

GOLDEN TEXT

What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Mark 8:36.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Luke 12:13-21. The rich fool.
T.—Luke 12:22-34. The lesson to be learned.

W.—Deut. 8:11-20. Lest we forget.
Th.—Ps. 49:6-20. Riches cannot save.

F.—Ps. 52. The better trust.
S.—1 Tim. 6:1-10. A snare.
S.—1 Tim. 6:11-21. Use of riches.

TIME AND PLACE

The same place and period as in the previous Lessons; the Perean ministry, A.D. 29, the last days of our Lord's life on earth approaching rapidly.

CATECHISM

Q 39. What is the duty which God requireth of man?

A. The duty which God requireth of man, is obedience to His revealed will.

LESSON PLAN

I. A Question of Property, 13-15. The dividing of an inheritance.

II. Light from a Parable, 16-21. Of one who laid up for himself and forgot God.

III. The True Secret of Living, 22, 23.

By understanding what life really means.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise—14; 86 (Ps. Sel.); 136; 16; 293.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Miss Moorcroft
Juniors.—To whom was Jesus speaking? (v. 1.) On what subject? What journey was Jesus taking? 13 By whom was He interrupted? How was He addressed? What request made? 14, 15 What did Jesus ask him? Of what were they to beware? What is covetousness? Whence does it come? (Mark 7:21, 22.) "What is the chief end of man?" (S. Cat. Ques. 1.)

16, 17 How is the man described in the parable? How could he have used his wealth? What was his sin? 18, 19 How many times is "I" used? "My?" Whose sort of a man was he? Whom did he leave out of his plan? Why was this wrong?

20, 21 What was the man's opinion of himself? What was God's opinion of him? Where should we lay up treasure? (Luke 12:33; Matt. 6:19, 20.)

22, 23 To whom does Jesus now speak? About what? What lesson taught by Him?

Seniors.—13, 14 Between whom was the conversation recorded carried on? What was the subject? What was the Jewish civil law in reference to the matter? (Deut. 21:17.) Why did the man appeal to Jesus? Why did Jesus refuse to decide the case?

15 What warning given? To what does covetousness lead? (Prov. 28:20; 1 Tim. 6:9, 10.)

16 How did Christ illustrate the lesson to be taught? To what might our Lord have referred? (1 Sam. 25)

17, 18 What was the difficulty? How did Christ answer it? (v. 33; John 1:8.) What was the fatal error of this man?

19 What great mistakes made by this rich man? How are riches described? (1 Tim. 6:17; Rev. 18:16, 17.) To what are they a hindrance? (Matt. 13:22; Mark 10:23.) To what are they apt to lead? (Deut. 32:15; Mark 10:22.) What can they not do? (1 Pet. 1:18; Rev. 6:15-17.)

20, 21 In what ways a "fool"? How can we be rich toward God?

22, 23 Is ordinary care or thought forbidden? (2 Thess. 3:10; 1 Tim. 5:8.) What, then, is forbidden? How does God care for His people?

Bible Side Lights.—INHERITANCE—Gen. 31:14, 15; Ruth 4:6; Neh. 11:20; Prov. 13:20.

COVETOUSNESS—Prov. 28:16; Jer. 6:13; Heb. 2:9; Col. 3:5; Heb. 13:5.

Soul.—Gen. 49:6; Num. 23:10 (Mar.); Ps. 11:1;

103:1; 116:7; Luke 1:46.

TREASURE—Gen. 43:23; Ezra 2:69; Prov. 15:16; Matt. 6:21; Luke 12:33.

RAIMENT—Gen. 28:29; Deut. 8:4; 10:18; Zech. 3:4; 1 Tim. 6:8.

Brookshall
Practical Points.—Our thoughts are like young colts. They need to be carefully held in, or they will run away. While Jesus was speaking of heavenly things this man's thought was on his farms and flocks. Let us not be too quick to blame him, but, rather, remember how our thoughts wander in worship, and seek to guard them.

2. "Dangerous for bicyclists" is put at the top of a steep and curving descent. Our Lord sets up the sign "Beware" on the path that leads to covetousness. It is a dangerous path, smooth-going, but thorns and rocks and precipices not far down.

3. "A great success solemnizes some men; they hurry home and fall on their knees." This man was upset by success.

4. It is a sad state of society when, in business, men look simply to their own interests. No man liveth to himself, says the Scripture. When men do, not only do their own souls shrivel up, but bad feeling springs up between man and man—between those in the same line of trade, or between those who earn and those who pay wages. "Each man for himself" soon comes to be a struggle of swine at the feeding trough.

5. The man said "many years." God said "this night." And God always has the last say.

6. A famous public man "dying, exclaimed, 'Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wings, those that cheer us to-day will curse to-morrow, only one thing endures—character!'"

7. This command does not tend to idleness or want of thrift, or to poverty, but, on the contrary, to the best prosperity, and to the best enjoyment of whatever God gives us; while over-anxiety tends to dishonesty, to crime, to selfishness, to disappointment, and to bitterness of spirit.—Peloubet.

8. "Many men are mere warehouses full of merchandise—the head, the heart, are stuffed with goods . . . there are apartments in their souls which were once tenanted by taste and love, and joy, and worship, but they are all deserted now, and the rooms are filled with earthly and material things."

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why did the man appeal to Jesus about his property?.....

2. What warning does He give?.....

3. How does the parable of the rich fool enforce the warning?.....