

The Sunday-School.

FOURTH QUARTER,
LESSON II.—Oct. 8.

THE WIDOW'S OIL INCREASED.

2 Kings 4: 1-7.

THE LESSON includes,—1. A character study of Elisha as a prophet.
2. The story of the increasing oil.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Trust in the Lord and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.—Psa. 37: 3.

LEARN BY HEART.—Vs. 5, 6; Matt. 9: 29; Jas. 2: 22.

HISTORICAL SETTING.—Time. Probably 850-840 B. C. No exact dates can be given.

Place.—Some unknown town in the kingdom of Israel; perhaps one of the cities where there was a school of prophets, Gilgal, Bethel or Jericho.

Rulers.—Joram, king of Judah; Jehoram, son of Ahab, king of Israel.

Monument.—The Moabite stone, of black basalt, 3 feet 10 inches high, 2 feet wide, and 14½ inches thick, discovered in Moab, north of the Arnon, east of Jordan, contains an inscription by Mesha, king of Moab, in the time of Elisha, a part of which refers to the events described in 2 Kings 3.

A CHARACTER STUDY OF ELISHA.—Elisha was the son of Shaphat, of the tribe of Issachar. At Elijah's summons he left all and followed the prophet as his attendant and friend. His life shows that he had deep filial affections, a loving spirit which characterized his whole career.

Elijah's short career was memorable for a few grand and impressive scenes. He interviewed kings as a reprover and denouncer of their sins. He made the impression of the earthquake and the storm, preparing the way for peace and prosperity.

Elisha, on the other hand, entered palaces as a counselor and friend. Great men came to him for advice in war, in sickness, and in trouble. Even more than in palaces was he welcome in the homes of the people. His career is marked by innumerable deeds of mercy. He was an educator, a statesman, as well as a prophet. At the same time his life and ministry were in bad times. There was a dark background of coming judgment looming up above the horizon. The gentle Elisha did not hesitate to rebuke and denounce when the times required it. He would not even speak to Jehoram, king of Israel, "son of a murderer." He devised the plot that led to the overthrow of the house of Ahab.

Elijah made the most definite and lasting impression on the nation. Elijah was the more original, Elisha the more pervading; Elijah more like lightning, Elisha like the light; Elijah like the torrent, Elisha like the silent forces; Elijah like the wind and earthquake, Elisha like the still small voice.

THE WIDOW'S OIL INCREASED.—Vs. 1-7. There cried a certain woman unto Elisha, as the acknowledged head of the sons of the prophets. It is difficult to know exactly

who were the sons of the prophets and what position they held. The probable supposition is that they were associations for religious study and training, who went about teaching the people, many of them, doubtless, belonging to the tribe of Levi. My husband is dead. Josephus says this woman was the widow of Obadiah, Ahab's steward, and that the borrowed money mentioned had been expended on the support of the hundred prophets whom he hid. Thy servant did fear the Lord. He had lived true to his profession and work, and, therefore, his widow had reason to suppose that Jehovah would help her. The creditor is come to take unto him my two sons. The Romans and divers other peoples exercised the right over their children of selling them for debt. And creditors seized children of their debtors as freely as their cattle. What hast thou in the house? He would know her circumstances. Not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil. Olive oil was used for anointing, medicine, light, food, cooking. Go, borrow thee . . . of all thy neighbors . . . empty vessels . . . not a few. The prophet set the widow and her sons to work. By this command the faith of the family was tested and increased. Thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons. They must be alone with God. And shalt pour out into all those vessels. Another test of faith. Who (the sons) brought the vessels. All had an active part in the work. And the oil stayed, but only when every vessel was full. She . . . told the man of God, both to report the success which attended his plan, and to ask his advice.

THE HEART OF THE LESSON.

The Bible miracles are all full of spiritual teachings. They draw men toward God; they build up the moral nature. They are expressions of God's loving kindness. These miracles are manifestations of the fatherhood of God. They bring God near to us. The Bible view and the universal Christian view is to see God everywhere, in every law, in every working. If God is our Father he is not entangled helplessly in his laws, but can use those laws for our help. God does not break his laws, but he uses them. The prophet took the common things of daily life as the basis of the larger gifts. What we receive in answer to our prayers is measured by our faith. Every vessel the woman borrowed was filled with miraculous oil. Had she borrowed more vessels, they would all have been filled. Had she borrowed fewer, the oil would have stayed when the last vessel was full. So it is with us, according to our faith as shown by our works. God loves to give. He will fill full whatever we present to him.

A Family Necessity.

