

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From the International Lessons for 1881, by Edwin W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday-School Union.)

LESSON X.

MARCH 6.] [About 27. A. D.]

THE WITNESS OF JESUS TO JOHN.

Luke 7: 19-28.

COMMIT TO MEMORY vs. 22, 23.

19. And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come, or look we for another?
 20. When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come or look we for another?
 21. And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight.
 22. Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.
 23. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

21. And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind?
 25. But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously apparelled, and live delicately, are in the wilderness.

ye out for to see? A prophet? you, and much more than a

om it is written, Behold, I before thy face, which shall before thee.

you. Among those that are is not a greater prophet: but he that is least in the greater than he.

GOLDEN TEXT.

ing and a shining light.—

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The Baptist like the prophets prepares the way for Christ.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—Soon after the events of Lesson IX., Jesus called Levi (the same is Matthew) from the office of publican to be his disciple: then among the other events occurred the following: Plucking ears of corn on the Sabbath day; Healing the man with the withered hand; Choice of the twelve Apostles; Sermon on the Mount; Healing the centurion's servant; Raising to life the widow of Nain's son; this miracle greatly extended the name and fame of Jesus; and John's disciples brought word to that prison, who at once dispatched two of them to Jesus, an account of which our lesson furnishes.

REVIEW QUESTIONS.—What two miracles in the last lesson?—Title?—Golden Text?—Persons and classes mentioned?—Places?—Dates?—Doings?—Effect on Jews?—On the people?—What Christian grace does Jesus recommend?—Do you possess it?

NOTES.—JOHN BAPTIST, see preceding lessons.—WILDERNESS, a wild, rocky, rugged, and uninhabited district of Jude.—REEDS, a tender rush-like plant or stalk.—PROPHET, a teacher, one who foretells, applied to inspired men of the Bible.

EXPLANATIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I.) JESUS AND JOHN. (II.) JESUS AND THE PEOPLE.

I. JESUS AND JOHN.—(19-23.) JOHN CALLING, his friends had free access to him while in prison; ART THOU HE, John doubtless was struggling with discouragements, and perhaps doubts, certainly with perplexities and trials, see "Lange" on Matt.; SAME HOUR, John's messengers found Jesus in the midst of a multitude, teaching and healing; TELL JOHN, John is taught the truth; SEEN AND HEARD, fulfilling the prophecy concerning Christ which John believed, and hence a sufficient answer; OFFENDER, literally, "made to stumble."

II. JESUS AND THE PEOPLE.—(24-28.) CONCERNING JOHN. "Jesus hastens to restore the authority of John which his embassy had endangered," Lange; REED SHAKEN, John will not waver, though he seemed to do so; SOFT RAIMENT, not such was John's raiment; KING'S COURTESY, John was not the lackey of a king to be swayed by a king's whims.

LESSON XI.

MARCH 13.] [About 27. A. D.]

THE SINNER'S FRIEND.

Luke 7: 36-50.

COMMIT TO MEMORY vs. 44-47.

36. And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

37. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment.

38. And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears; and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.
 39. Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

40. And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

41. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

42. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me, therefore, which of them will love him most?

43. Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

44. And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

45. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

46. My head with oil thou didst not anoint; but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

47. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven: for she loved much; but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

48. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

49. And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

50. And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.—Luke 7: 48.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Christ can save sinners.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—The woes upon Bethsaida and Chorazin, and Capernaum, Matt. 11: 20-24, were doubtless uttered at this time, after which a Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus to dine with him, and while at meat in Simon's house the incidents narrated in our lesson occur.

REVIEW QUESTIONS.—Who was in prison?—What troubled John?—What course did he take to satisfy his doubts?—Where was Jesus found?—His answer?—Why satisfactory?—Whom then did Jesus address?—John compared with others?—Who greater than John?

NOTES.—PHARISEE, see "Notes" on Lesson 9.—SAT DOWN, the custom was to recline while eating, resting the body on the left arm, thus leaving the feet exposed and easy of access.—A WOMAN, name not given; not one of this class mentioned by Jesus is identified by name.—THE CITY, a place in Galilee unknown.—ALABASTER BOX, "a very fine, mostly white species of gypsum, but not so hard as marble," Lange.—OINTMENT, oil made from spices used as a cosmetic, and here costly.—KISSED HIS FEET, a custom displaying a very especial reverence.—SIMON, all is known of him is related in this lesson.—CREDITOR—DEBTOR, nearly everybody was in debt and few could pay; the prisons were full of insolvent debtors.—PENNY, a penny was a Roman silver coin called "denarius," valued at about 16 cents, our money.—NO WATER, Simon had neglected this custom in the case of Jesus.

EXPLANATIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I.) THE WOMAN. (II.) THE PHARISEE. (III.) THE SAVIOUR.

I. THE WOMAN.—(36-39.) KISSED, literally "continued kissing his feet tenderly"; HIS FEET, unsandaled; BEHIND HIM, the couch on which he reclined; WEEPING, tears of penitence and contrition, she felt herself to be a sinner; NOW, Simon had been observing; WITHIN HIMSELF, here he thought was sufficient ground to show that Jesus was no prophet.

