

## The Quiet Hour.

### Saul Chosen King.

S.S. LESSON—1 Sam. 10: 17-27; July 12, 1903.

GOLDEN TEXT—Isa. 33: 22. The Lord is our King; he will save us.

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Mizpeh, v. 17. Each should build for himself a "watch tower," to which he can go daily, and especially on the Lord's day, to look out over the past and survey the loving kindnesses from the good and gracious Father with which it has been so full. It is such a view that will send us to new duties and trials with fresh hope and courage, and a great resolve to prove ourselves less unworthy than we have been, of all our blessings and privileges.

I brought up Israel out of Egypt, v. 18. At Sinai the Lord prefaced the Ten Commandments with the gracious words, "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage" (Ex. 20: 2), as if to kindle the love of His people into a fresh and fervent glow, before He laid His laws upon them. On the same ground Jesus claimed the obedience of His disciples, when He said to them: "If ye love Me, keep My commandments," John 14: 15. If we are tempted to grow slack in our obedience, the remedy lies in thinking of God's love to us as revealed in Christ. This will stimulate our flagging zeal and intensify our languishing devotion.

Ye have this day rejected your God, v. 19. There are many modern methods of rejecting God. He is rejected when a voter casts a ballot in favour of any law that will interfere with the sacredness of the Sabbath, or hinder the cause of temperance, or put an obstacle in the way of any other good cause. He is rejected by those who practise dishonesty and untruthfulness in their business. He is rejected by those, who, for the sake of their own pleasure, break His laws. He is rejected by all who do not "do justly" and "love mercy" and "walk humbly" with Him. And if we reject Him in any of these ways, it will count for nothing in His sight, that we profess to believe in Him and offer Him formal worship.

And Saul the son of Kish was taken, v. 21. Choice to a position of responsibility may be the stepping stone to higher attainments in character, for added honors and duties ripen those who already have the right material in them. Or, alas! as in the case of Saul, it may open the way to new temptations, which there is not strength to overcome. Covet not, therefore, loftier places, but rather the virtue which fits for them.

Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff, v. 22. Few virtues are rarer than the grace of humility. Few qualities are so unattractive as over-confidence. Cocksureness generally goes with unfitness. Meekness is commonly the companion of great ability. True Christian excellence gradually acquires the charm of unconsciousness. It becomes as a little child. The fact that men shrink from great tasks, does not necessarily prove that they are really unfitted for exalted service, or that they would be justified in refusing positions of trust involving great responsibilities. He who enters lightly on the duties of an important position is not likely to put much earnestness and zeal into the doing of them.

God save the king, v. 24. If the Israelites

had done wrong in asking for a king, they certainly did well in praying for him. We should always remember that those in positions of power have great responsibility and many temptations, so that they need the prayers of all Christian people over whom they rule. If evils exist in the government of the country, the blame is partly ours if we fail to pray for our law makers.

### Bible Study. One Verse at a Time.

[No. 11.]

Psalm 103: 11.

BY MRS. ANNA ROSS.

"For as the heavens are high above the earth so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him."

How high are the heavens above the earth? The nearest fixed star is so far above us that its light, though coming literally at lightning speed, takes three years and a half to travel the distance. So great is His mercy. The farthest star of our system is so far above that it takes the powers of added ciphers to record the millions of miles. So great is His mercy to them that fear him. Yet our cluster of stars is only one of many, and the height beyond it can neither be searched by the telescope nor fathomed by the boldest imaginations. So great is His mercy. This is a song of the infinite.

Our needs, however broad and deep, are always finite, and mercy that is as high as the heavens will always ever-match them, as the highest finite is ever-matched by the feeblest conception of the infinite.

### TO-DAY.

To-day no coward thought shall start  
Upon its journey from my heart,  
To-day no hasty word shall slip  
Over the threshold of my lip.

To-day no selfish hope shall rest!  
Within the region of my breast,  
To-day no wave of wrath shall roll  
Over the ocean of my soul.

To-day I vow with sword and song  
To fight oppression and the wrong,  
To-day I dedicate my youth  
To duty and eternal truth.

—Robert Lovemann.

### Joy in Christ.

The joy in Christ is something wonderful. There is nothing to which it can be compared. The things that we love dearest may pass away, but this abides. The home that we love and the friends we revere may be taken from us. We may see our possessions take the wings of the morning and fly away. One by one our ambitions may crumble and our hopes return to earth like a rocket that is spent; but as we sit among the ruins the joy in Christ is our one companion, the ever blessed presence that will not leave us. And its presence is ever soothing. It is the "still, small voice" that speaks louder than the thunder, the earthquake and the fire, and sends us hopefully on life's way. It reveals God to us, a brighter destiny and a richer hope. Like an invisible hand it leads us, like an inaudible voice it calls us, and we move on toward the river and the end, and through the water to our rest.

### Ruskin's Sermon to the Pews.

If once we begin to regard the preacher, whatever his faults, as a man sent with a message to us, which it is a matter of life and death whether we hear or refuse; if we look upon him as set in charge over many spirits in danger of ruin, and having allowed to him but an hour or two in the seven days to speak of them; if we make some endeavor to conceive how precious these hours ought to be to him, a small vantage on the side of God, after his flock has been exposed for six days together to the full weight of the world's temptations, and he has been forced to watch the thorn and the thistle springing in their hearts, and to see what wheat has been scattered there snatched from the wayside by this wild bird and the other, and at last, when breathless and weary with the week's labor, they give him this imperfect and languid hearing, he has but thirty minutes to get at the separate hearts of a thousand men to convince them all of their weakness, to shame them for all their sins, to warn them of all their dangers, to try by this way and that to stir the hard fastenings of those doors where the Master himself has stood and knocked, yet none opened, and to call at the opening of those dark streets where wisdom herself has stretched forth her hands and no man regarded—thirty minutes to raise the dead in—let us but once understand and feel this, and we shall look with changed eyes upon that flippery of gay furniture about the place from which the message of judgment must be delivered, which either breathes upon the dry bones that they may live, or, if ineffectual, remains recorded in condemnation, perhaps against the utterer and listener alike, but assuredly against one of them. We shall not so easily bear with the silk and gold upon the seat of judgment; nor with ornament of oratory in the mouth of the messenger; we shall wish that his words may be simple, even when they are sweetest, and the place from which he speaks like a marble rock in the desert, about which the people have gathered in their thirst.—From "The Stones of Venice."

### Until He Finds It.

A pleasant incident is recorded of General Garibaldi. One evening he met a Sardinian shepherd, who had lost a lamb out of his flock and was in great distress because he could not find it. Garibaldi became deeply interested in the man, and proposed to his staff that they should scour the mountains and help to find the lost lamb. A search was organized, lanterns were brought, and these old soldiers started off full of earnestness to look for the fugitive. The quest was in vain, however, and by and by all the soldiers returned to their quarters. Next morning Garibaldi's attendant found the general in bed and fast asleep long after his usual hour for rising. The servant aroused him at length, and the general rubbed his eyes, and then took from under his bed coverings the lost lamb, bidding the attendant carry it to the shepherd. Garibaldi had kept up the quest through the night until he had found the lamb. This illustration helps us to understand how Jesus Christ seeks lost souls in this world of sin, continuing the search long after others have given it up, seeking until he finds.—Rev. J. R. Miller.

Strawberry Jam.—For each pound of fruit allow a pound of sugar. Mash the fruit in the kettle, boil hard for fifteen minutes, then add the sugar and boil for five minutes.