

Lesson VI.

FALSE EXCUSES

August 5, 1906

Luke 14: 15-24. Commit to memory vs. 23, 24. Read Matthew 22: 1-14.

GOLDEN TEXT—And they all with one consent began to make excuse.—Luke 14: 18.

15 And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.

16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:

17 And sent his servant at certain time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

Revised Version.—1 But he said; 2 he; 3 he sent forth; 4 field, and; 5 out; 6 And the; 7 told; 8 maimed and blind and lame; 9 what thou didst command is done; 10 constrain.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Feast Provided, 15-17.

II. The Feast Despised, 18-21a.

III. The Feast Enjoyed, 21b-24.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—False excuses, Luke 14: 15-24. T.—Invitations despised, Matt. 22: 1-10. W.—The gospel rejected, Acts 13: 42-52. Th.—Punishment of rejectors, Prov. 1: 20-33. F.—Loss by refusal, Ps. 81: 8-16. S.—Would not hear, Zech. 7: 8-14. S.—Gracious invitation, Isa. 55: 1-7.

20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste my supper.

Shorter Catechism.—Ques. 24. How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet? A. Christ executeth the office of a prophet in revealing to us, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

The Question on Missions.—29. How are the adults reached with the gospel? More than 100 services are held in churches and schoolhouses each Sabbath, by missionaries and native preachers, and through the week the gospel is carried to the homes of the people. The printed page is also used.

Lesson Hymns.—Book of Praise, 251 (Supplemental Lesson); 267; 136; 27 (Ps. Sel.); 560 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 101.

EXPOSITION

By Rev. Principal R. A. Falconer, D.D., Litt.D., Halifax, N.S.

Time and Place—As in Lesson V., winter of A.D. 30; a Pharisee's house.

Connecting Links—The Pharisees were so self-satisfied, that they laid little of Christ's teaching to heart. At the words, "resurrection of the just" (v. 14), with which the Lesson of last Sabbath closes, they at once thought of that blessed future, which, they were persuaded, was to be the reward of every righteous Pharisee. Jesus utters this parable to answer their complacency.

I. The Feast Provided, 15-17.

V. 15. One of them; a guest with Jesus at the Pharisee's table (see last Lesson). He expresses not only his own thought, but the feeling of the Pharisees as a whole. *Heard these things*; the words about "the resurrection of the just." *Blessed is he*, etc. The speaker really means, "How thankful I am that I am a good Pharisee, who shall of course find my seat ready for me" (ch. 18: 11). Others, however, see in these words a wistful longing to enjoy the privileges spoken of. *Eat bread in the kingdom*. The Pharisees looked for a sudden coming of the kingdom from above, when this earth would be changed

and all their enemies overthrown. The final blessings of the Messianic age, when these changes would be brought to pass, were often pictured by the Pharisees under the figure of a feast.

V. 16. *Then said he* (Jesus); seizing the opportunity of teaching how the blessedness of God's kingdom, here, and hereafter, is to be obtained. *A certain man*; a great lord, who was able to entertain on a large scale. *A great supper*; a picture of the blessings of God's kingdom, now, and in heaven. In Matt. 22: 3, it is a marriage feast. In Matt. 9: 15, Jesus is spoken of as a Bridegroom among His disciples, and in Rev. 19: 9, there is the marriage of the Lamb. *Bade many*. This was the first invitation; a reminder was given on the day of the feast. The "many" here are the Jewish people as a whole. They were the chosen of God. Long ago the invitation had been given to them through patriarchs, like Abraham, lawgivers like Moses, and many prophets.

V. 17. *Sent his servant*. See Light from the East. Possibly Jesus is thinking of John the Baptist (see Mark 1: 6-8). At