II. THE PHARISEE.—(40-46.) JESUS ANSWERING, Simon's thought. He not only knew all about the woman but he could read Simon's heart; MASTER, respectful address; A CERTAIN CREDITOR, the Lord is depicting himself; TWO DEBTORS, the woman and Simon; ONE, the woman; 500 PENCE, nearly \$80; THE OTHER, Simon; FIFTY, about \$8; NOTHING TO PAY, every sinner's condition; FRANKLY, freely; FORGAVE, all need forgiveness; I SUPPOSE, not knowing he was condemning himself; TURNED, partly rising; I ENTERED, Simon had invited Jesus as a favor to Jesus and not to himself; NO KISS AS A FAVOR TO JESUS and not to himself; NO WATER..... NO OIL, all the customary civilities had been omitted, Jesus had not been treated as an invited guest; THIS WOMAN, her example was a reproof to the Pharisee; OINTMENT, see Notes.

III. THE SAVIOUR.—(47-50.) HER SINS, were many and the Saviour did not deny it; FORGIVEN, "the vilest sinner may return"; LITTLE, Simon did not look upon himself as needing much, if any, forgiveness; THEY, other Pharisees; WHO IS THIS, just as in ch. 6: 21; THE WOMAN, now a sinner forgiven; GO IN PEACE, so Jesus says to all seeking penitents.

POINTS TO NOTICE.—Where in this lesson are we taught:—(1.) That God is no respecter of persons? (2.) That great sinners may come to Jesus? (3.) That Jesus knows the thoughts of our hearts? (4.) That Faith alone can save?

FAITH BRINGS PARDON. PURITY. PEACE.

LESSON XII.

MAR. 20.]

REVIEW.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The dayspring from on high hath visited us.—Luke 1: 78.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

God with us.

PLAN:

TELL ALL TRY TO REPEAT THE MEASURE UP HINK OF RUST IN TITLES, EXTS. RUTHS. EACHINGS. EACHER.

REVIEW TOPICS.

Lessons 1, 2, 3. I. BEFORE CHRIST'S BIRTH. 4, 5, 6. II. HIS BIRTH AND BOYHOOD. 7, 8, 9, 10. III. CHRIST AND THE BAPTIST. 11, 12. IV. THE DIVINE BLESSER.

QUESTIONS.

BEFORE CHRIST'S BIRTH.—From what book are the quarter's lessons taken? How many chapters covered? Author of the Gospel? Facts concerning Luke? Two blameless persons in Lesson 1? Who appeared to Zacharias? Who was Zacharias? What announcement was made to him? Who was Elizabeth's cousin? Title of lesson? What is this song called? Where was Mary? The first line of her song? Title of Lesson 3? What other lesson mentions Zacharias? Of whom did he prophesy? Who else? How many persons mentioned in these three lessons?

II.—HIS BIRTH AND BOYHOOD.—Where was Jesus born? To whom was his birth first announced? By whom? At what hour? What made it light? Words of the angel? How were the shepherds to tell the Christ? Who suddenly appeared? Their song? Did the angels go? After they had found Jesus what did they do? Why was Jesus in a manger? Have you room for him? How old was Jesus when taken to the temple? What rite was performed at that time? What man saw Jesus in the temple? What kind of man was Simeon? What had he been waiting for? What had been revealed to him? What did he do with Jesus? Where did Jesus spend his boyhood? At what age did he visit Jerusalem? Who with? On what occasion? What happened to him? How long did his parents seek for him? Where found? What doing? Did he go with his parents? What is said about the boy Jesus?

III.—CHRIST AND THE BAPTIST.—Which lessons are about Jesus and John? Who was the mother of John? Of Jesus? Relation of the two mothers? What kind of a man was John? How much older than Jesus? What was John's mission? Where did he dwell? His food? His raiment? Where did he preach and baptize? What three classes came to John for advice? Whom did some of the people take John to be? How did he compare himself with Jesus? Who imprisoned John? For what? What message did he send to Jesus while in prison? By whom? Jesus' answer? Jesus' testimony concerning John? Whom did Christ say was greater than John?

IV.—THE DIVINE BLESSER.—Title of Lesson 8? Lesson 9? Lesson 11? Where was Christ's early home? What was his custom there? When he visited Nazareth what did he do on the Sabbath day? What book was handed him? What chapter and verse did he read? How did his words affect the people? Why did they try to kill him? What two remarkable cures does Lesson 9 record? How did Jesus manifest his sympathy for the leper? How was the paralytic brought to Jesus? What difficulties were overcome? What did the Jews complain of? What was Jesus' reply? Who invited Jesus to dine with him? Who came unbidden to the feast? What did she do to Jesus? What did Simon think about her actions? How did Jesus rebuke Simon? What did he say to the women?

PERSONS AND PLACES.

State a fact mentioned in the lessons:

I. CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

AARON, ELLIAS, JOHN, MOSES, ABRAHAM, ESAIAS, JOSEPH, SIMEON, ELISABETH, HEROD, MARY, SIMON, ZACHARIAS.

II. CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:

ANGELS, DEBTORS, PHARISEES, PRIESTS, DOCTORS, GENTILES, PUBLICANS, SHEPHERDS, DISCIPLES, LEPERS, PROPHETS, SCRIBES, SOLDIERS.

III. CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

BETHLEHEM, JUDEA, JERUSALEM GALILEE, NAZARETH.

Blameless People... 1 Boyhood of Jesus... 6 Blessed Mary's Song 2 Baptist's Preaching 7 Feasting of Zacharias 3 Blindness of Nazarines 8 Birth of Jesus... 4 Brought to Jesus... 9 Babe in the Temple 5 Bearing witness of John 10

Blessing a Sinner... 11

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