

Lesson X.

JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE

March 8, 1908

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—When Jesus and His disciples had landed on the western side of the Lake, they went again to Capernaum.

GOLDEN TEXT—Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life.—John 6: 35.

Memorize vs. 32, 33. THE LESSON PASSAGE—John 6: 26-37. Study John 6: 22-51.

26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

30 They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?

31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert;

Revised Version—1 signs; 2 ate; 3 work; 4 the; 5 abideth; 6 eternal; 7 the Father, even God, hath; 8 They said therefore; 9 must; 10 may; 11 then doest thou for a sign; 12 workest thou; 13 ate the manna in the wilderness; 14 out of; 15 Jesus therefore said; 16 It was not Moses that gave you the bread out of; 17 that; 18 And; 19 not; 20 Omel also; 21 yet; 22 which; 23 unto.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Jesus, the Bread of life, John 6: 22-40. T.—Jesus the Bread of life, John 6: 41-51. W.—Spiritual teaching, John 6: 52-63. Th.—The manna, Ex. 16: 11-18. F.—Life by Christ, 1 John 5: 9-21. S.—Given for us, Luke 22: 7-20. S.—One in Christ, John 17: 11-24.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

The multitude who had been fed, when they found that Jesus had left the eastern shore of the lake, followed Him in boats to Capernaum. Having found Him, they asked, in wonder, how He had crossed the lake, knowing that the disciples had gone away without Him, vs. 22-25.

I. A GRACIOUS INVITATION. — 26.

Jesus answered . . . Verily, verily; words which, on our Lord's lips always introduce some serious and important matter. Ye seek me, not because ye saw signs (Rev. Ver.). The miracle of the loaves

and fishes (see last Lesson, ch. 6: 5-14) was intended to be a sign pointing to the blessings for the souls of men which Jesus came to give. For these the multitude had no desire, but only a greedy wish for more bodily food. Did eat . . . and were filled; and they would have been well pleased, if Jesus had continued to give them food for their bodies.

27-29. Labour not for the meat (food) which perisheth; like the loaves and fishes. But for . . . meat which endureth; the food of the soul, which will give undying life. Unto everlasting life. This spiritual food is not destroyed, but remains in the soul, giving continual strength and joy. The Son of man; a title which expresses our Lord's sympathy with every human need. Shall give. The food that nourishes the soul's life is the free, personal gift of Christ, as was the food supplied on

the preceding day. Him hath God the Father sealed. To seal means to attest, to witness to. The miracle just performed was a witness to Jesus' divine authority and power. He who had thus



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given them bread for their bodies could give them bread for their souls. What shall we do? In order to do things pleasing to God. Believe on Him . . . sent. The very first thing to do, if we would do things pleasing to God, is to listen believingly to the Messenger sent to teach His will.

II. A WONDERFUL GIFT.—30-33. What

sign, etc. They ask for some wonderful work to convince them that He was God's messenger, perhaps by feeding them with food from heaven, as the Messiah was expected to do (see Ex. 16: 4-15; Ps. 78: 24), and not merely with bread of the ordinary sort, as in the miracle of the 5,000. Moses gave you not that bread. It was God who gave the manna, and He now gives the true bread from heaven, of which the manna was merely a picture. Cometh down from heaven; as God's best gift to men. Giveth life; life for the soul, which shall endure forever (see John 3: 16). Unto the world; not to a mere multitude, or to one nation.

III. A SIMPLE REQUIREMENT.—34-37. Lord, evermore give us this bread. It would be a fine thing, they thought, to have plenty to eat coming from heaven with no need of their working for it. I am