

Bonds and afflictions are before me, but yet I go. None of these things move me. I must preach the gospel of the grace of God. Ye shall see my face no more. All these years I have faithfully preached the gospel to everyone. Without reward I have labored with my own hands. Help those who need your help, and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, it is more blessed to give than to receive.

#### VI. SUGGESTIVE STEPS IN TEACHING THE LESSON :

1. Have the Golden Text printed on the black-board beforehand, in the form suggested in the cut.

2. WHICH IS BEST, getting or giving? Which would you rather do—Get Xmas. presents, or give them? What does God's word say about it?

3. Teach the Golden Text. But

is it really better to give than to receive! Explain that the word—Blessed—means happy. And the Golden Text might read thus; It is more happy (or it makes people more happy) to give than to receive.

4. Does giving make our lives happier than getting? Is there really more happiness brought to us by our giving to others than by others giving to us? If so, where does it come from? This is one of the hardest lessons for us to learn, but let us try and learn it to-day.

5. Just as God clothes the flower and makes it beautiful, so will He make our lives peaceful and happy, if we are willing to give up ourselves for others. Here is a little flower seed. (Show one.) God speaks to it, and says, "Little flower seed, I can make you very much more beautiful if you will give up your life for others, but you must be willing to be buried in the ground." If the little seed is willing, it goes into its cold bed, under the ground, and, because of its willingness to give up its life, God makes it grow, and grow, and grow, until it is like this—a beautiful flower. (Show one.)

Which is the most beautiful? Which gives the most happiness—the seed or the flower? I think we will all say the flower. People who make the most happiness in the world are always the happiest themselves.

If, by being willing to give up self, we will allow God, He will make our lives like a beautiful flower. It was by giving up its life that the seed became a flower; so we see that it is true, that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

6. The illustration used in Lesson VIII.—namely, Abraham and Lot—might again be profitably used here, as also that of Stephen. Indeed, this being the last lesson of the quarter, a number of the illustrations which have been used during the quarter can be recalled and reviewed.

7. It is hard to be willing to give up self; but if we will allow the Lord Jesus into our hearts He will make it easier and easier. "Each victory will help us some other to win." Gradually, as we give, we will get back again better things than we gave away.

Truly, it is more blessed to give than to receive.

