

Lesson IV.

THE LOST SHEEP AND THE LOST COIN

April 26, 1914

Luke 15 : 1-10—Commit to memory vs. 8-10.

GOLDEN TEXT—There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.—Luke 15 : 10.

1 ¹ Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

2 And ² the Pharisees and ³ scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

3 And he spake ⁴ this parable unto them, saying,

4 What man of you, having ⁵ an hundred sheep, ⁶ if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and ⁷ neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

Revised Version—Now all the publicans and sinners were drawing near unto him; ² both the; ³ the; ⁴ unto them this parable; ⁵ a; ⁶ and having lost; ⁷ his; ⁸ even so there shall be joy; ⁹ righteous; ¹⁰ Or what; ¹¹ lamp; ¹² until; ¹³ together her friends and neighbours; ¹⁴ Even so, I.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Lost Sheep, 1-7.

II. The Lost Coin, 8-10.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)

M.—The lost sheep and the lost coin, Luke 15 : 1-10.

T.—The call of Levi, Luke 5 : 27-32. W.—The good shepherd, John 10 : 11-18. Th.—Praise of the good shepherd, Ps. 23. F.—The good shepherd's joy, John 17 : 12-26. S.—The faithful shepherd's promise, Ezek. 34 : 11-23. S.—The seeking Saviour, Matt. 18 : 7-14.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 88-90.
The Question on Missions—4. When was our

7 I say unto you, that ⁸ likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine ⁹ just persons, which need no repentance.

8 ¹⁰ Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a ¹¹ candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently ¹² till she find it?

9 And when she hath found it, she calleth ¹³ her friends and ¹⁴ her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

10 ¹⁵ Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Mission established in Honan? Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Goforth and Dr. and Mrs. J. Frazer Smith went out in 1888, and the first tour into Honan was made that year. In 1890 the city of Chu Wang was opened for missionary residence, Hsin Chen in 1891, and Changte in 1895.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: Ps. Sel. 68 (Supplemental Lesson), 443, 439, 68 (Ps. Sel.), 131 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 455.

Special Scripture Reading—Ps. 23. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 131, The Lost Sheep; B. 1435, The Lost Piece of Money. For Question on Missions, C. 32, Houses at Chu Wang First Occupied by Missionaries; C. 52, Rev. Jonathan Goforth. (Slides are obtained from the Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, 96 Queen St. East, Toronto, at \$2.00 a dozen.)

Stereograph—For Lesson, A Syrian Shepherd With His Flock in Amos' Home Country Near Tekoa (Order from Underwood & Underwood, 62 Adelaide St. East, Toronto; further particulars, see page 165).

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—January, A.D. 30; Perea.

Connecting Links—Jesus was attracting the publicans and sinners in great numbers to Himself. The Pharisees and scribes complained of His associating with such persons. In answer to this criticism, Jesus gave three parables teaching God's joy at the recovery of the lost. The first two of these parables form the Lesson for to-day.

I. The Lost Sheep, 1-7.

V. 1. *Drew near unto him*; Rev. Ver., "were drawing near," a description of something that was constantly happening. *All*; either all in the place where Jesus happened to be or the whole class of publicans and sinners who came to Him wherever He might be. *Publicans*; the title given: (1) to the wealthy Roman nobles to whom the government sold the right to collect the taxes of a province or district "or a certain time; (2) to

the agents employed in the actual gathering of the taxes. The name has here its second meaning. Publicans in Judea collected for the imperial treasury at Rome, and in Galilee for Herod Antipas. In both cases their profits consisted of all that they could squeeze out of the people in addition to what they had to give their employers. The publicans were hated both because they were the agents of a foreign government and because they were, as a rule, dishonored and oppressive. *Sinners*; those notorious for their wicked lives.

Vs. 2, 3. *Pharisees*; literally, "separated ones," a name indicating how this Jewish sect held aloof from others. The Pharisees prided themselves upon their strictness in obeying the law of Moses, and despised such persons as the "publicans and sinners." *Scribes*; the rabbis or teachers of the law. For the most part these were Pharisees. *Murmured*; talked amongst themselves in a fault-finding