

SUNDAY
SCHOOL

The Quiet Hour

YOUNG
PEOPLE

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.

Began 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 blackboard 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 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; Bethesda, 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 is 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 our 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

Golden Text—John 20 1. But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

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 II. 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 having her interview with Jesus described, and its effect upon 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?

SELECTIONS ON COURAGE.

Zenophon tells us that at one time the Persian Princes had for their teachers the four best men in the kingdom. (1) The wisest man to teach wisdom. (2) The most just, to train the moral nature. (3) The most temperate to teach self control. (4) The bravest to teach courage. All these qualities and more, in the highest degree, are found in Jesus—if we take Him in His fullness, all these will be ours and we will be complete in Him.

Scripture Reading, Joshua 1: 1-9.

It has always required courage to rebuke sin and declare the whole counsel of God and the one who does it will not be popular in the eyes of the world. It requires courage to tell men unpalatable truths. It required courage for Nathan to say to King David, "Thou art the man." It

required courage for Elijah to say to King Ahab that he and his father's house, by forsaking the commandments of God and following Baal, had troubled Israel. It required courage for Jeremiah to stand before the fallen priests and prophets, and princes of Israel and say to them, "God says I will make this house like Shiloh and make this city a curse to all nations of the earth." It required courage for John the Baptist to say to the Pharisees and Scribes who came into the wilderness who came into the wilderness to hear him. "O generation of vipers who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come." Paul required courage to defy the godless authorities at Philippi and to rebuke the Roman Governor at Cesare. But what is the favor of man compared with the favor of God? What is the enmity of man whose breath is in his nostrils compared to the just indignation of a righteous God before whom we shall all stand and give an account of the deeds done in the body? God help us Christian workers to be faithful in our day and generation.

Let us pray for easy lives, but to be stronger women. "Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, pray for powers, equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the greatness of the life which has come to you by the grace of God."

It is said that on one occasion, Napoleon, standing before his troops, asked for one hundred men to lead a forlorn hope. He frankly told them that every man would doubtless be killed the moment the enemy opened fire. Who would dare to respond to this call and die for his Emperor? Lifting his voice, Napoleon said, "One hundred men forward! Step out of the ranks!" It is said that the whole regiment as one man, instantly sprang forward. Shall we be less responsive when Christ calls us, not to die for him but to live for others, when he himself leads the way? Let us get a motto from Peter's prompt response, when Christ bade him lower his nets after fruitless fishing:

GIVE.

"Give as you would if an angel
Awaited your gift at the door;
Give as you would if to-morrow
Found you where waiting was o'er;
Give as you would to the Master
If you met His searching look;
Give as you would of your substance
If His hand your offering took."

ONWARD.

Give us this day our daily bread we pray,
And give us likewise, Lord, our daily thought,
That our poor souls may strengthen as they
ought,
And starve not on the husks of yesterday.
Phillips Brooks.