

## Lesson V

### Take the Other Hand

It was a bright day in the spring of the year. I had been watching by the sickbed of my elderly mother for some weeks. I went out to walk and enjoy the fresh air. I longed to hear the birds sing, or to see some little wildflower which would cause my heart to rejoice, for it was very sad.

After wandering some time, I came to a ropewalk. At one end of it there was a small building, and in it a boy was turning a large wheel. I thought it was awfully hard work for so small a boy.

“Who sent you to this place?” I asked.

“No one. I came of myself, ma’am.”

“Does your father know you are here?”

“I have no father.”

“Are you paid for your work?”

“Yes, ma’am. My wages are fifteen cents a day.”

“What do you do with your money?”

“I give it all to my mother.”

“Do you like this work?”

“Pretty well, ma’am, but if I did not, I should do it anyway to earn money for Mother. It helps her keep my



little brother and sister.”

“How long do you work each day?”

“From eight to twelve in the morning, and from two to six in the afternoon.”

“How old are you?”

“I am nine years old, ma’am.”

“Are you never tired of turning this great wheel?”

“Yes, sometimes I am.”

“And what do you do then?”

“I take the other hand.”

I then gave him a dime. “Is this for my mother, please?” said he, looking glad.

“No, it is for yourself.”

“Thank you, ma’am,” said he. Then I bade him good-bye.

As I walked home, I thought a good deal about the words I had just heard— “I take the other hand.”

I thought to myself that the next time duty seems too hard for me, I will not complain. But, like this little boy, I will “take the other hand.”

Let it be so with my little readers. Do not run away from your work because it is rather hard, but learn a lesson from this brave boy. When you are tired, “take the other hand.”

*“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” —Galatians 6:9*

### *Questions*

1. At what time of year did this story occur?
2. What did the lady go out to do?
3. After wandering for some time, to what did the lady come?
4. What was in the building the lady discovered?
5. Why was the boy doing such hard work?
6. How much was the boy paid each day?
7. How did the boy say he liked his work?
8. How long did the boy work each day?
9. What did the boy do when he was tired of working with one hand?

*What Do You Think?*

10. Why do you think the lady gave the boy a dime?
11. Everyone gets tired sometimes when they are working.  
What do you do when you get tired?

bade (bid)	keep	ropewalk
due	ma'am	sickbed
elderly	reap	wages
faint	rejoice	wandering