

Mark: 10: 27). **Loved him**—because he was so much in earnest, and was trying so hard to be good. **One thing thou lackest**—"One link wanted breaks the chain." He had not surrendered his *whole* heart to God. **Sell all that thou hast**—Jesus does not mean that it is everybody's duty to give away all that they have. His words were intended to open the young man's eyes to perceive how much he loved his wealth, and how it stood between him and the highest kind of obedience. Matthew says "If thou wilt be perfect," do this; that is, if you would be complete, lacking in nothing, not even the one thing. **Treasure in heaven**—the eternal life he sought (Matt. 6: 19-21; Luke 12: 33). **Take up the cross**—Referring to the Roman custom of making the person about to be crucified carry his own cross (Matt. 27: 32; John 19: 17). Jesus means to say, "Be willing to bear any shame and suffering for my sake." Read Matt. 10: 38; 16: 24. What a much more solemn meaning these words now have to us since Christ himself was crucified. **22. His countenance fell** (R. V.)—His disappointment

shewed itself in his face (Matt. 13: 45, 46). **23.** Another glance of the wonderful eyes of Jesus, a sad and loving one. A sigh mingles with his words. **How hardly**—"with what difficulty," at what a sacrifice of their inclinations." They don't easily overcome their covetousness, their pride, their love of the world, their self-indulgence, etc. Job 31: 24; Ps. 52: 7; 62: 10; 1 Tim. 6: 17.

III. OUR ONLY HOPE. 25. Easier for a camel—an oriental proverb, meaning an utter impossibility. A millionaire must come as a helpless sinner, or not at all. **26. Who then can be saved?**—"If the standard for entrance is so high, who can come up to it?" **27.** Christ answers, in effect, "No one by his own efforts, but every one by God's grace." He can take away the love of riches or anything else that stands between our hearts and complete devotion to himself. (Deut. 30: 6; 1 Kings 8: 58; Ps. 110: 3; Prov. 16: 1; Jer. 24: 5; 32: 38-40; Ezek. 11: 19, 20; 2 Cor. 4: 6; 7: 5; Col. 1: 12, 13.)

LESSONS.

1. We should earnestly seek eternal life.
2. No one can obtain it by perfect obedience.
3. Jesus loves the earnest seeker.
4. The one thing that we are unwilling to give up, is the thing that we *must* give up.
5. We may love riches too much without being very rich.
6. God's grace, and that alone, can save, and keep, rich and poor.

LESSON XI—March 17th.

Zacchaeus the Publican. LUKE 19: 1-10.

(Commit to memory verses 8-10.)

GOLDEN TEXT.

"The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19: 10.

PROVE THAT

There is a present salvation. 2 Cor. 6: 2.

LESSON HYMNS.

CHILDREN'S HYMNAL, NOS. 22, 143, 133, 144.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Quest. 13. *Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?* A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Zacchaeus the Publican; Luke 19: 1-10. *Tuesday.* Call of Matthew; Luke 5: 27-32. *Wednesday.* Christ's Care for the Lost; Luke 15: 1-10. *Thursday.* A Publican's Prayer; Luke 18: 9-14. *Friday.* Call to Repentance; Isa. 55: 1-7. *Saturday.* The Far-away Coming First; Matt. 21: 28-32. *Sabbath.* Sent to Save; 1 John 4: 7-14. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Jesus was now on his way to Jerusalem to be "offered up." The incident in our lesson occurred as he passed through Jericho (see map). The intervening history is found in Matt. 20.

LESSON PLAN. I. Seeking. vs. 1-4. II. Finding. vs. 5-7. III. Saved. vs. 8-10.

I. SEEKING. 1. Jericho—about twenty miles northeast of Jerusalem and seven from the Jordan. It was necessary to rest here as the road to Jerusalem was very difficult, being an ascent over mountains of more than 3,000 feet.

2. Zacchaeus—The name is from a Hebrew word meaning "pure" (Ezra 2: 9; Neh. 7: 14). **A chief publican** (R. V.)—He was the agent, or steward, of the Roman who received the taxes. Jericho was a halting place for