

Lesson IX.

FALSE AND TRUE DISCIPLESHIP

February 27, 1910

Between the Lessons—There is no break between Lessons VIII. and IX.

GOLDEN TEXT—Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.—Matthew 7: 21.

Memorize vs. 13, 14. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Matthew 7: 13-29.

13 Enter ye in ¹ at the ² strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many ³ there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and ⁴ narrow is the way, ⁵ which leadeth unto life, and few ⁶ there be that find it.

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly ⁷ they are ravening wolves.

16 ⁸ Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit: but ⁹ a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 ¹⁰ Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord,

Revised Version—by; ² narrow; ³ be they that enter in thereby. For narrow is; ⁴ straitened; ⁵ that; ⁶ be they; ⁷ Omit they; ⁸ By their fruits ye shall know them; ⁹ the; ¹⁰ therefore; ¹¹ did we not prophesy by the name; ¹² by; ¹³ Omit have; ¹⁴ do many mighty works; ¹⁵ Every one therefore which heareth these words; ¹⁶ shall be likened; ¹⁷ words; ¹⁸ smote; ¹⁹ thereof; ²⁰ Omit had; ²¹ multitudes; ²² teaching; ²³ their.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—False and true discipleship, Matt. 7: 13-29. T.—The strait gate, Luke 13: 18-30. W.—Tested by fruit, Jas. 3: 10-18. Th.—Knowing and keeping, 1 John 2: 1-11. F.—Hearing and doing, Jas. 1: 17-27. S.—Treasure of the heart, Luke 6: 39-49. S.—The rock foundation, 1 Cor. 3: 9-15.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE TWO WAYS.—13. Enter ye in. "Strive to enter in", Luke says (Luke 13: 24), suggesting the idea of difficulty in squeezing through. The strait gate; that is, a narrow gate—"strait", is not the same word as our "straight"—the entrance into the Christian life. "The gate is narrow because there is only room for body and soul, but not for body and soul and sin." Wide is the gate; permitting those who pass through to carry with them their sinful practices and pleasures. Broad is the way. Way here means manner of life. The "broad way" pictures the liberty to indulge sinful desires and appetites which Satan offers. Leadeth to destruction; the ruin of body and soul which is the sure result of sin persisted in (see Rom. 6: 23). Many . . . go in thereat; drawn by the promise of an easy and pleasant life.

14. Because, etc. Many turn aside from the Christian life because it seems to them so full of difficulty and self-denial. Leadeth unto life, the only life of real joy and liberty; such the Christian life really is. Few . . . find it; not because it is hard to find, but because so many are unwilling to seek it and enter through it.

15-20. Beware; that is, if you wish to find the gate and the way that lead to life. False prophets; lying teachers—"Christ traffickers" they have been called, men who sought to make religion a means of getting gain. In sheep's clothing; pretending to be gentle and innocent as sheep. Ravening wolves; grasping for power and greedily of gain. Know them; know them fully, through and through. By their fruits; by the kind of lives their teaching produces in themselves and others.

¹¹ have we not prophesied in thy name? and ¹² in thy name ¹³ have cast out devils? and ¹⁴ in thy name ¹⁵ done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

24 ¹⁵ Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, ¹⁶ I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon ¹⁷ a rock:

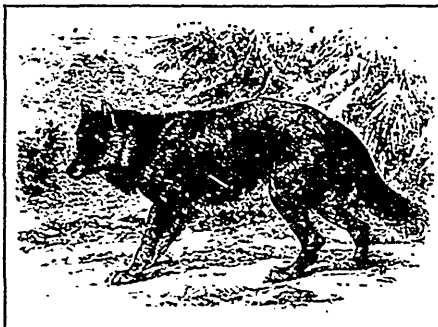
25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon ¹⁸ a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these ¹⁷ sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and ¹⁸ beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall ¹⁹ of it.

28 And it came to pass, when Jesus ²⁰ had ended these ²¹ sayings, the ¹⁷ people were astonished at his ²² doctrine:

29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as ²³ the scribes.



CANIS LUPUS: The Wolf of Palestine

Grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? There were, in Palestine, thorns with grape-like fruit, and thistles with heads like figs. But no one was deceived by these. Good ("sound", "healthy") tree . . . good fruit; and so teaching proves itself good by producing good lives. Corrupt (decaying, rotten) tree . . . evil fruit. In like manner it must be bad teaching that produces bad lives. Hewn down, and cast into the fire. To this day, in the East, trees are valued only so long as they bear fruit. And the only teaching worth anything is the teaching that results in good lives.

21-23. Not every one. Jesus has been speaking of false teachers; He now speaks of false disciples. Saith . . . Lord, Lord; professing to take Jesus as