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SERIES I.

NO. IX.

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THE
FOURTH
COMMANDMENT,
WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF
Jack Riot and Will Mindful.



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Jack Riot and Will Mindful were about the same age; they lived next door to each other, and they went to the same school, but they were very different in their conduct. In this picture you see Jack Riot; the master has called him up, and is asking him why he was idling about in the fields last Sunday. Pray, how did you spend it?



Will Mindful was also seen in the fields the same day; but he was not idling about, or playing. He was sitting under a hedge reading his Testament, and thinking about the sermon he had heard in the morning, and his lessons at the Sunday School. He did not go wandering about; he only went into the next field to find a place where he might read in quiet.



The master found that Jack had been engaged in several mischievous tricks with other boys like himself. This picture represents one of them. Was this keeping the Sabbath holy? A good man, who lived many years ago, said that, as he spent the Sabbath, so the rest of the week generally proved. Should you think these boys could expect a happy week, when they had begun it in this manner.



Sometimes on a Sunday evening I ask my children what sort of a day it has been. I am very glad when they can tell me it has been a "pleasant Sunday," for then I am sure they have thought about Christ. The more we think of what he has done and suffered for us, the more we shall love him and desire to do his will.



If you were invited to some great person's house to spend a day, how careful you would be to behave properly. When you attend public worship, remember you are in the house of God. Jack Riot forgot this, and often behaved very sadly, so that one Sunday the sexton was forced to turn him out.



William Mindful did not behave so. He used to walk with his school-fellows very steadily, and when he was in his place he attended to the service, and tried to remember what the minister said. He recollected that he was not too young to die, and that when he died he must go either to heaven or hell. Some children are quite careless about this.



One Sunday Jack Riot and his companion, Ned Hardy, went to the river, and thought they would go upon the water. Thomas Steady saw them, and he reminded them that they were breaking God's holy law, and told them "Be sure your sin will find you out."

They refused to listen to his advice, and away they went.



They had not gone far before the boat was upset, and it was with some difficulty they were saved from being drowned. Should you like to die while you were breaking God's holy law? Surely it would be very terrible to die at the moment. I recollect the story of a boy who did die in such a manner.



The name of this boy was John R. ; he lived at the north part of London. One Sunday morning, instead of going to Church, he went into the fields just by, to catch birds, with some other boys as wicked as himself. While they were thus employed, a thunder storm came on; the lightning was dreadful; a flash struck John R. and he was killed in a moment. Now I will ask you whether you would like to die in a moment when you were breaking the Sabbath, or committing any other sin?



Jack Riot hardened his heart, and went on from bad to worse. Ned Hardy was much affected by this escape. He remembered that he had been taught that Christ died for our sins, and that all the bitter pains and agonies he felt were caused by our sins. We forget this, and it is only by the teaching of the Holy Spirit that we can be enabled to see the evil of sin, and the great love which Christ has showed for us.



Shall I tell you how Will Mindful spent his Sunday evenings? There he is, reading to his brother and sister. He generally read to them from the Bible, and they were very fond of hearing the pretty histories in it. He often read to them about Christ and the Apostles, and told them that those histories were not written merely to amuse us, but to make us wise unto salvation.



You recollect that it is written in the Bible, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." But this means something more than putting away playthings on that day, and learning chapters and hymns. The Sabbath is appointed for us to meet in public worship, and to hear and read God's holy word, and to meditate upon it without those interruptions we have on other days.



Will Mindful had known the Scriptures from a child, like Timothy. He had been enabled to love Christ, and his heart was turned from the love of sin to holiness, so that he "called the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable." and desired "to honour him, not doing his own ways, nor finding his own pleasure."



My dear children, which of these boys do you wish to be like? I think none of you wish to be like the naughty boy. Then seek the Saviour; you will find more peace, joy, and comfort in loving him, and having your hearts inclined to seek his ways, than in any thing else.

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