

rulers and teachers will begin from the time of this festival to treat him cruelly as long as he stays on earth. Jesus finds a confusion and disturbance at the church, which is most irreverent and wicked in God's house. After describing the scene of the cleansing of the temple we introduce Nicodemus, who knew all about this cleansing, who knew about the miracles Jesus was working in the streets outside the church. Nicodemus had read the Scripture promise, "The Lord whom ye seek shall come suddenly to his temple." "Perhaps that time has come," Nicodemus thinks, and he wants Jesus to have kind treatment.

MEMORY LESSON.

There was a man named Nicodemus, a ruler. Nicodemus came to Jesus by night, and said to him, "We know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no man can work such wonders except God be with him." Jesus said to Nicodemus, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God sent his Son into the world that the world should be saved through him.

Everyone that does wrong hates the light, and comes not to the light lest his evil should be known. He that is truthful comes to the light, because he is of the Lord, and fears not that his work should be known, because he is in the Lord.

After the memory lesson: Jesus is the Light of the world. We repeat our text: "Arise, shine." Nicodemus was honest, and turned toward the Light. The other rulers turned away from the Light. Nicodemus must visit Jesus secretly, or there would be more trouble from those who loved darkness rather than light. Nicodemus asked how to get ready for heaven. "There must be a great change," Jesus explains to Nicodemus. Souls must be made over fresh and new. Heaven begins in a soul which is flooded with light. Then there will be no dark, unclean corner hidden away in the soul.

When mother is away home seems dark and dreary even when the sun shines in the windows. All bright things of the world seem dark and dreary when Jesus is shut out of the soul by wrongdoing. Untruthful things are hidden away there, and fear the light. When untruthful things are confessed, and we let our Lord see all that is there, he fills those dark places with light, just as home is flooded with sunshine when mother comes.

Let us ask that the windows of our soul may be always opened to the Light.

LESSON VII. (February 18.)

JESUS AT JACOB'S WELL. John 4. 5-26.

GOLDEN TEXT. "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4. 24.

Primary Notes.



Introductory. Once upon a time a great king began to rule over a new country. He did not wish to live there, and for a long time he did not even visit it, but he made laws for the people, took care of them, did everything for them, and expected them to obey and love him.

Now, some of the people were much puzzled and troubled about having a king whom they had never seen. "How can we know that we belong to him?" they asked. "How can we tell what will please him?" But there was really no trouble about all this, and it was explained to the people by the king's messengers. "You know that you have a king, and that you belong to him," they said, "because you see what he does for you. He is all the time looking out for you, and providing for you. If you were not his people, he would not do all this. Though you have never seen him, and cannot see him, you know that there is such a person by what he does, and that he is your king, because he does so much for you. Then you are not left in doubt about what will please him, for he has sent you a book of rules, and he has sent his messengers to explain them, and it is just as easy to please him as if he were here. It is not necessary to see him in order to do as he says."

All this was so clear and plain that even the children could understand it, so there was no more trouble about it.

The lesson. Our lesson to-day tells us about our great King, whom we never saw, and how to come to him, how to worship him aright. One warm day, long, long ago, and far, far away, a tired traveler sat beside a well. As he sat thus upon the well, wearied with his journey, for he had come from afar, a woman from the city came to draw water. It was a strange place to preach a sermon, and there was but one to listen; but there was a wonderful meeting that day by the well-side in Samaria, when Jesus, who was the weary traveler, met the woman who came for water. He had an errand to her. He wished to help her, to teach her, to preach to her, to show her her sins, and to save her from them. Jesus asked the woman for a drink, for he was thirsty