

Tuesday.—We are not to be hindered from doing what our hand findeth to do because of unbelief or opposition. Such a condition of affairs never hindered Him from continuing His work. His care was to deliver His message. That He delivered this message we know; we also know that at the end of nineteen centuries He is waiting to see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied. For His sake then, what can we do in whatsoever sphere of life we have been placed by God?

Wednesday.—Is there any greater hindrance to effective missionary work than the seeking of place and fame. The model missionary has been and is a servant of God, and seeks above all to be a laborer together with God. It is enough for Him if the Master say "Well done good and faithful servant." To be minded after the manner of sons of Zebedee is to be cruelly indifferent to the cause so dear to Christ.

Speak, History!—Who are Life's Victors? Unroll thy long annals and say
Are they those whom the world called the victors—
who won the success of a day?
The martyrs or Nero? The Spartans who fell at Thermopylae's tryst,
Or the Persians and Xerxes? His judges or Socrates? Pilate or Christ?

Thursday.—If all men have been created in the image of God, there must be seeking and working to the end that there shall be not one missing. For all sorts and conditions of men Jesus has been and is an Advocate with the Father. The expediency of His going to the Father, and, in the going, making Himself to be the propitiation for the sins of all is seen by how following this was given the command "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations."

Friday.—By the inspiration of the model missionary we are being made to respond to the appeal of India—famine-stricken, physically and spiritually. Is the response to this appeal so hearty, so ready, that in this we have proof for ourselves that we really believe in the Fatherhood of God, and the brotherhood of men? The terms come readily to many lips, yet there is a neglect of and indifference to the needs of dark continents, that shows our deeds are not as our words.

Saturday.—For this reading, as for much in the others for this week. Kipling in his "White Man's Burden" says much that is decidedly to the point,—as to the orthodoxy or heterodoxy, etc., of the poet, some church papers here and in the States will inform us definitely sometime.

The White Man's Burden.

Take up the White Man's Burden
Send forth the best ye breed,
Go, bind your sons to exile
To serve your captives need;
To wait, in heavy harness,
On fluttered folk and wild—
Your new caught sullen peoples
Half devil and half child.

Take up the White Man's Burden
In patience to abide,
To veil the threat of terror
And check the threat of pride;
By open speech and simple
An hundred times made plain
To seek another's profit
And work another's gain.

Take up the White Man's Burden
The savage wars of peace—
Fill full the mouth of famine
And bid the sickness cease,
And when your goal is nearest
(The end for others sought)
Watch sloth and heathen folly
Bring all your hope to naught.

Take up the White Man's Burden
And reap his old reward—
The blame of those ye better—
The hate of those ye guard
The cry of hosts ye humour
(Ah, slowly) toward the light:—
"Why brought ye us from bondage,
Our loved Egyptians night."

Take up the White Man's Burden
No iron rule of kings
But toil of serf and sweeper
The tale of common things.
The ports ye shall not enter
The roads ye shall not tread,
Go, make them with your living
And, mark them with your dead.

Take up the White Man's Burden—
Ye dare not stoop to less,—
Nor call too loud on Freedom
To cloke your weariness,
By all ye will or whisper,
By all ye leave or do,
The silent sullen peoples
Shall weigh your God and you.

Take up the White Man's Burden
Have done with childish days—
The lightly-proffered laurel,
The easy ungrudged praise:
Come now, to search your manhood
Through all the thankless years,
Cold edged with dear-bought wisdom,
The judgment of your peers

For Daily Reading.

- Mon., Apr. 2.—The mission spirit in Christ.
Luke 2:41-49
Tues., Apr. 3.—He came unto His own
Mark 6:1-6
Wed., Apr. 4.—Spending life for others.
Matt. 20:17-29
Thurs., Apr. 5.—His plan includes the world.
1 John 2:1, 2
Fri., Apr. 6.—He brought man to his kin.
Mark 3:81-85
Sat., Apr. 7.—He taught us to give.
Matt. 5:42-48
Sun., Apr. 8.—Topic Christ our missionary model John 4:5-15. (Quarterly missionary meeting.)

Hints for Talks and Testimonies.

- What is to be learned from Christ about preparation for missionary work?
What does Christ's method suggest about the choice of places for missionary effort?
How is Christ our model in His attention to individuals?
What does Christ's course suggest as to the value of medical missions?
What may the missionary learn from Christ's way of approaching men?
How does Christ's work show the importance of seeing the best that is in men?
What does Christ show to be the true missionary motive?
What truths did Christ make prominent in winning those He sought?