

thing save as God permitted and enabled him. And king or common man, the one who realizes his dependence on the Almighty and trusts Him is not the one to say "I cannot," when he is called to resist some evil proposal. He who recognizes most fully God's authority will stand most steadfastly against those who would lead him into a wrong path.

Jeremiah sunk in the mire, v. 6. God will sometimes let the persecutor go a long way against his faithful servant. Just as Jeremiah was flung at last into an

Never
Deserted

empty well for a dungeon and permitted to sink down in the muddy slime at its bottom, so Christians may find themselves the victims of slander and enmity, caught in some cunning device of the enemy, and besmirched in the public mind, and feel themselves helplessly sinking in the mire. But God never deserts them. As Gregory Nazianzen exclaimed, "Do they cast us out of the city? They cannot cast us out of that which is in the heavens. So long however as they cannot do this, they are but pelting us with drops of water or striking us with the wind."

Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, v. 7. Despite his black skin, he was one of the whitest men in the city. It takes no little heroism to stand by the condemned.

A "White"
Man

Summer friends quickly desert one on the day of adversity. Like the butterflies that leave the bush when the bloom is gone and the bleak winds blow through its leafless branches, they turn to

more remunerative quarters. It is men of principle and justice like this Ebed-melech that approve themselves as the most steadfast friends in the hour of calamity. They will not fail those who depend upon them.

Old cast clouds and old rotten rags, v. 11. They had once adorned royal shoulders, or added to the charms of beautiful princesses.

Now they were relegated to Old Clothes the rubbish heap. But though their day of glory may have

been over, their day of service was not yet done. A kind heart will still find ample use for old clothes. Rather than let the moths consume them in some neglected attic, give them away that in some measure they may minister to the comforts of others. There are enough old clothes hoarded up to keep the half clad homes in warmth. All that is required is the thoughtfulness of some Ebed-melech to bring them out for the use of the needy.

So they drew up Jeremiah with the cords, v. 13. Those cords linked the prophet sunk in the mire with the strong arms and willing

The Cord
of Faith

hearts above. And we by nature are away down in the depths of sin. But above us stands the mighty and loving Saviour. Where is the cord by which he may draw us up? It is just our faith. We have but to trust Him, and He will bring us up from the darkness and the defilement, into the light and purity of a holy life. No strain is too great for His strength.

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school.

For Teachers of the Older Scholars

Try to get a clear idea of the man Jeremiah. Locate his birthplace and family connections, ch. 1 : 1. He prophesied for over forty years, (626 to 586). He became prominent after the death of Josiah. Study his character, the enemy of insincerity, paganism and immorality. Naturally timid (ch. 1 : 6), through God's grace, he was made brave, ch. 1 : 18.

It is well to remember that Jeremiah was opposed to the policy of the national party. He declared that the Chaldeans would cap-

ture Jerusalem and destroy the temple, and that his people should submit. The national party formed an alliance with Egypt, and refused to accept Jeremiah's teaching. His position brought him many enemies, as the priests (ch. 20), the townspeople (ch. 11 : 21), the king (ch. 36 : 26), and the military, ch. 38 : 4. It is well to consider his prophecies in their widest bearings.

Note the time. Follow the chronology since last Lesson. Jehoiachin reigned three months (2 Kgs. 24 : 8), and was a prisoner thirty-seven years, 2 Kgs. 25 : 27-30. Nebuchadnezzar made his uncle king, and named him Zedekiah, 2 Kgs. 24 : 17. He was the