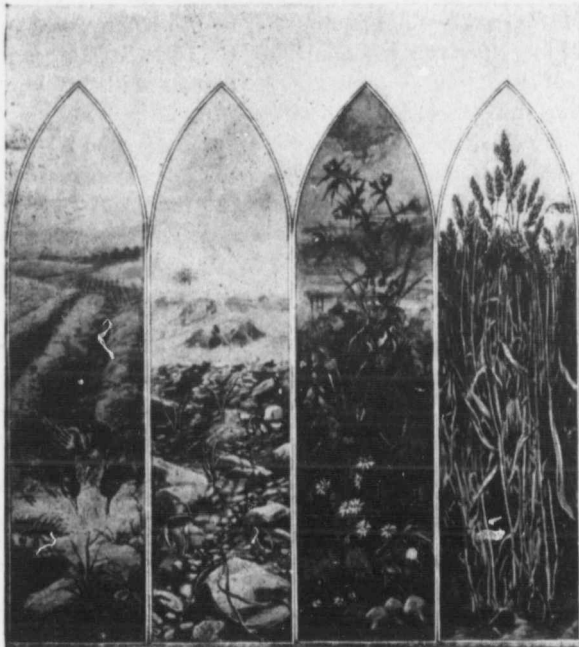


Lesson VIII.

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

May 20, 1900

Matt. 13 : 1-8 and 18-23—Memory Verses, 22, 23

Golden Text—The seed is the word of God.—Luke 8 : 2.

1 The same day went Je'sus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat ; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow ;

4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up :

5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth : and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth :

6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched ; and because they had no root, they withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns ; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them :

8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. 19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it ;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while : for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word ; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it ; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Sometimes Jesus taught the people by stories. These stories always had a heavenly meaning. They were called parables.

One day Jesus was sitting on the sea-shore. Soon great crowds of people flocked around Him. In order that everybody could hear, Jesus went and sat in a little boat not far from land, and began to preach, and this is

what He said :—

There was once a farmer who went out in the spring to sow his grain, and as he scattered it hither and thither, it fell in all kinds of places. Some fell on wayside paths, hard beaten and narrow, and the birds came quickly and ate it up.

Some fell on stony ground where the earth