Is a remedy capable of affording immediate relief to the hundred and one ailments that constantly arise. It may be a cold, perhaps toothache, neuralgia, pain in the back,—use Nerviline, it's more penetrating, pain-subduing and powerful than any other liniment. Nerviline is at least five times stronger than ordinary remedies, and its worth in any household can't be overestimated. For man or beast, Nerviline is a panacea for all pain, and costs only 25 cents per bottle. Buy Nerviline to-day.

HOW TO SAVE THE BOY.

A banker in Allegan County, Michigan, three or four years ago, voted to license the saloons and they were brought back into the country. A few weeks ago ex-Senator Humphrey was at a hotel in Allegan and looking out he saw the banker walking back and forth in front of the hotel barroom, and looking in when anyone opened the door. The Senator went out and spoke to the banker.

The banker said, "Senator, I am uneasy about my boy. Do you think he may be in the saloon, did you see anything of him?"

"Yes, I saw him in the back room of the saloon, playing cards, and drinking," replied Senator Humphrey.

The father seemed speechless for a moment, and then from a heart full of distress, cried out, "Oh God! how shall I save my boy from ruin?"

"You have a grave problem to solve."

"I would give half I am worth to destroy every saloon in the county," said the banker.

"Ah! It seems cruel to remind you of it now, but you should have come to that conclusion when we wanted you to join us in the fight to keep them out of the county. Now they have your boy, and I do not know what you can do. May God help you."

Why should not the father expect his boy to fall in with what he endorsed? Parents! think of that, and vote to outlaw the saloon.—State Issue.

IN DUE TIME.

A missionary in India had been earnestly preaching in the bazaar or market place of the town where he labored, and was going out of the city when a heathen asked him in mockery: "How many Christians have you made today?" The missionary pointed to a field and said: "What would happen tomorrow if we were to sow corn there today?" The answer was: "Nothing." "What would happen the day after?" "Nothing," was again the reply. "What would in a few days after that?" "Little blades would sprout up." "Well," said the missionary, "I have sown the good seed today and this, too, will come up after some time."

There is a world of comfort in the thought of that simple answer. There are times in the lives of all of us when we feel as though our work was in vain. We see no results. We know that we have faithfully done our part, not for a day or a month, but for years, and we are tempted to doubt the promises. The good seed ripens slowly; some far more slowly than others. Ours is but to plant and cultivate. The harvest will come in the Lord's good time, and when the growth begins to show, still it is "first the blade, then the ear," and only at last, after long and tedious waiting, "the full corn in the ear."—The Worker.

An Eight Year Old Boy and the Bible.

An eight year-old boy lately gave a beautiful thought about the Bible. He had been speaking of how many good books there are in the world, for he is very fond of reading, and anticipates with pleasure reading

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Always keep a bottle of it in the house. We have been saying this for 60 years, and so have the doctors.
"I have used Ayer's Cherry Pectoral in my family for 40 years. It is the best medicine in the world, I know, for all throat and lung troubles."
Mrs. J. K. NORCROSS, Waltham, Mass.
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The Lungs
Daily action of the bowels is necessary. Aid nature with Ayer's Pills.

them all. His mother remarked, "But there is one Book that is better than all the rest."

He understood; and after thinking a moment, he said, "Whenever I think of the Bible it seems to me like a great King standing in the middle and all the other books in the world bowing down before it."

The metaphor, simply spoken, on the spur of the moment, expresses a great truth. Let us all bow before it.—Chris. Observer.

Not a Nauseating Pill.—The excipient of a pill is the substance which enfolds the ingredients and makes up the pill mass. That of Parmelee's Vegetable Pills is so compounded as to preserve their moisture, and they can be carried into any latitude without impairing their strength. Many pills, in order to keep them from adhering, are rolled in powders, which prove nauseating to the taste. Parmelee's Vegetable Pills are so prepared that they are agreeable to the most delicate.

The man who is not living aright is sour within, and the sour works out. He who lives aright is your sympathetic and generous man.

Welcome as Sunshine after storm is the relief when an obstinate, pitiless cough has been driven away by Allen's Lung Balsam. No opium in it. The good effect lasts. Take a bottle home with you this day.

I declare, now that I am dying, I would not have spent my life otherwise for the whole world.—David Brainerd.

Relieve those Inflamed Eyes!
Pond's Extract
Reduced one-half with pure soft water, applied frequently with dropper or eye cup, the congestion will be removed and the pain and inflammation instantly relieved.
CAUTION!—Avoid dangerous, irritating Witch Hazel preparations represented to be "the same as" Pond's Extract which easily sour and generally contain "wood alcohol," a deadly poison.