

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW

THE WORDS AND WORKS OF JESUS

For three months we have studied the Saviour's life as described by John. The coming three months also will be occupied with this wonderful story. To-day, we pause to review what we have already learned.

Begin with some questions about John, the writer of the Gospel. Bring out the facts, that he was a disciple of John the Baptist, and was by him directed to the Saviour. Ask about his purpose in writing the Gospel, as stated in the Golden Text for the Quarter, and about the other books of the New Testament which he wrote. Get from the scholars the title by which John is known in this Gospel.

If possible, have a map—if there is not one in the school, a simple outline on the black-board will suffice,—and at this point, question about PLACES. Endeavor to get the name and position of these places firmly connected in the scholars' minds with the events in the Quarter's Lessons which happened at them, or the names of persons in the Gospel story who lived in them.

Make sure that, from this time, Bethabara will recall John the Baptist's pointing to Jesus as the world's Saviour; Bethsaida, the three apostles, Peter, Andrew and Philip, whose home was there; Cana, the first recorded miracle of Jesus; Jacob's well, the gift of the living water; Bethesda, the healing of the cripple; the grassy hill-side to the north-east of the Lake of Galilee, the feeding of the five thousand; and Jerusalem at the Feast of Tabernacles, the great discourses of Jesus and His revelation of Himself as the Light of the World.

The Quarter's Lessons describe five MIRACLES. Have the scholars name these. Try in the briefest way to draw from each miracle some one practical truth. For example, the first teaches us the sympathy of Jesus with our innocent joys; the second, the stress He lays on faith; the third, points to Himself as the Bread of Life; the fourth illustrates His willingness to give us strength to do His bidding; the fifth shows us our duty to relieve suffering, however it may have been caused.

Along with the miracles of Jesus go His TEACHINGS. Some of these stand out very prominently in the Lessons we have been studying. The opening Lesson contains most important truths about Jesus Himself. Recall how He is described as the Son of God, who became man for our salvation. Then, fix attention on the following points:

1. How to become God's children—Lesson I. Make it clear that God is willing to receive us. We are responsible for accepting or rejecting His gracious offer.
2. How to enter the Kingdom of God. Our Lord made this very clear to Nicodemus in Lesson V.
3. How to be made free from sin. Impress once more the terrible nature of sin's bondage, and point to the blessed Son of God, who gives us glorious liberty. (See Lesson XI.)
4. How we may receive the Holy Spirit—Lesson X. Show how simple the way. It is just as simple as drinking a cup of water. We have but to trust Jesus, and He will bestow on us this greatest Gift.

A little time should be made sure of for a brief talk about those whom Jesus won to be His followers. Take the first group described in Lesson III. Question about the way in which each one was brought to the Saviour, and point out how each found complete satisfaction in Him. Then take up the others. Trace the history of Nicodemus, the night visitor, afterwards the defender of Jesus and the helper of Joseph at His burial. Besides, there are the woman of Samaria—have her interview with Jesus described, and its effect on herself and afterwards on her countrymen—; and Herod's courtier with his household, and the Bethesda cripple, and the man born blind.

All these became the friends of Jesus—and with what good reason. And—press home this thought in closing—has He not done as much for us as for them? Think of all we owe to His life and death. Has He not the best of claims on our love and service?