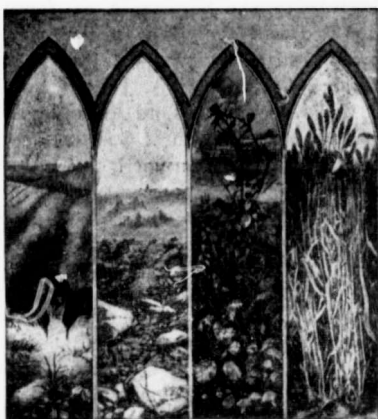


Lesson II.

THE SEED IN THE FOUR KINDS OF SOIL July 14, 1912

Mark 4 : 1-20—Memory Verse, 20.

Golden Text—Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.—James 1 : 21.

- 14 The sower soweth the word.
 15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown ; but when they have heard, Sa'tan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.
 16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground ; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness ;
 17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time : afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.
 18 And these are they which are sown among thorns ; such as hear the word,
 19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.
 20 And these are they which are sown on good ground ; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One day, as Jesus walked along the shores of the Lake of Galilee, a great crowd gathered and pressed about Him, so He got into a little fishing boat and, pushing it off from the beach, preached His first parable from it to the people as they sat or stood on the shore.

"There was once", said Jesus, beginning His story, "a farmer who went out to sow his seed, and as he scattered it by handfuls over the ground, some of the seed fell on the hard-beaten pathway and the birds flew down and ate it. Some of the seed fell on rocky places where there was only a little earth. It quickly grew up, but because it had no depth of root, it soon withered away. And some fell along the side of the field, where thorns choked the good seed so that it also bore no fruit. But the rest of the

1 And he began again to teach by the sea side : and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea ; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

2 And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,

3 Hearken ; Behold, there went out a sower to sow :

4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth ; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth :

6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched ; and because it had no root, it withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

8 And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased ; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

9 And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

10 And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.

11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God : but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables :

12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive ; and hearing they may hear, and not understand ; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

13 And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable ? and how then will ye know all parables ?

seed fell on good ground that had been made ready to receive it, and it grew and brought forth a great harvest."

When the people had gone away, wondering over this story, the disciples came and asked their Master to explain it to them. "What is meant by the seed ?" they asked. "The seed", Jesus answered, "is the Word of God which I preach to you, and the four kinds of ground stand for four kinds of hearers."

The wayside ground represented the people who were too careless to pay attention to God's message. The stony ground represented others who heard, remembered Jesus' words and for a little while obeyed them, but as soon as they had trouble or found