

planting, hedging it, making a winepress and building a tower. Care and labor are bestowed on planting, such as are expended on no other crop. The vine is not cultivated on rich plains, or in the lowlands, but invariably on the hill-sides, and generally with a southern aspect. The vine loves rocks and stones, and in the rich soil mingled with these it extends its roots for moisture to a great depth and to a great distance. Consequently the land must be thoroughly cleaned, all brushwood and other roots carefully extirpated; for the vine brooks no competition in the soil. Another part of this preparatory operation is mentioned by Isaiah in the parallel parable (Isa. 5.: He 'gathered out the stones thereof.' The hill-sides are always thickly strewn with loose stones, which in that climate are of the greatest use in preserving the moisture from evaporation under the sun's rays. But the larger stones in every vineyard are always gathered and heaped in long ridges at regular intervals, so as to give at a distance the appearance of long, parallel stone walls, which have crumbled through neglect. When the vineyards have perished, and the land have lain desolate for centuries, these ridges remain, attesting its ancient fertility. Nowhere is this more striking than in the deserted south country near Kadesh Barnea, and in the hills of Moab, in which the vine has long ceased to exist. The use of these ridges, over which the boughs are trailed, is to keep the bunches of grapes from the damp ground while ripening, and to aid the ripening process by the reflected heat from the stones. He 'set a hedge about it.' With the exception of the gardens close to the villages, the vineyards are the only enclosed plots, the corn-fields and olive-yards being always open, the former only

protected from trespass by the vigilance of the shepherds and herdsmen. The sheep and cattle are never left alone, or out in the fields, as with us, but from morning to night are under the watchful eye of the shepherd, as they roam on the hill-side for pasurage. 'Dugged the winefat,' or, rather, as Isaiah expresses it, 'hewed;' for the winefat or winepress, was always in the vineyard itself, as the ripe grapes would not, without loss, bear carriage to any distance. I remember, in one day's exploration on Mount Carmel, discovering eleven of these winepresses. A flat or gently sloping rock is selected. At the upper end a trough is cut about three feet deep, and four and a half by three and a half feet in length and breadth. Just below this is hewn out a shallower trough, connected with the upper one by two or three small holes bored through the rock close to the bottom of the upper vat, so that when the grapes are pressed in it, the juice streamed into the lower vat. The last operation is building a tower. This was not done invariably. In many of the smaller vineyards, and especially when near the village, the owner was content with 'a booth that the keeper maketh'—a sort of wicker work erection of boughs, with an upper story, where the keeper would sit and guard the ripening crops from intruders, whether human or other, and especially from the jackals at night, 'the little foxes that spoil the vines.' This erection only lasted for the season, and perished in winter. But in many cases we still find the ruins of the solid built tower which commanded a view of the whole enclosure, and was probably the permanent residence of the keeper through the summer and autumn." (Canon Tristram in S. S. Times).

LESSONS. 1. Those who enjoy great privileges should be thankful for them. 2. We should be grateful to parents, pastors, teachers and friends who try to shew us how to serve God aright. 3. The sin of all sins is to reject Christ. 4. There is certain punishment for those who do so. 5. Jesus shall yet reign over the whole world.

## SUMMARY AND REVIEW.

By description, as in the Primary Blackboard sketches, make the story real. Then apply it to our duty, shewing that we may be even more guilty than the Jews, seeing that we know about our duty.

## JESUS SPAKE THIS PARABLE AGAINST

THE JEWS

US

WITHELD FRUITS

LOVE SIN

REJECTED SERVANTS

RESENT REPROOF

KILLED SON

NEGLECT SALVATION

**"Now is the day of Salvation."**