

The Sunday-School.

FIRST QUARTER.
LESSON XIII.—Mar. 27.

REVIEW.

GOLDEN TEXT.—*And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness.*—Matt. 4: 23.

SUBJECT.

Pivotal Points in the Life of Jesus.

This review can be made most interesting and most profitable by making the life of Christ stand out as vivid reality. We first study the land in which he lived, his environment, the circumstances in which he did his work. Then on a map we mark the places where he lived and worked, with their historic associations, and the deeds and words of Jesus which have made them forever memorable.

The main features of his life, the stages in the movement of his history, should be learned by heart.

THE HOLY LAND.—The map will give the general contour and the location in reference to other countries. In Christ's time it was a province of the Roman Empire which held sway over 120,000,000 people, nearly the whole known world; but half of these were slaves. Jerusalem was then a city of great magnificence.

A railway has been constructed from Jaffa on the Mediterranean to Jerusalem; and another from Haifa at the foot of Mt. Carmel across Galilee, around the southeast corner of the Sea of Galilee, and so to Damascus.

GALILEE.—The scene of the larger part of Christ's ministry described in the lessons.

1. Galilee was very populous, containing, according to Josephus, at least three millions of people, including two hundred and four towns of over fifteen thousand inhabitants.

2. It was a very fertile country, well watered from the mountains of Lebanon on the north. It was full of trees, orchards, gardens, grainfields, and vineyards.

3. It was a business country, full of varied activities, manufacturers, fisheries, exports of oil and fruits. It had contact with the outer Roman and heathen world.

4. The lake of Galilee was the centre of population and industry. There were nine cities, of over fifteen thousand inhabitants each, upon its shores. The lake was surrounded by an almost unbroken line of buildings,—city walls, houses, synagogues, wharves and factories. The waters "were covered with a numerous fleet of four thousand vessels, from ships of war down to fishing boats."

5. The character of the people can be judged by these surroundings. They were more worldly, but less bound under the rigid system of the scribes than were the people of Judea. They were trained in the synagogue schools, instructed by Jewish rabbis with Messianic hopes, and had a religious history behind them.

at the Places Made Historic by Jesus.

—Note the other historic associations. Bethabara, Bethlehem, Bethsaida, Cana, Capernaum, Galilee, Galilee, Sea of, Horns of Hattin, Jerusalem, Jordan,

Jordan, Fords of, Judea, Macherus, Nazareth, Wilderness of Judea.

General View of the Life of Christ.—Birth and Childhood: Divine origin, birth, training, visit to Jerusalem, life at Nazareth.

Preparation for Public Ministry: Ministry of John, baptism, endowment by the Holy Spirit, temptation.

Public Ministry: A. D. 27, 28, Judea; 29, 30, Galilee, Perea.

The crucifixion, the resurrection, the ever-living Saviour.

Pivotal Points.—Birth, interview with the doctors, baptism, temptation, the year in Judea, first disciples, ministry in Galilee, preaching the kingdom of heaven, working miracles, the forgiveness of sins, the true use of the Sabbath, the calling of the twelve, the Sermon on the Mount, teaching by parables, power over nature—on the sea, power over nature; feeding five thousand.

THE HEART OF THE LESSONS.

1. The message of Christ's youth to the youth of to-day.
2. Preparing the way for the kingdom of God.
3. Four essentials to the preparation for a successful life.
4. Winning men for the kingdom of heaven.
5. Jesus' method of bringing men into the kingdom.
6. Faith, forgiveness and salvation.
7. The right use of the Sabbath.
8. Obedience to the king the test of membership in the kingdom.
9. The calming of the storm and its lessons.
10. A successful life as exemplified in John and Herod.
11. Jesus the bread of life.

COMMONPLACE DUTIES.

Margaret Parker went back to college in a dejected frame of mind. Things had not been going well at home all summer long. Her mother had more sick-headaches than ever. The children were demoralized by the long vacation. Her father's business was complicated by the uncertain state of the cotton market. For the moment, education seemed to Margaret an indefensible luxury, family life a series of struggles and concessions, and indifference the only mood worth cultivating. She was asking with the bitterness of youth when it asks that bitter question, "What is the use of it all?"

