

to forsake their sins. Because Jesus humbled himself and suffered on the cross, God also highly exalted him; and so, "if so be that we suffer with him, we may be also glorified together"

(Rom. 8. 17). We must enter into "the fellowship of his sufferings" (Phil. 3. 10). And this we can do only by suffering and sacrificing for others as he did.

THE LESSON PRAYER

O Lord, we fear lest we shall read the words of this lesson as if they related to things far off, and that so our hearts shall be unmoved. Bring nigh unto us this vision of the suffering Saviour, until we shall look into the face that was marred more than any man, and until we are made to feel through what ranges of suffering thy love has come to us for our rescue and healing. Cause the vision of the life of Jesus to pass before us, from the humiliation of his manger-birth to the agony of his death on the cross, and bring home to us with searching and humbling power the fact that all of his self-abasement and pain and death was for the cure of our sin. And give us to see that Christ's suffering love for us is the supreme rebuke of that selfishness in us that is unwilling to suffer for others. Amen.

The Lesson Coin Thoughts

I

Christ is the "suffering Saviour" because he is the sympathetic Saviour.

The cause of the Saviour's suffering was not in the Saviour.

The larger the life the larger its capacity for suffering.

The smallest souls never know the greatest sorrows.

All the anguishes and agonies of men came to high tide in the sorrows of Jesus.

II

No child can comprehend the sorrows of its father.

There is always a high intellectual element in deep suffering.

Only the highest type of spiritual intellectuality is capable of superlative sorrow.

Herein is where the sorrow of Christ passes the comprehension of men.

Only an infinite soul is capable of infinite suffering.

III

Christ shall "sprinkle the nations"; in that saying I see the day-dawn gleams of earth's redemption morn.

Christ shall "sprinkle the nations" with the spirit of national brotherhood.

Christ shall "sprinkle the nations"; in that spirit of universal peace.

Christ shall "sprinkle the nations" with the national love of liberty.

Christ shall "sprinkle the nations" with the spirit of mutual kindness and consideration.

This blessed baptism of Christ is slowly descending on the nations now.

IV

"Who hath believed our report?" Men have been slow to believe the reports of revelation.

No great truth has been suddenly accepted by the world.

The greatest truths in *art* have found acceptance slowly.

The great truths in *science* have plodded like weary pilgrims across the centuries before the world would give them welcome.

The great truth of human *liberty* had to knock for long at the doors of civilization.

Even Christ, who is "the Truth," came to his own, and his own received him not.

V

"He shall grow up." The *greatest* things are *growing things*.

No great truth or institution has come to men full-grown.

He who comes to greatness must come by growth; there is no sudden step to the top of life's ladder.

"The fullness of time" had to come before Christ could come in his fullness.

VI

Christ was rejected by those whose dejection he came to cure.

Christ, who came to set at liberty the captive, was himself oppressed.