

We must begin to love Christ before we can obey him. His friendship must come before his service, and then the purpose to do all his commandments will be deep and changeless. The true disciple is grieved at heart when he finds that he has grieved his Lord. Where there is no obedience to Christ, there is no love. Without this obedience, profession, talk, knowledge, even feeling and weeping, are all worthless. "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." "If a man love me he will keep my words." "He that loveth me not, keepeth not my sayings." "If ye love me, keep my commandments.

5. *The storms of life test character.* The wind had been blowing—it was a dreadful hurricane, and a household walked into a forest and saw many trees torn up by the roots; and he marvelled much at one tree which stood alone and yet had been unmoved in the tempest. He said, "How is this? The trees that were together have fallen, and this alone stands fast!" He observed that when the trees grow too closely they cannot send their roots into the earth: they lean too much upon

one another; but this tree, standing alone, had learned to endure the shocks of tempest, had thrust its roots deep into the earth, had grasped firmly the solid rock beneath, and so withstood the storm that laid others low. So the soul that clings to Christ is secure.

#### ADDED POINTS.

1. Beware of uncharitable judgments.
2. Our own failings should make us less censorious of others.
3. Every proof should be given in a loving spirit.
4. Those who are trying to overcome sin are best able to help others.
5. We should encourage everyone who is trying to do good.
6. Our words and conduct shew what we treasure in our hearts.
7. Mere profession is worth nothing if the life contradicts it.
7. Trials test the value of our religion to us.
9. We are all builders, look well to the foundation.
10. The terrible ruin of a lost soul.

#### BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

Under what circumstances was Matthew called? (Mark 2: 14). Was the feast mentioned in John 5: 1 a passover? (This is a difficult question, and will, probably, never be settled, but good commentaries point out its importance in regard to fixing the duration of our Lord's ministry. Teachers and older scholars should at least know a little about it.) What miracle did Jesus work at the pool of Bethesda? (John 5: 1-8). What verses are omitted from the story of this miracle in the R. V.? What evidence that such a superstition existed? (Verse 7). Why did the Jews object to the healing of this man? What did Jesus say of his relation to the Father in the discourse which followed the miracle? Of what act of Sabbath-breaking did the Pharisees accuse Christ's disciples? (Luke 1: 1, 2). How did Jesus defend them? What general principle of Sabbath observance did he lay down? (Mark 2: 28). On what ground did he defend his healing on the Sabbath day? (Luke 6: 9; Matt. 12: 12). What prophecy was fulfilled in Christ's unostentatious works of mercy? (Matt. 12: 17-21). Where and when were the Twelve set apart? (Mark 3: 16). Give their names. What famous discourse immediately followed? Read Matt. 5 and 7, and compare the parallel accounts.

#### THE BLACKBOARD.

#### TRUE DISCIPLESHIP.

CORRECT YOUR OWN FAULTS FIRST.

KEEP THE HEART RIGHT.

BUILD ON THE ROCK.

**"So shall ye be my disciples."**

#### LESSON VII—February 16th, 1896.

The Great Helper. LUKE 7: 2-16.

(Commit to memory verses 14-16).

GOLDEN TEXT: "They glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us."  
Luke 7: 16.

PROVE THAT—Jesus is loving. John 11: 36.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 47. *What is forbidden in the first commandment?* A. The first commandment forbiddeth the denying, or not worshipping and glorifying the true God, as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other which is due to him alone.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal.* Nos. 5, 37, 228, 30.