The Little Flock

EDITED BY MRS. A. R. FLOWER

RUTH'S FAITH.

Mr. Lewis, with his wife and little Ruth, live on a farm about fifteen miles from a railroad town. They love and serve the Lord, and have taught little Ruth that He cares for His children and that He hears and answers prayer.

One summer day when they went to town for some necessary provisions, they stopped at the home of a friend. While the mothers were enjoying themselves together, the children played with dolls and dishes out under a tree. Ruth was delighted with a set of little, old-fashioned, blue dishes, and talked of them almost continuously after they left. Every day when she said her prayer, she prayed for some blue dishes like Ettie's.

As Christmas drew near, she kept talking of getting her blue dishes for Christmas. Her mamma told her that she had not the money to get her a set of dishes, and, if she had, she could not get any like those for they had been made when Ettie's grandma was a little girl and they did not make that kind any more. But Ruth said she had asked God for them and she knew she would get them on the Christmas tree. They tried to show her how impossible it would be but her faith was undaunted.

She fixed some boxes into a cupboard and pasted clean, white paper on it so as to be ready for the dishes. Mrs. Lewis was much grieved for she thought it would be such a shock to the child's faith that she would never get over it.

When the usual Christmas celebration was held at the school house, Ruth Lewis' name was called several times, but doll, books, candies and all were set aside waiting for the dishes. The tree was stripped of all its load and still Ruth sat waiting for her dishes. The teacher was gathering up some papers that had been dropped under the tree, and she said:

"Here is a box that came in late. It has Ruth Lewis' name on it."

"It's my dishes," said Ruth, as she bounded up to get them. Sure enough there they were and just the kind she had set her heart upon.

How did they get there? Mrs. Lewis' cousin and husband of Westchester, Pa., had taken a 40-mile trip in their automobile to attend the wedding of her sister. On the way home a storm came up and they stopped with an old couple who kept a lodging house and a little store. While looking about the store she found some little old blue dishes back in one corner on a shelf. As she was looking at them, she said:

"How these little, old-fashioned blue dishes would delight the heart

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INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

With Pentecostal Notes :-: January 4, 1914

30 And they departed thence, and passed through Galilee; and he would not that any man should know it.

31 For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered unto the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.

32 But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.

33 And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?

34 But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.

35 And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.

36 And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them,

37 Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.

13 And they brought young children to him, that he might touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.

14 But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God.

15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

16 And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Jesus and the Children.

Lesson Text—Mark 9:30-41; 10:13-16.

Golden Text—Gird yourselves with humility, to serve one another; for God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble. 1 Peter 5:5.

Leading Thought—"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ."

1. **Christ's Lesson in Humility.** (Vs. 30-41.) The failure of the disciples to deliver the demon-possessed man, in the verses just preceding the lesson, perhaps impressed upon Jesus their need of teaching. Lack of humility may have caused their defeat. So Jesus made His journey through Galilee as quietly as possible (V. 30), "for He taught His disciples." (V. 31.) While they were concerned with their approaching glory and honor, He was concerned with apprising them of His suffering and death that they might be prepared for the trial. Christ always spoke of His resurrection with His death. Thank God the Lamb that was slain **is alive** forevermore. The disciples could not understand the divine plan of redemption; it was all so contrary to their expectation of an earthly kingdom. (Matt. 20:20, 21; Luke 22:24; John 6:15.) Would we know the secret of the Lord and the hidden mysteries of His kingdom we must be free from all self-aggrandizement. "The meek will He teach His way." See Psalm 25:14. We will not wonder at such childish demeanor among those so near the Saviour if we but stop to look at present-day conditions, and even into our own hearts. The desire for pre-eminence is natural to any but a thoroughly crucified life, and even then Satan seeks to insinuate it subtilely into the heart. It was the cause of his expulsion from heaven. (Isa. 14:12-19.) Seeking the high place invariably brings a man to the lowest place sooner or later. "Mind not high things but condescend to men of low estate." (Luke 14:7-11.) The sure way to rise in God's service is to sink low at the foot of the cross. Not voluntary humility (Col. 2:18), but genuine heart humility is the glaring need of today. Through the lack thereof God's work is hindered and thwarted. The disciples' conversation though unheard by Jesus was not unknown to Him. (V. 33.) "The Spirit searcheth all things." Note the shame of the disciples—"they held their peace." (V. 33.) Their hearts condemned them as will any heart with similar intent. See the wisdom of Christ in dealing with them. "He sat down." He took time for this most essential life lesson. (V. 35.) Without accusing, He quietly gives them an object lesson, after explaining to them God's order of promotion. (V. 35.) Like the wisdom of God it is contrary to the understanding of the carnal mind. In dealing with us the Holy Spirit never accuses. He **searches** the hearts—the hidden conversation, the unspoken word, the very thoughts and intents of the heart; He **reproves**, but ever with tenderness, turning our gaze to the Perfect One, through whom we can overcome. It is love and meekness Christ is impressing; and to receive a child, not only to nurture and care for in reality, but to receive in themselves the embodiment of humility and gentleness portrayed in the child. So will they most resemble Christ; and He in turn will own them as His, and will present them to the Father with exceeding great joy.

2. **His Attitude Toward the Children** (10:13-16). "They brought young children to Him." (V. 13.) Wise, indeed, were those parents; they saw their part and fulfilled it. More children would be blessed today, more homes united, more hearts unbroken, did modern parents do likewise. The responsibility is far greater than the indifferent attitude of many fathers and mothers would lead us to suppose. The Godless, irreverent, ungrateful, disobedient youth of today are not to blame for their evil tendencies. There was no God in their home—no one to bear them to Jesus. How sad it is to contemplate the picture, though characteristic of the last

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TIMES OF REFRESHING

From the Presence of the Lord.

