16. Why was this a great supper? Where are Gospel blessings compared to a banquet?

17. Was it strange to give more than one invitation to a feast?

2. Verses 18-20.

18. How do Eastern people regard such excuses? Why was the first man's excuse of no value?

19. Why the second man's?

20. Why the third man's? What was the real reason all stayed away?

3. Verses 21-24.

21. Is anything said in the Bible about God's anger? Are the poor and maimed numerous in the East?

22. Where is there room?

23. What was meant by the "highways?" What by the "hedges?" When the rich and religious people refused the Gospel who came? When the Jews rejected it to whom was it given?

24. If we reject salvation and die unsaved, can we hope for any other remedy?

Teachings of the Lesson.

To be a member of the Church will not admit us to the feast in God's kingdom. The Gospel invites us to a feast, not to a funeral. Neglect without meaning to be lost is what ruins many. Worldly gains and pleasures are common excuses for neglect of religion; the more needy and helpless we are, the more Christ will welcome us. God will use every means to bring us to Christ. All who willfully refuse to come will be "excused" and excluded.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

Where was Jesus now?

Find Perea on the map.

Which side of the Jordan was it?

What was it called in the Old Testament?

What people lived in Perea?

Why did Jesus go there?

Do you know how the people treated him there?

Where did Jesus tell some of his best parables?

What did Jesus see one day at the house of a Pharisee?

What makes us want the best places? **Pride.**

How did Jesus show his love for these proud Pharisees? **By telling them the truth about pride.**

What did the Pharisees think Christ would do when he came?

How did Jesus teach them?

What did he mean by the great supper?

Who made it?

Who was the servant?

Whom had he invited?

Why did they not go?

Whom did he then invite?

Something to Remember—

That pride in the heart is displeasing to Jesus.

That we are all invited to the feast God has made for us.

That it is very foolish and unwise to make excuses to God.

LESSON OUTLINE.

The Gospel Feast.

I. THE FOUNDER.

    A certain man. v. 16.

        Wisdom....furnished her table. Prov. 9. 1.

        The Lord of hosts....a feast. Isa. 25. 6.

II. THE FEAST.

    A great supper, and bade many. v. 16.

        A marriage for his son. Matt. 22. 2.

        He brought me....banqueting house. Sol. Song 2. 4.

III. THE INVITATION.

    Come, for all things are now ready. v. 17.

        The Spirit and the bride say, Come. Rev. 22. 17.

        Ho, every one that thirsteth. Isa. 55. 1.

IV. THE REJECTION.

    1. *Bought a piece of ground.* v. 18.

        The cares of this world. Matt. 13. 22.

    2. *Bought five yoke of oxen.* v. 19.

        They that will be rich. 1 Tim. 6. 9.

    3. *Married a wife.* v. 20.

        He cannot be my disciple. Luke 14. 26.

V. THE GUESTS.

    1. *The poor....maimed....halt.* v. 21.

        Base things....hath God chosen. 1 Cor. i. 28.

    2. *Compel them to come in.* v. 23.

        Be instant in season. 2 Tim. 4. 2.

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

General Statement.

While Jesus is still in the Perean dominions of Herod Antipas, slowly walking to Jerusalem, and teaching as he went, he is one Sabbath day (December, A. D. 29) invited to dine with a large company at the dwelling of a wealthy Pharisee. For the scruples of the Pharisees, which forbade cures of the poor on the Sabbath, made no objection to feasts of the rich. We cannot say precisely where this parable was told, but it was in the neighborhood of Bethabara, beyond Jordan, where Jesus had been baptized by John. Three or four of his closest followers began their friendship for him at that time, and many holy and strange memories must have hurried hotly through their minds as familiar landscapes called