

In this respect John Bunyan has the advantage of John the Baptist. His blind child, his favorite child, used to come to him in Bedford jail to carry away the manuscripts for printing. On one occasion as she stood to go, the great preacher laid his hand upon her head and said: "Poor child, how hard does life go with thee in this world. Thou must be beaten, suffer cold and want and nakedness, must beg and yet I cannot endure that even the wind should blow upon thee." That was faith indeed.

V. 19. Jesus was rejected by some and even slandered by way of excuse for that rejection. One is surprised that the sinless Christ, who ever went about doing good, should be the target for the cruel shafts of calumny. But it was even so. Sweet toward folk, he was stern as to principles and found it necessary to condemn the wrong and oppose the selfishness of many a vested interest. Hence misrepresentation and calumny. "Blessed are ye, when men . . . shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake."

Vs. 16, 17, 18. "Our Lord when reviled, reviled not again." He did not give them back a Roland for their Oliver. Neither did he ignore the slander. He exposed its falsehood and its folly, but not in the spirit of the slanderers. One time Goldwin Smith was slandered pseudonymously by Disraeli. Goldwin Smith had in his possession a letter of Disraeli's to Sir Robert Peel which could have been used to prove that Disraeli was a liar, but this letter was given to Goldwin Smith in trust and it could not be used without dishonor. Smith contented himself with writing Disraeli a letter which stingingly exposed that man's cowardly action.

V. 20. Our Lord was received gladly by all those who had the child-like heart of trust and love. Indeed he says somewhere that

unless men and women are willing to become as little children they cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. The scientists and philosophers of this world may very well miss the gospel because they are looking for something very profound and abstract, whereas the gospel is simplicity itself so far as the conditions of its reception are concerned. Follow me, love the brethren, disciple the nations. Such simple and yet all embracing commandments as these can enter the lowliest door of childhood. Whoever has loved father or mother is wise enough and prudent enough to receive the revelation of God.

Matt. 11 : 28. Golden Text. If Jesus is met by honest doubt and open hostility and a glad acceptance according to the various classes of people in this world, then let us know at once that he has but one attitude for all classes. Come unto me. He promises rest and refreshment. There is a time in the life of a boy when it may be said that he is passing through the "steam engine age." Some one tells this story. "One day I was walking out with our neighbor's little boy. He was tired and lagged behind. I called out to him. 'Come, my boy, you are too slow. You must hurry.' 'Wait,' he answered complainingly, 'I'm tired and can't walk as fast as you can.' We thought to experiment as we called back again, 'Come, be a steam engine, my boy.' Instantly his eyes sparkled, his little fists began revolving in piston-like fashion, a vigorous puffing ensued and down the track our steam engine came dashing by and reached his home and came back again to meet us." In himself that lad was scarcely able to walk, but when he got out of himself and became something else, he could run a mile. That something else and that new creature—that Christ's man, the Lord can make us.

FOR TEACHERS IN THE ADULT DEPARTMENT

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

In considering the lesson to-day, be sure to keep in mind the title of it, seeking to show the various ways in which the message of Jesus was received by different kinds of people,—some doubting it, some not serious about it at all, some gladly welcoming it,

and some being turned by it into the open enemies of him who brought it.

1. *The fruits of Christ's ministry*, ch. 11 : 1-6. Help the class to appreciate the position of John, languishing in prison, but hearing the reports of Jesus' ministry. Was