

**The Secret of It.**

BY AMOS R. WELLS.

"Where does the clerk of the weather store  
The days that are sunny and fair?"  
"In your soul is a room with a shining door,  
And all of those days are there."

"Where does the clerk of the weather keep  
The days that are dreary and blue?"  
"In a second room in your soul they sleep,  
And you have the keys of the two."

"And why are my days so often, I pray,  
Filled full of clouds and of gloom?"  
"Because you forget at the break of day,  
And open the dreary room."  
—St. Nicholas.

**LESSON NOTES.**

**THIRD QUARTER.**

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JESUS.

**LESSON VII.—AUGUST 12.  
THE FORGIVING SPIRIT.**

Matt. 18. 21-35. Memory verses, 21, 22.

pared with what this servant had owed his lord

29 "I will pay thee all"—There was greater reason to believe that this promise would be kept than that his own would be, for it was only about three months' wages that this man owed, while his own debt was beyond ordinary computation.

30 "Till he should pay the debt"—If this were not so cruel, it would be funny; but it is not more absurd than for modern society to shut up a young criminal among older criminals till he shall be reformed.

33. "Even as I had pity on thee"—So we pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

34. "The tormentors"—The torturers, or those who would subject him to rack and punishment till he should pay—an awful picture of retribution, since he could not pay.

35. "If ye from your hearts"—No rule of three times or seven times, but a hearty forgiveness should be shown.

**HOME READINGS.**

- M. The forgiving spirit.—Matt. 18. 21-35
- Tu. Joseph forgiving his brethren.—Gen. 50 14-21.
- W. David and Saul.—1 Sam. 24. 1-12.
- Th. Forgiving one another.—Col. 3. 9-17.
- F. Repeated forgiveness.—Luke 17. 1-10.

What might naturally be expected of one who had been himself forgiven?

Have we any right to expect forgiveness if we withhold it?

What was done with the wicked servant?

What warning did Christ add to the parable? Verse 35.

What does God teach in regard to forgiveness? Golden Text.

Can you give any other text that bears on this lesson?

**PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.**

Where in this lesson do we learn—

1. That God has more patience with men than men have with each other?
2. That except we forgive we cannot be forgiven?
3. That there is no limit to Christian love?

**DRAWING IN THE NETS AT EARLY DAWN.**

The nets used for catching fish are about one hundred and twenty feet long and seven or eight feet broad. They are buoyed with pieces of light wood and weighted with stones, so as to remain upright when let down into the water.

They are set and allowed to remain in the water until morning, for as long as it is daylight the fish see the net, and avoid it, even though it be four hundred



CHILDREN OF NAZARETH.

**CHILDREN OF PALESTINE.**

BY THE EDITOR.

I was greatly impressed with the brightness and beauty of the children of Palestine. They have clear, olive complexions, bright black eyes, laughing features, and lovely white teeth. They have very pretty manners, and while they are not backward in asking donations from the travellers they have a pretty manner in thanking for them. I happened to be in Nazareth on Easter Sunday, when the children were all dressed in their bright Easter dresses of green, purple, crimson, or yellow silk. As they sat in a row on a stone wall outside the church, they made me think of a flock of bright-hued humming-birds, and afterwards as they sat on the white marble floor of the church, their bright dresses looked like a bed of many-coloured flowers. Indeed, the words used in describing the feeding of the five thousand where the multitude sat down "in companies on the green grass," are in the original "in flower beds."

I could not help thinking that just such a bright, beautiful child as these our Lord grew up in that village of Nazareth, subject to his parents, and growing in favour with God and man. And just such children were those whom he lovingly drew to his arms and said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Young Mother—"I can't imagine what makes the baby cry so." Young Father—"I'll bet he heard me say I managed to get a little sleep last night."



DR WING IN THE NETS AT EARLY DAWN.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**

Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.—Matt. 6. 12.

**OUTLINE.**

1. Forgiving, v. 21-27.
2. Unforgiving, v. 28-35

Time—Probably A.D. 29, perhaps six or eight months before the crucifixion.  
Place—Probably in Capernaum in Galilee.

**LESSON HELPS.**

21. "Till seven times"—Peter thought there must be some limit to forgiveness, and yet would be magnanimous. The number seven, as a symbolic number, might mean once for every day in the week.

22. Seventy times seven"—An indefinitely large number of times; not four hundred and ninety, simply, but that many in comparison with seven; always.

23. "Take account of his servants"—Make a reckoning with them. Count up the money he had intrusted to each and what they had done with it. So God will make a reckoning with us of mental talents, conscience, influence, the word of God, opportunities, and so forth.

24. "Ten thousand talents"—An expression intended to indicate the immeasurable debt incurred, which could never be discharged. The sum has been estimated from \$9,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

26. "Worshipped him"—Did him reverence; as an oriental suppliant would.

27. "Loosed him"—Set him free.

28. "A hundred pence"—About fifteen dollars; a very small sum when com-

- S. That ye may be forgiven.—Mark 11. 20-26.
- Su. Do as ye pray.—Matt. 6. 5-15.

**QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.**

1. Forgiving, v. 21-27.  
What question did Peter ask?  
How did Christ answer it?  
Who is here meant by "brother"?  
How many times did the rabbis teach that a man should be forgiven?  
Compare the human with the divine forgiveness.  
Is man ever beyond God's forgiveness?  
To what did Christ liken the kingdom of heaven?  
How did the king deal with his servant?  
What would have been the consequence of his debt?
2. Unforgiving, v. 28-35.  
How did he afterward deal with his debtor?  
Did this please the king?



feet deep, but at night, they rush blindly along and are caught in its meshes, from which there is no escape.

The picture shows the men at early dawn drawing in the nets. They first empty them into a sieve-like basket, so that the boat will be kept free from water, and the heavy fish are struck with an iron hook, as soon as brought to the surface, and flung into the boat, or else they would undoubtedly tear the meshes. The effect of the rising sun on the fleecy clouds and on the sail seen through the mist is very fine.

**SAFER.**

A poor Irishman came to his priest and asked permission to read his Bible.

"But the Bible is for the priest and not for the people," said the priest.

"Is that so?" he answered. "But I have read in the Bible, 'Thou shalt teach it to thy children,' and priests have no children."

"But, Michael," said the priest, "you cannot understand the Bible. It was not written for people like you."

"Ah, your Reverence, if I cannot understand it, it will do me no harm, and what I understand of it does me a great deal of good."

"Listen, Michael," said the priest; "you must go to church, and the church will instruct you; the church will give you the pure milk of God's Word."

"But where does the church get this if not out of the Bible? Ah, your Reverence, pardon me, but I would rather have the cow myself."

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