

LESSON VI.—February 6th, 1898.

OUR FATHER'S CARE. MATT. 6: 24-34.

Commit vs. 25-26.

24. No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

25. Therefore I say unto you, Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than the food, and the body than the raiment?

26. Behold the birds of the heaven, that they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are not ye of much more value than they?

27. And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit unto his stature?

28. And why are ye anxious concerning raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they

toil not, neither do they spin: 29. Yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30. But if God doth so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31. Be not therefore anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32. For after all these things do the Gentiles seek; for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33. But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34. Be not therefore anxious for the morrow: for the morrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"He careth for you."—1 Pet. 5: 7.

PROVE THAT

Jesus teaches faith in God. Mark 11: 22.

DAILY READINGS.

- M. Our Father's care, Matt. 6: 24-34.
- T. Confidence in God, Ps. 23.
- W. Testimony of experience, Ps. 34: 1-11.
- T. The Lord delivereth, Ps. 34: 12-22.
- F. A safe keeper, Ps. 91: 9-16.
- S. God's care for sparrows, Luke 12: 1-7.
- S. Without care, Phil. 4: 1-9.

CATECHISM.

- Q. 7. What are the decrees of God?
- A. The decrees of God are His eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for His own glory, He hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

LESSON HYMNS.

Nos. 9, 518, 514, 18.

- LESSON PLAN. {
- I. What man cannot do. vs. 24, 27-29.
 - II. What God can do. vs. 26, 30.
 - III. What man ought to do. vs. 25, 31-34.

EXPOSITORY NOTES.

INTRODUCTORY. The first part of this chapter treats of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting; the second part, from verse 19 to the end, is a warning against love of the world, or a too anxious care for the things of this life. In Luke 12: 22-34, we have the same thoughts in a discourse uttered some time subsequent to the Sermon on the Mount. No doubt our Lord often repeated his most important teachings.

24.—In Luke's Gospel (16: 13) this saying follows immediately after the parable of the unjust steward. Here it is a re-assertion of the truth in the preceding verses, namely, that light and darkness cannot co-exist in the same soul. The life must be marked by earnestness and wholeheartedness, "the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Cor. 11: 3.)

The word for "serve" implies "bond-service." The claim of each master extends to the whole ability of the servant, or slave. There is absolute subjection to both, and they are

supposed to be opposite in regard to the character of the service required. It is self-evident, then, that neither can receive the full extent of service to which he is entitled, any more than two bodies can occupy the same space. The servant is compelled by circumstances and disposition to favor one at the cost of the other.

Our Lord here points out the error of the Pharisees, who had reduced the double service to a system. Outwardly they served God; inwardly they "devoured widows' houses." Covetousness and hypocrisy were hatefully blended. Man can have but one Supreme Good. How important for youth to set the highest and holiest One in the secret shrine of his heart's devotion.

The words "love" and "hate" have here their full significance, he "holds steadfastly," "cleaves faithfully" to "one," the one he loves; and "thinks down upon," disdains, the one he hates.