

"REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH."



# OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



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## Sowing.

Mark 4 : 3-20.

SOME of our little readers live in the country, and therefore know all about the way in which seed is sown in the spring time. Others of our readers who live in large cities, have seldom, perhaps never, seen a field sown. The most they know of sowing is connected with a very small garden, and a few flower seeds, which seem as if they would never come up, and then never to prosper for want of sun, and because of smoke.

There are others who have relatives living in the country, and perhaps during summer holidays our little friends visit the farmer's homes, but it is generally at a season when sowing time is past, and what they see then is the corn still green and growing, waving in the gentle breeze, almost ready to be cut down and carted home. I wonder whether those who have seen the

corn thus have asked themselves how it came there? It did not grow of itself. If the farmer had for

months before simply walked about doing nothing, would he ever have seen such a harvest of corn? Even our young readers know better. All he would have found on his land would have been weeds.

And so the farmer has plenty to do before he can expect a crop. He must plough and clean the land. He must sow, and much besides. And only as he sows will he reap.

And this brings us to the words of the Lord Jesus, so familiar to many in the Parable of the Sower (Matt. xiii.) Leave a piece of ground to itself, and it will bear evil weeds, and many, but no corn will grow thus. And so the Bible says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17 : 9).

"There is none is none that doeth good, no not one" (Rom. 3 : 12). And because our hearts are like the



ground that will only produce weeds if left to itself, Jesus tells us in this simple parable, "Behold, a sower went forth to sow." The word of God is the seed that He scatters everywhere among men. And thus, instead of God expecting good things from you, He comes to you, *giving* you by His Word—Jesus—eternal life, through believing in Him.

You must receive, then, God's Word. He is the sower. Let the seed fall into your heart. It is His Word. It will tell you what you are. It will not flatter or praise you. It will not say, "You are a good, kind boy, and if you do your best you shall get to heaven;" but it will tell you "your heart is bad, your sins deserve punishment, you are not good, you never can do good;" and when you believe that, how glad you will be to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, who, when we deserved to be punished, was punished for us, for He died on the cross! And trusting Him, Christ is yours, and then you will be able to bring forth good fruit pleasing to Him.

If you were watching a man sowing you would see how the birds follow him, and as the seed falls they drop down where it is and pick up all they can?

Jesus tells us about these birds in the parable, and He explains to us that they are a picture of the "evil one" that is Satan. And when your heart seems to be opening to take in God's Word, Satan tries to pick it away, and make you forget it, or he tries to make you think of other things; and thus hinder you from thinking about your precious soul, and heaven and hell.

Remember, we can only bring forth weeds, that is, do evil, if left to ourselves; and thus we must receive from God, before we can do good. Have you received His gift—Jesus, and with Him the forgiveness of all your sins? If not, receive Him now. "As many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name" (John 1:12).

[FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.]

### Safe.

**T**O be saved means to be snatched from some danger; to be safe is to be protected or kept from harm. This beautiful verse is in the Bible: "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."

The hen sees a hawk swooping down through the air; and with loud cries she calls all her little brood together, and hides them under her wings and they are safe. The little child is frightened at something it sees or hears, and runs at once to its mother's arms, and it is safe. The sailor sees a storm coming, and hastens to get his vessel into a snug harbour, and he is safe. So we may run to God whenever we are afraid, or have sorrow, or are tempted to sin; and there we shall be safe. This strong tower is always open. Its gates are not shut night or day. It has different

doors,—Fear, and Faith, and Love. I think the easiest one for a little child to get in by is Love. The next time you are in danger, try it, and especially if you want to escape Satan, for he is the little child's worst enemy. But when you see or hear him near, remember your "strong tower," and run into it, and you will be safe.

Never stand outside this strong tower weeping and fearing that God would not have you come in, that you will not be welcome. He wants you, He invites you, He has made all ready for you. He would like to have you stay there all the time,—to *abide* there, as the Bible calls it,—and then you would be always peaceful and happy.

Oh! how I wish every one knew, in this dark world of sin and sorrow, of this quiet refuge; for it is large enough to hold every soul, and every one is welcome within it. Do not keep this pleasant knowledge to yourself, dear children. Tell of it. When you see any one in sorrow, do tell them of the "strong tower," where they can be safe from all harm, and sin, and where God keeps His dear children in perfect peace for ever.

H. E. B.

[In our last issue we published a beautiful poem entitled, "A Little Light." We forgot at the time to give credit to the Christian lady who wrote it expressly for "OUR YOUNG PEOPLE." Mrs. Brown, of New York, was the writer, and she has also kindly sent us several other nice pieces, both of prose and poetry. The one entitled "Safe," which you have just read, is one of the articles, and we know our little readers will be pleased with it; but we know the lady wishes you to be more than pleased; in other words, she wishes you to be benefited—to know you are "safe," and living as "*a little light*."—Ed.]

### The Judas Tree.



**H**AVE you ever heard that in a far-away tropical country there is a beautiful tree, to which travellers have given a strange name. They call it the Judas tree. I will tell you why.

It has several features. First its blossoms early in the season, before its leaves have begun to open.

Then its flowers are wonderfully lovely, of such a rare crimson that they attract countless insects, especially bees, which alight on them in great numbers. Scarcely however have they settled when one by one they drop dead to

## The entrance of thy word giveth light.—Psalm cxix. 130.

the ground. From those sweet-looking blossoms they have sucked a deadly poison.

Dear young readers, doubtless many a fair Judas tree stands even now in your paths. In other words, many a sinful temptation looking bright and enticing, will rise before you. Beware! Sin may look lovely, but remember it crucified the Lord of Life and Glory. It took the sacrifice of the son of God upon Calvary to put away its guilt from you.

