

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW.

A.D. 27.] LESSON X. (Dec. 4.

PARABLE OF THE SOWER.

Mat. 13. 1-9. Commit to mem. vs. 3-9.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The seed is the word of God. Luke 8. 11.

OUTLINE.

- 1. The Seed. 2. The Word.

TIME.—27 A. D.

PLACE.—Near Capernaum.

EXPLANATIONS.—Out of the house—Out of his own house in Capernaum. By the sea-side—The sea of Galilee; one of his favourite resorts for teaching. Into a ship—A fishing vessel, and pushed a little from the shore, where he could be heard. In parables—Illustrative truths. By the way-side—The ordinary roads or paths in the East lead often along the edge of the fields, which are uninclosed; seed would thus easily fall on the hard path. Stony places—Not gravelly soil, but rock slightly covered with soil. Among thorns—Ground from which the thorns, or brambles, or wild brier, had not been rooted out. such growth can be found about the edges of many fields nowadays; the ground is so covered that grain could not grow. Hundredfold, etc.—A hundred times as much.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where, in this lesson, may we learn—

- 1. How to teach? 2. How we ought to hear? 3. The profit of heeding the truth?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. How did Jesus teach the people? In parables. 2. What is a parable? A story which teaches a truth. 3. To what did Jesus compare the teacher of truth? To a sower. 4. What is the seed? "The seed is the word of God." 5. In what soil is the seed of truth sown? In the hearts of men. DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Fruit-bearing.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

10. How was our Lord exalted in his resurrection? Because his rising from the dead proved that he was the Son of God; that he had conquered death and had atoned for sin.

Matthew xxviii. 18. All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth.

A.D. 28.] LESSON XL (Dec. 11.

PARABLE OF THE TARES.

Mat. 13. 24-30. Commit to mem. vs. 27-30.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. Matt. 13. 39.

OUTLINE.

- 1. Together. 2. Separated.

TIME.—28 A. D.

PLACE.—Near or at Capernaum.

EXPLANATIONS.—Another parable—Another illustration by means of a story. Kingdom of heaven—God's government in the affairs of men. His enemy came and sowed—This is said to be one of the most common ways in the eastern countries of wreaking malice upon an enemy, and has even been practised in modern times among civilized peoples. Tares—Bastard wheat, darnel; a very familiar pest in the fields of grain. Virgil speaks of it in Italy. It looks at first like wheat, but its grain is black and nauseous; it is very difficult to separate from the wheat. Then appeared—The darnel first begins to appear unlike the wheat when its fruit comes. Ye root up—The wheat and tares being twined together at the roots. Harvest—When the crop is cut down. Barn—The barns in the East are often caves in the mountain sides.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where, in this lesson, are we taught—

- 1. That the wicked are found among the good here?

2. That the wicked will be separated from the good hereafter? 3. That the wicked will have a fate different from the good?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. To whom did Jesus say the Kingdom of Heaven is like? To a man sowing good seed. 2. What did his enemy do? He sowed tares among the wheat. 3. What then grew up? The wheat and tares together. 4. Who are the tares? The children of the wicked one. 5. When will the harvest of the world take place, as stated in the GOLDEN TEXT? "The harvest," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The origin of evil.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

11. How was he exalted in the ascension? He was taken up into heaven, there to receive honour and glory from all creatures, and thence to send down the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter i. 21. God, which raised him from the dead, and gave him glory.

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