



LESSON,—SUNDAY, JULY 12, 1908.

Saul Chosen King.

I. Sam. x., 17-27. Memory verse 24. Read I. Sam. ix-xi.

Golden Text.

He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. II. Sam. xxiii., 3.

Home Readings.

Monday, July 6.—I. Sam. ix., 1-14.
 Tuesday, July 7.—I. Sam. ix., 15-27.
 Wednesday, July 8.—I. Sam. x., 1-13.
 Thursday, July 9.—I. Sam. x., 14-27.
 Friday, July 10.—I. Sam. xi., 1-15.
 Saturday, July 11.—I. Sam. xix., 18-24.
 Sunday, July 12.—Gen. xlix., 8-12, 27.

FOR THE JUNIOR CLASSES.

Do any of you know how long it is since King Edward first became our king? He has been reigning seven years, but do you know he was not really crowned until a year after he was really king. You would all be too young to remember about that, but there was a great deal of rejoicing all over the Empire when King Edward was crowned. In our last Sunday's lesson you know we learnt about a king being asked for by the Israelites and how Samuel promised to think about it, since God said that they should have a king if they wanted one. In our lesson to-day we learn about who this new king was, how first of all Samuel anointed him to be king, then how he was proclaimed king before all the people, how some of them didn't want him to be their king, how he helped some people against their cruel enemies, and then how he was joyfully received by all the people as king, and this time they really had the service that made him king over all their country. That's a long story to tell, isn't it? His name was Saul, and now let us see what he was doing when Samuel first met him. Did you ever go to bring the cows home when they had wandered a long way away? A great many boys who love on farms often have to go and find the cows. Well, Saul was not hunting cows when Samuel met him, but he was looking for the asses that belonged to his father. They were lost, and Saul and one of the hired men of the farm were out looking for them, for Saul was a farmer's son you see. The asses had been lost for three days, and all that time Saul and the other young man had been looking for them, until at last they came to the town where Samuel was.

FOR THE SENIORS.

The study of Saul's life and character has always formed one of the most puzzling of Bible studies. In the lesson of to-day, covering the three chapters, ix., x., and xi., there are many splendid traits revealed, and he seems a man in every way fitted for the honor of the new position. First he appears obedient and thorough in his three days' search for the lost animals, thoughtful for his father (Chap. ix., 5), courteous to those under him (Chap. ix., 10), sensible of his true position (verse 21), ready to respond to good influences (Chap. x., 10), entirely free from boastfulness (verse 16), modest and reluctant to consider himself really so highly honored (verses 21-23), forbearing and self-controlled (verse 27), and yet energetic and resourceful when called upon (Chap. xi., 5-7). With the added advantage of splendid personal appearance it would have seemed that Saul was decidedly the man for the place. The lesson for to-day simply covers the story of his choice by God, his public selection by lot, his proof of his military fitness, his public proclamation as king by the

people, and a study of the man he was to start with. It will be interesting as the lessons proceed to watch how in this case the opportunity spoils the man. One evidence of the Bible's historicity is very pronounced in this story. It does not hint at developments or try to prejudice the reader against the man who is to fall in any way. This was Saul's character as so far developed when God appointed him king, and the record merely sets it down.

(SELECTIONS FROM TARBELL'S 'GUIDE'.)

A wise preacher has said that to make the best of things in the right way is to let things make the best of us. Samuel did this: he made the best of this crisis in national affairs in the right way, but nobly doing all he could to help carry out what must be, though he did not like it, and thereby bringing out the best that was in him, magnanimity, generosity, greatness of spirit that rises above all that is envious and revengeful and petty. It is one thing to submit to the inevitable because we must; it is quite another thing to submit graciously and let the inevitable make the best of us.

There is no good in arguing with the inevitable; the only argument available with an east wind is to put on your overcoat.—James Russell Lowell.

Common sense bows to the inevitable and makes use of it.—Wendell Phillips.

Do not pray for easy lives! Pray to be stronger men! Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks! Then the doing of your work will be no miracle. But you will be a miracle. Every day you will wonder at yourself, at the richness of the life which has come into you by the grace of God—Phillips Brooks.

'Public office is a public trust.' The discharge of duty to one's fellowmen, the work of resisting violence and maintaining order and righting the wrongs of the oppressed, is higher and holier than the following of visions. The service of man is the best worship of God.—Henry van Dyke.

(FROM PELOUBET'S 'NOTES'.)

The story of divine Providence in the call of Saul is interesting as showing the interweaving of many threads to produce one picture of life. Saul was guided to Samuel, and Samuel was guided to Saul, by means of several seemingly trivial incidents. In this story we have an illustration of how God guides men and controls affairs without interfering in any way with the free will and choice of men. He guides by the free will of men, and not by overbearing it. Stray asses led Saul to his kingdom. A shower, it is said, decided the fate of Europe at the Battle of Waterloo. F. W. Robertson says that the barking of a dog affected his whole life, changing his purpose from a military life to the ministry. A storm at sea destroying the Armada changed the course of history in England. Some one has said 'had Cleopatra's nose been shorter the whole face of the world would have been changed.'

Dr. Newman, one of the subtlest and acutest of preachers, 'after attempting three times to preach on Saul, is compelled to confess that Saul's character continues to be obscure to him, and he warns us that we must be exceedingly cautious while considering Saul's so obscure character.' And yet the story is a true mirror of human nature.

'Matthew Henry in two or three words makes clear to us all the obscurity of Saul's "other heart." "Saul," says the most sensible of commentators, "has no longer the heart of a husbandman, concerned only with corn and cattle; he has now the heart of a statesman, a general, a prince. When God calls to service he will make fit for it. If he advances to another station, he will give another heart; and will preserve that heart to those who sincerely desire to serve him." So he will. At the same time, in giving Saul another heart, the God of Israel gave Saul the greatest opportunity of his life to make himself a new heart. Had Saul's change of heart only held, had his conversion only become complete, Saul would have been one of

the greatest of all the Old Testament characters.'—Alexander Whyte.

How to Treat Insults. A young man who had been badly insulted came to Father Graham hot with anger and bent on immediate revenge. 'Wait,' said Father Graham; 'an insult is like mud; it will brush off much better when it is dry.' The young man waited, and the very next day the insulting person came to beg his forgiveness.

Junior C. E. Topic.

Sunday, July 12.—Topic—Character and courtesy. I. Pet. iii., 8-12.

C. E. Topic.

Monday, July 6.—Who shall be greatest? Matt. xviii., 1.

Tuesday, July 7.—True greatness. Luke xxii., 24-27.

Wednesday, July 8.—A truly great man. Luke i., 15.

Thursday, July 9.—Greater than John. Luke vii., 28.

Friday, July 10.—Give honor to others. Phil. ii., 2, 3.

Saturday, July 11.—Christ's example. John xiii., 14-16.

Sunday, July 12.—Topic—Wanting to be greatest. Mark ix., 32-37.

Most in Your School Can Give.

Since the day when Christ used a little lad's 'five loaves and two small fishes' to feed the hungry multitude, he has been using children's gifts to bless the world.

The beautiful custom of the Hawaiian mothers in the early days of Christianity in the Sandwich Islands shows that no child is too young to be taught to give. Placing a bright coin in her baby's hand, she held it over the contribution box. If the tiny fingers held on to the shining piece, she gently shook it till it fell. No wonder the Hawaiian Christians became liberal and cheerful givers, raising large sums for the kingdom of God.—Selected.

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