No railroad accident and wonderful escape happened to change the girl's mind. No preacher set forth to her the sin of pessimism. No splendid service awaited her hand as a sign of her high calling. None the less, before she slept, the first night of her junior year in college, she had a point of view very different from the gloomy one with which she left home.

As she reached the station she saw a girl—evidently a freshman—timidly arguing with a half-drunken expressman about her trunk. Margaret lost no time in taking a hand in the matter, and reporting the man to headquarters over the telephone; and she soon had the satisfaction of seeing the freshman's face clear, as her trunk joined Margaret's on a well-filled wagon.

As soon as she reached the college she was met by a request from the

dean that she should try to adjust a misunderstanding among some of her classmates in regard to their rooms.

"You know these girls well, Miss Parker," said the dean, "and I rely on you to straighten out the tangle."

When she entered her room it was to find chaos reigning, and her chum ready to cry with the pain of a strained wrist—the result of a fall from a step-ladder.

Margaret's ready hands soon bandaged the wrist; hung the pictures and curtains, and refreshed two tired girls with cups of chocolate from the useful chafing dish.

While the dishes were being washed, three classmates appeared to consult with her about the make-up of an important committee. Before they were gone the clock told the hour of a choir rehearsal, to which Margaret hurried, with a pleasant sense of the glorious part in the life of the college played by the chapel choir. It was natural enough that the president's favorite hymn should be sung at prayers the night that college opened:

The trivial round, the common task,
Would furnish all we ought to ask;
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily nearer God.

It fitted well into Margaret's changed mood—which had passed from dejection and indifference to a quiet exaltation, and a heightened feeling of the value and the mystery of human life.

As she put her head on her pillow that night her thought turned back to her home and its problems, and she realized that none of them could be very serious, so long as love and loyalty reigned in the household. She remembered with a smile the definition of happiness as a state of being too busy to know that one is unhappy. —*The Youth's Companion.*

HOME RELIGION.

There is no greater need to-day than a quickening in home religion. It is beyond question sadly true that we are now reaping all over our land the painful result of irreligious home life. It is evident in all social, domestic, and other crimes that shame us. There is no safeguard of our civilization, of the state, or of the church, that is nearly so strong as that which godly homes furnish. When unbelief or evil dominate here, the flood-gates of iniquity are open and all wrong finds an ally. There is no institution in the world that can do or undo the wrong in equal measure with the home. The church is a great sufferer at the hearthstone to-day. It seems an uneven task to teach children in the Sunday-school, when it is not supplemented by prayer and example in the home. The responsibility of parents, not of one, but of both, is very grave here. No condition or pretext can excuse us. It is easier to live right than wrong, to trust and obey God rather than the world, the flesh and the devil, and the difference in the result is the difference between light and darkness. God's word puts a distinct mark upon the Christian and un-Christian home. There is no culture, or display of wealth, no earthly comfort that can substitute the family altar. A prayerless home is like a house without a roof, wholly incomplete. There is no assured hope for the home as long as it is prayerless. On the other hand, a family gathered about the altar of prayer in the morning, the father reading the Word of God, or the mother, in his

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absence or refusal, and then commending all to God for the day, this is a most forceful example and testimony of one of the most beautiful pictures of heaven ever witnessed on earth. After that you may have equipage and splendor, put on diamonds and costly garments if you can, but without God's altar in the house they are mockery and a vain show. The merciful God increase the number of quiet Christian homes.—*Rev. Dr. Rhodes.*

If You are Losing Weight

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We are willing enough that Christ should have been crucified for us, but we are angered at the thought of being crucified for him.

Signals of Danger.—Have you lost your appetite? Have you a coated tongue? Have you an unpleasant taste in the mouth? Does your head ache, and have you dizziness? If so, your stomach is out of order, and you need medicine. But you do not like medicine. He that prefers sickness to medicine must suffer, but under the circumstances the wise man would procure a box of Parmelee's Vegetable Pills and speedily get himself in health, and strive to keep so.

A thorough going Christian is a man with a stronger reason, kinder heart, firmer will and richer imagination than his fellows—one who has attained to his height in Christ.

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