

He who took such good care of the good seed of the kingdom will now watch over it though grown up to be a tree in which the birds of the air find shelter, Golden Text, Matt. 1 : 21.

"How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear !
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear."

FOR TEACHERS IN THE ADULT DEPARTMENT

By Rev. M. B. Davidson, M.A., Galt, Ont.

Teachers in the Adult Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY OF THE PATHFINDER.

Begin to-day by pointing out that we are commencing a series of studies in the first Gospel, with particular reference to what that Gospel has to tell us about the kingdom of God. It may be of advantage to call the attention of the class to certain outstanding characteristics of Matthew's Gospel. (a) Matthew arranges his material according to subject matter rather than in a chronological way. The parables of the kingdom in ch. 13 will serve as a good illustration. (b) The Gospel was written with a special view to Jewish Christian readers. An illustration of this is the frequent reference to Old Testament prophecy. (c) Emphasis is laid upon Jesus as the Messiah of the Jews. (d) "The Messiah's kingdom is the most frequent topic in this Gospel." Discuss to-day's lesson in four parts :

1. *Seekers from the east*, vs. 1, 2. Remind the class that at the time of our lesson, Messianic expectations were current amongst the Jews, that there were many Jewish synagogues outside Palestine, and that there is, therefore, little difficulty in supposing that the Magi had heard of these expectations, and connected the appearance of the star with them. Speak of the Magi as typical of those who, in all ages, have not been satisfied until they had found the best that it was possible for them to find. Show how great is the debt that the world owes to such seekers. Do we belong to their company ?

2. *Herod and the wise men*, vs. 3-8. This Herod was Herod the Great, a man "clever, able, but unscrupulous and ambitious." During the last years of his life he showed himself capable of great cruelty. He had little interest in religion, but he was deeply interested in preserving the royal power for himself and his family. Point out that it was from this direction that his concern arose in the visit of the Magi. Had a rival been born who would dispute the right of his family to the throne ? What steps does he take to secure information about the birth-place of a possible Messiah ? How does he conceal from the wise men the real source of his anxiety ?

3. *The wise men and the infant king*, vs. 9-12. Point out that the wise men were evidently satisfied that they had found the one whom they sought. Indicate the prophecy which is suggested by this incident. It was these strangers from afar rather than Herod or the Jews, who hastened to pay reverence to the infant Christ. Why did they not return to Herod ?

4. *The flight into Egypt*, vs. 13-15. What warning was given to Joseph ? Show how Matthew, in accordance with his usual custom, links this flight with a passage from the Old Testament. Remind the class that the slaughter of the innocents was quite in keeping with what we know of the character of Herod.

FOR TEACHERS IN THE SENIOR DEPARTMENT

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D.

Teachers in the Senior Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY OF LEAFLET.

Remind the scholars that, during last Quarter, their studies had to do with the lives of the first three kings of Israel. Now, for six months, they are to study the life of the true king of God's people. The studies

are to be from Matthew's Gospel. For the characteristics of this, the first of the four Gospels, see Lesson Setting. The topic for this week in the Senior Department is THE KING COMES AS A LITTLE CHILD. The