Wonderful to relate, some have said of Christ, "There is no beauty in Him that we should desire Him." "His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men. This was for our sakes, that we might shine in the light of God for all eternity.

Ah, the Lord Jesus Christ is a real saviour; He is a true friend. Others may mislead you; He never will. Has He not said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life?"

### Nadab and Abihu.

**A**ARON had four sons who had daily duties at the tabernacle. One of the duties of the sons of Aaron was to offer incense on the golden altar, at the very time that the daily sacrifice was being offered.

On the first service of this kind, the fire of the great altar was kindled from heaven, and God said this fire was to be used in all sacred services, and it was not allowed to go out. Those who had to burn the incense were to kindle their fire from this altar, when they went into this tabernacle.

Nadab and Abihu treated it as of no consequence, and filled their censers with other fire, and brought it into the tabernacle. No sooner did they enter than a flash of fire—shot forth like a flash of lightning—laid them dead.

How dreadful! But God will not be mocked.

The offered incense in their own way and not as God had commanded.

A good child, when he comes to ask his father for some favour, will not behave rudely, but will reverence his father, will ask in a proper manner. So we must come into God's presence, draw near to Him, serve Him, without pride, with fear, feeling that He knows all things that we have done.

### Never Swear.

1. It is *mean*. A boy of high moral standing would almost as soon steal a sheep as swear.
2. It is *vulgar*—altogether too low for a decent boy.
3. It is *cowardly*—implying a fear of not being believed or obeyed.
4. It is *ungentlemanly*. A gentleman, according to Webster, is a *genteel man*—well-bred, refined. Such a one will no more swear than go into the street to throw mud with a chimney sweep.
5. It is *indecent*—offensive to delicacy, and extremely unfit for human ears.
6. It is *foolish*. "Want of decency is want of sense."
7. It is *abusive*—to the mind which conceives the oath, to the tongue which utters it, and to the person at whom it is aimed.

8. It is *venomous*—showing a boy's heart to be a nest of vipers; and every time he swears, one of them sticks out his head.

9. It is *contemptible*—forfeiting the respect of all the wise and good.

10. It is *wicked*—violating the Divine law, and provoking the displeasure of Him who will not hold him guiltless who takes

His name in vain. If you wish to read God's Word on this subject, see Exodus 20 : 7.

### My Son, Give Me Thine Heart.

**L**ITTLE boys and girls do not always think how important it is to have their hearts well taken care of by trusting them to the keeping of Jesus. They do not recollect that the mind is like a flower garden, and that if left to take care of itself it will very soon be all overgrown with weeds.

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." Eccles. xii. 1.

### The Road to Heaven.

IT IS A **P**URE  
**PLAIN**  
**ASSABLE**  
**LEASANT** **ROAD.**

Boys and girls, are you travelling it?



## Notes on the S. S. Lessons.

### The Nobleman's Son.

John 4 : 43-54.

**W**HEN Jesus met the woman at the well, He was on His way from Jerusalem, through Samaria, to Galilee. After staying two days in the city of Sychar, He went on to Galilee, till He came to the city of Cana, where He made the water into wine. People not only remembered this, but some had been to Jerusalem, and seen Him do wonders there. Among those who had either seen or heard of these things was the poor father who came 20 or 25 miles, believing that Jesus could help him.

The lesson shows how his belief grew stronger and stronger, and what Jesus did for him ; and in the last verse we see the whole family happy Christians.

Such *belief* is called *Faith*. And we read so much about faith in the Bible, and it is so important, that I want to talk to you a little about it. When you hear grown-up people talking about faith, do you not feel sometimes as if it is some strange, mysterious thing, that you cannot understand, and that you must wait till you are older before you can have it? You are mistaken. Faith is a very simple thing, and even a very little child may have it. If I have faith in a person, I shall believe all that he tells me. If he has promised me something, no matter how great it may be, I am just as sure of it as if I had it already. Or, if he tells me about something which has taken place, I am just as sure of it as if I had seen it myself. If you have doubts about the truth of what he says, it is a proof that you have not faith in him. You trust your mother in that way, and would feel hurt and grieved to have any one doubt her. Now, nothing pleases God so much as to be trusted and believed. He had made himself known to us through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. He says that Jesus shall save us from our sins. God expects that we shall place our trust in Jesus as our Saviour. And if we do not, we dishonour Him, and this is a fearful sin in the sight of God.

See what this nobleman's faith did. (1) It led him to go to Cana. (2) It made him earnest. (3) It led him to obey.

### Jesus at Bethesda.

John 5 : 5-18.

**S**OME time after Jesus had healed the Nobleman's son, He went up again to Jerusalem. In that city there was a great pool. A very wonderful thing happened at that pool once a-year. An angel came down and stirred about the water to make it able to cure one weak or sick person. The first sick person who stepped into the water after it was stirred about, was made well.

The place was called Beth-es-da, which means "House of Mercy."

One Sabbath-day Jesus came to the pool of Bethesda, and saw the poor creatures lying in the porches. There were crowds of other people who were not sick. They came to see the troubling of the water.

Jesus saw amongst the sick a poor man who was very weak. Many sick people had friends taking care of them, but this man had no one near him to help him.

Jesus pitied this poor, lonesome, friendless man. He knew that he had been sick for a long time—even for thirty-eight years. So He went up to him and spoke kindly to him, and healed him.

When the people saw the man carrying his bed, they said, "It is wrong for you to carry your bed on the Sabbath day," and asked him who had told him to do so ; but he could not tell them.

Soon after when Jesus again saw the poor man He said, "Sin no more—lest a worse thing come upon thee."

The man went back to the proud Jews and told them it was Jesus who had cured him.

These men hated Jesus so much that they wanted to kill Him. Their real reason for hating Him was because He told them of their sins.



JESUS AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA.

### 'OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.'

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