

**BETWEEN THE LESSONS**—Jesus leaves the place of the Transfiguration, comes through Galilee to Capernaum, teaching His disciples as He goes. Amongst other things, He again speaks plainly of His crucifixion. The question of the payment of tribute precedes this Lesson, ch. 17 : 24-27.

**GOLDEN TEXT**—In heaven their angels do always behold the face of my father which is in heaven.—Matthew 18 : 10.

Memorize vs. 2, 3. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Matthew 18 : 1-14. Read Mark 9 : 33-37 ; Luke 9 : 46-48.

1 At the same time came the disciples unto Je'sus, saying, Who <sup>2</sup> is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven ?

2 And <sup>3</sup> Je'sus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye <sup>4</sup> be converted, and become as little children, ye shall <sup>5</sup> not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is <sup>6</sup> greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

5 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

6 But whoso shall <sup>7</sup> offend one of these little ones which believe <sup>8</sup> in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and *that* he <sup>9</sup> were drowned in the depth of the sea.

7 Woe unto the world because of <sup>10</sup> offences ! for it must needs be that <sup>11</sup> offences come ; but woe to that man <sup>12</sup> by whom the <sup>13</sup> offence cometh !

8 <sup>14</sup> Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot <sup>15</sup> offend thee, cut <sup>16</sup> them off, and cast <sup>17</sup> them from thee :

**Revised Version**—In that hour came ; <sup>2</sup> then is greatest ; <sup>3</sup> he called to him a little child, and ; <sup>4</sup> turn, and ; <sup>5</sup> in no wise enter ; <sup>6</sup> the ; <sup>7</sup> cause one ; <sup>8</sup> on me to stumble, it is profitable for him that a great millstone should be hanged ; <sup>9</sup> could be sunk in ; <sup>10</sup> occasions of stumbling ; <sup>11</sup> the occasions ; <sup>12</sup> through ; <sup>13</sup> occasion ; <sup>14</sup> And if ; <sup>15</sup> causeth thee to stumble ; <sup>16</sup> it ; <sup>17</sup> good for ; <sup>18</sup> the eternal ; <sup>19</sup> the hell of fire ; <sup>20</sup> See that ; <sup>21</sup> Omit whole of verse ; <sup>22</sup> any man ; <sup>23</sup> a ; <sup>24</sup> go unto ; <sup>25</sup> seek ; <sup>26</sup> goeth ; <sup>27</sup> over it more than over the ; <sup>28</sup> have not gone.

**Daily Readings**—(Courtesy, I. B. R. A.)—M.—The Child in the midst. Matt. 18 : 1-14. T.—"Forbid them not". Mark 10 : 13-16. W.—Who is greatest ? Luke 22 : 24-30. Th.—"Be clothed with humility", 1 Pet. 5 : 1-7. F.—A song of praise, Ps. 8. S.—An echo of the song. Matt. 21 : 6-19. S.—"He humbled Himself", Phil. 2 : 1-11.

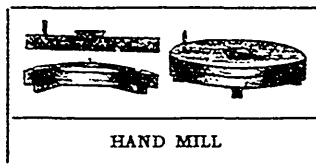
## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

**I. A LESSON FROM A LITTLE CHILD.**—1-6. At the same time ; Rev. Ver., "in that hour." What follows is closely connected with the tribute incident (ch. 17 : 24-27). Who is the greatest ? Peter has figured prominently in the great question at Casarea Philippi (Lesson VII.), on the Mount of Transfiguration (Lesson VIII.), and in the tribute incident. The question of who is first comes to the front. Mark (ch. 9 : 34) tells that a dispute had arisen on this score. A little child ; Mark 9 : 36, "had taken him in his arms". Luke 9 : 47, "set him by him." Except ye be converted ; Rev. Ver., "turn", leave behind ambition, and go in an opposite direction. Become as little children ; have the spirit that characterizes children, humility, teachableness, obedience. Shall not enter ; Rev. Ver., "in no wise enter" ; so far from being first, there is no chance even to enter. Shall humble himself ; humility is to be the badge of greatness. Whoso shall receive ; lovingly recognize and welcome. One such little child. The child before them represents the qualities of the true member of the kingdom. In my name ; on the ground of what I am. A person's name is the sum of what a man is known to be and to do. Whoso shall offend ; cause to stumble—opposite to "receive." Ambition is an offence against self and against the humble brother. One of these. These words apply to the child and to the childlike behavior, of whom the child is a type. It were better ; Rev.

Ver., "it is profitable"—it is far better that he should perish than that he should cause the childlike to stumble. A

millstone were hanged ; Rev. Ver., "a great millstone", literally, a millstone turned by an ass—the large stone driven by an ass, not the light hand-driven one. Drowned ; a form of capital punishment used by the Greeks and Romans, but not by the Jews.

7-10. Woe ; here a word of pity, not of condemnation. Jesus pities humanity because of what it suffers through offences. Because of offences ; stumbling blocks—the cause of the woes. Literally, "scandals". Rev. Ver., "occasions of stumbling." It must needs be. The necessity is not that God has willed it, but because man's ambition makes it inevitable. Woe to that man ; this time, the woe of condemnation. If thy hand . . . foot ; symbols of the thing that offends. Halt ; mutilated in respect of the feet. Maimed ; lacking hand or hands. Everlasting fire ; Rev. Ver., "the eternal fire", the punishment of the Messianic judgment. Hell fire ; literally, "the Gehenna of fire." Gehenna, a gorge southwest of Jerusalem, was the receptacle where bodies of dead



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