

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW

JESUS, THE SON OF GOD

Recall the purpose of John's Gospel (see ch. 20: 31), and his method of proving that Jesus is the Son of God, namely by WITNESSES and SIGNS. As in the Review for last Quarter, gather up the material of the Lessons under these headings.

I. THE WITNESSES

The Witness, in no less than six of the Lessons, is Jesus Himself.

In Lesson I., He declares that He is the Good Shepherd, who saves His sheep by the sacrifice of His life, and provides abundantly for all their needs. Lesson IV. presents Him as the Great Teacher, claiming the entire and unquestioning obedience of His disciples and setting them an example of lowly service. We behold Him, in Lessons V. and VI., announcing His return to the Father who had sent Him, assuring the disciples that He would prepare a place for them, and promising to send them the Holy Spirit as their Comforter and Guide. His majesty shines out in Lesson VII., striking terror into His foes; and in Lesson X. He stands forth as the mighty Conqueror of death and the grave.

Other witnesses in the Lessons are Mary, whose love found expression at the Bethany supper (Lesson III.) in anointing the feet of her Lord with the costly ointment from the alabaster vase; Joseph and Nicodemus, who had long been secret disciples, but who, after the crucifixion of Jesus, declared themselves openly as His followers, and, with the utmost respect and tenderness, prepared for burial the body of Jesus, and laid it reverently in the tomb (Lesson VIII.); and Mary Magdalene (Lesson IX.), whose grief at missing the sacred body from the tomb was turned into rapturous joy, when the risen Lord appeared to her and called her by name.

Having touched, in a series of rapid questions, the main points in the witness borne to Jesus, by Himself and others, turn to:

II. THE SIGNS

Recall the meaning of the term "sign" as applied to the miracles of Jesus, reminding the scholars that it implies that the miracles were intended to set forth and enforce some spiritual truth or lesson. Two signs are described in the Lessons for the Quarter:

The first is the Raising of Lazarus (Lesson II.). Bring out, by questioning, the story of the miracle, and then fix attention on the Golden Text, "I am the Resurrection, and the Life". Emphasize the truth that our deliverance from death depends upon and is assured by our living union by faith with Jesus, the Source and Giver of life.

The second sign is the Draught of Fishes at the Sea of Galilee (Lesson XI.). Picture the night-long and fruitless toil of the disciples, the appearance of Jesus on the shore in the morning, the great catch when His directions were followed, the meal on the shore, and the conversation afterwards. In this Lesson, as in the preceding, the point to bring home is found in the Golden Text, namely, the continual presence of Jesus with His followers to the end of the world,—a presence none the less real, because He is now unseen.

Refer, in closing, to Thomas' adoring words, when he was convinced that Jesus had risen again,—“My Lord and my God”. That is what Jesus is to us, and, as our Lord and God, we owe Him love without reserve and obedience that holds nothing back.