

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

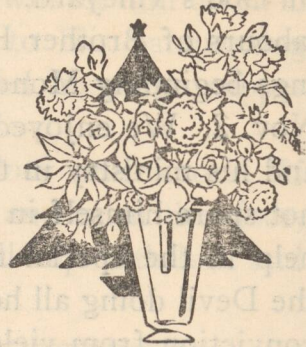
"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4-12

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

To the Readers of Our Young People's Page



DESPISE NOT THY YOUTH

Over eighty per cent. of all Christian people took their stand for the Christian life before they were eighteen years of age.

As a youth you stand at the beginning of things. Yours is the greatest privilege of choice. Only choose well.

Hannibal, at the age of nine, swore on the altar of sacrifice eternal enmity to Rome, and this determined his future career.

Mendelssohn made his public appearance as a pianist when he was ten.

Joan of Arc was but twelve years of age when her first vision came to her, and she heard the call summoning her to deliver France.

Alexander the Great was a thirteen-year-old pupil when as a student under Aristotle he awoke to the most powerful ambitions.

Spedding regards the most important year in Bacon's life to have been the fifteenth, when he began a new method of studying nature.

The East Indian Company sent Warren Hastings out as a writer in their service when he was but seventeen years old.

Sir William Blackstone began the study of law in his eighteenth year. In his farewell to the muse he salutes his chosen profession thus:

"Then welcome business, welcome strife,
Welcome the cares and thorns of life,
The visage wan, the purblind sight,
The toil by day, the lamp by night,
The tedious forms, the solemn prate,
The pert dispute, the dull debate,
The drowsy bench, the babbling hall,
For thee, fair Justice, welcome all."

At nineteen, C. H. Spurgeon was called to New York Street Chapel, Southwark, and was in a very short time the most popular preacher of his day.

Make much of the privileges of youth. The to-morrow has vistas of supreme delight or crags and rocks of dark and dismal despair.

The happy future is dependent on the keeping of God's laws, in close fellowship with godly people, and in living an open-hearted devoted Christian life.—Selected.

BIBLE STUDY

(H. C. Mullen)

Lesson IV., Mark 7-9

Chapter VII.—

1. Jesus clashes with the Pharisees over Traditionalism. The first important break with the Jews was over the Sabbath question, now it is the question of eating with unwashed hands.

Notice here that Mark explains the customs of the Jews which would not have been needful if written for them. Here is evidence that Mark was written for Gentiles, probably Romans.

In their blind zeal for the ceremonial and

THE LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The Everlasting Light:
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His Heaven.
No ear may hear His coming;
But, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed Child;
Where misery cries out to Thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where Charity stands watching,
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

traditional the Pharisees lost sight of the spiritual. Is not the same mistake made to-day?

2. Jesus visits Tyre and Sidon. Country outside of Palestine. Here He heals daughter of Greek woman, showing that His mission was not confined to any one people but faith was honored wherever found.

3. Jesus returns to Galilee. Heals deaf man with impediment in his speech.

Chapter VIII.—

1. Feeding of the Four Thousand. Contrast with the five thousand, Chapter five.

2. Pharisees seek a sign.

3. Disciples warned against doctrine of Pharisees.

4. Blind man healed.

5. Jesus foretells His suffering.

6. Jesus emphasizes the value of the soul.

Chapter IX.—

1. The Transfiguration. Note carefully this beautiful drama. Moses representing the law, Elijah the prophets, and Jesus the Gospel. They are seen together, then the law and the

prophets pass out of the picture, and the

2. Pharisees seek a sign.
loved Son: hear Him."

2. Jesus casts out Dumb spirit which His Disciples could not. May not some of our present day inefficiency be due to the same reason?

3. Jesus foretells His Death.

4. Disciples dispute about Supremacy. Note Christ's estimation of true greatness.

5. John corrected of his Bigotry.

6. The Great Importance of Salvation for which we can afford to lose a hand, a foot, or an eye.

Questions—

1. If evil proceeds from the heart what must be done in the heart to stop the flow of evil?

2. Did the Jews find a pure heart by the observance of outward ceremonies?

3. Why did Jesus refuse to give the Pharisees a sign from Heaven?

4. Why did Jesus say to Peter, "Get thee behind me Satan?"

5. Why could not the disciples cast out the dumb spirit?

GOSPEL OF MARK

Lesson V. Chapters 10-12

Chapter X.—

1. Jesus returns to Judea and proclaims the Gospel of the Kingdom there.

2. He replies to the questions of the Pharisees regarding divorce. There is very little scripture upon which to justify divorce and re-marriage. If people would take God into account and seek His guidance before marriage there would be no need of divorces.

3. How the Kingdom of God must be received. Simplicity, sincerity, dependence, faith, are child-like qualities.

4. Story of the "Rich Young Ruler." Near to the Kingdom and yet out. Morality is not eternal life. Do not multitudes these days make the mistake that this young man did?

5. Jesus warns against trusting in riches. He shows how difficult it is for rich persons to get saved. Referring to the camel's going through the eye of a needle, this was a common expression to indicate something extremely difficult or humanly impossible.

6. What they shall receive who have left all for Christ.

7. Jesus foretells His death.

8. James and John seek pre-eminence.

9. The necessity for humility.

10. Blind Bartimeus healed.

Chapter XI.—

1. Christ's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem.

2. The fig tree cursed. The sentence, "For the time of figs was not yet" usually raises questions. The simplest explanation is that the time had not yet come when figs were gathered, hence normally there should have been figs on the tree. And as the young figs