Testimonies, Requests for Prayer, Reports of Meetings and General Fellowship.

LIVING SACRIFICES.

My attention was caught not long ago by the words of a young brother with his young wife on the way to a foreign field. In speaking of young people, he said, "We love our lives."

Very natural feeling, people would say, for those just starting out on life's way. The path does seem bright, and we look forward hopefully to the future. It is perhaps the prerogative of youth to be hopeful, to "dream dreams" and "see visions." If it were not so the world would have been discouraged long ago—this poor, weary, sinful world.

But let us see to it as young people that God has the right of way in our lives and that we do not stray from the will of God. Let us look hopefully into the future because God is going to be with us and because our lives are God's—"hid in Christ"—and to be used in His service.

My heart often yearns to be out in His service as I think of those who "loved not their lives unto death, but overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony." Why not yield ourselves a "living sacrifice wholly, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service?"

HARRIET OSBORN.

TESTIMONY FROM INDIANAPOLIS.

Dec. 7, 1913.

How I do praise God for the help that I get through The Christian Evangel which you have been sending me. It has been real food to my soul. It increases my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and opens up a real field of prayer and labor for the work of God. While I cannot be out in public service myself, I am more impressed to pray for others who are out in the work for God.

How I do praise God for His wonderful keeping power. Just before I came into this promised way I was all worn out with the cares of this life; I was very much weakened in body. I began to pray to God to help me make up my mind for Him to receive me into a brighter world than this. The hardest thing for me to do at that time was to leave my five little children in this cold and chilly world, but I had never gotten to the place where I would be willing to leave them.

Then I heard of Pentecost through dear Sister Ward. She told me to go down to a church at St. Clair and Senate avenues, to hear what the brother had to say. I went. His subject was in the second chapter of Acts, telling how the Holy Ghost came upon the saints in the upper room. I was just at that time willing to take it all in myself. The Lord Jesus came fully in my life, cleansed me both soul, body and spirit. I have not had a sick day since. The devil tries to oppress sometimes, but I breathe His holy name in prayer and it is all gone. Hallelujah to Jesus for all that He has done for me during the past six years.

Elizabeth Smith.

EVANGELIST J. H. BENNETT AT FAYETTESVILLE, IND.

December 17, 1913.

The Lord bless you all. We are engaged in a real good meeting, which began Saturday night with great interest. Souls are seeking God and a great number are under conviction. Quite a number are seeking the baptism in the Holy Ghost. Pray much for us.

We want to write you a few lines concerning our summer and fall labor in the field. We had one tent meeting near Indian Springs which lasted nine weeks. A great work was done for miles around. We do praise God for saving a great number of souls and baptizing a goodly number in the Holy Ghost. We have a tent 40x60 which was filled and at times the people could not all get inside.

The meeting which commenced Saturday is in reach of quite a number that attended that tent meeting and were saved and who will help us in rescuing souls at this place.

Everybody is eager for those papers (The Christian Evangel). We did not have anything like enough to give to them. Would like to have a number every week.

We ask all the dear saints to please remember us in their prayers that God will visit us with His mighty power and have His way in our lives.

Yours in the race for souls,

J. H. BENNETT AND WIFE.

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of dear Ruthie Lewis."

So they were purchased and sent off by express. They arrived in town the day before Christmas. The express agent had little folks of his own, and, being acquainted with the Lewises, he took an interest in getting the package to them in time for Christmas. Seeing one from the neighborhood who would be at the entertainment at the school house that night, he sent it out by him.

The Lord has abundant resources by which to answer the prayers of His believing children.

MARTHA GILMORE.

EVANGELIST L. V. ROBERTS IN UTICA, OHIO.

December 12, 1913.

I am going to Utica, Ohio, Monday, to hold a ten-day meeting in the town hall and as I will not be here (Indianapolis) to see to things there will be services only on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday nights while I am away, and I also will be at the convention at Marion in January, the Lord willing.

Pray for me and the meetings at Utica as I will have a battle there I am certain, but the mighty Commander has said, "Go forth," and I know He will be there to win the victory for me.

Love to all the saints.

L. V. ROBERTS.

LOUISVILLE, KY.

December 17, 1913.

Greetings to all the saints in Jesus' name:

We want the dear saints of The Christian Evangel to know what the Lord is doing for us in Louisville. One dear sister came from Cleveland, Ohio, two weeks ago and received the baptism. She had had consumption for one year, and, praise His Holy Name, she testified last night that God had healed her. Glory to God! It is wonderful!

The Lord sent us to this place two weeks ago and the power fell the first night. About four have received the baptism since we have been here. God is blessing the work and we desire prayer for greater blessing.

Your brother under the precious blood.

ELDER S. B. DAVIS.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

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days before Christ's appearing. How the heart of Jesus must be grieved over such conditions when we see how gladly He welcomed them. (V. 16.) Perhaps lives of untold service, in embryo. The blood upon the doorposts meant safety for the Israelitish household, but it was the parents' duty to put it there. Where like conditions are met the blood covenant holds good today. (Acts 3:39; Josh. 24:15; Deut. 6:7; Acts 11:14, 16:15.)

After the former lesson, is it possible the disciples could act so despicably? (V. 13.) Such is the unstableness of the human heart and it is to guard against this we need constantly to "humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God."

A. R. F.

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