



LESSON XIII.—May 22.

The Day of Judgment.

Matt. xxv., 31-46. Memory verses, 34-36.

Golden Text.

'He shall reward every man according to his works.'—Matt. xvi., 27.

Home Readings.

- M. Matt. xxv., 1-13.—The wise and foolish virgins.
- T. Matt. xxv., 14-30. — Accounting required for talents given.
- W. Matt. xxv., 31-46.—The day of judgment.
- T. Rev. xx., 11-21: viii.—'Judged . . . according to their works.'
- F. Rom. ii., 1-16.—'To every man according to his deeds.'
- S. Rom. viii., 1-17. — No condemnation to those in Christ.
- S. Rom. viii., 18-39.—The Spirit maketh intercession for us.

Lesson Story.

When the Son of Man, our Saviour, shall come in his glory, attended by all the holy angels, he shall sit upon a glorious throne and judge the world. All nations must appear before him to be judged, and he shall separate the good from the bad as a shepherd separates his sheep from the goats. And he shall set his sheep on the right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, 'Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.'

Then the righteous shall ask in wonder, 'Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger and took thee in? or naked and clothed thee? or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?'

And then the King shall answer and say unto them, 'Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'

Then shall the King turn to those on the left, saying, 'Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred and ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me no drink; I was a stranger and ye took me not in; naked, and ye clothed me not; sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.'

Then the careless, wicked ones will answer with the same question as did the righteous—'Lord, when saw we thee an hungred or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?'

Then shall the King answer them, 'Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.'

The wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal.

Lesson Hymn.

A poor wayfaring man of grief,
Has often met me on my way,
He pled so humbly for relief,
That I could never answer nay:
I had not power to ask his name,
Whither he went, or whence he came,
But there was something in his eye,
That won my love, I knew not why.

Once when my scanty meal was spread,
He entered, not a word he spoke,
Just perishing for want of bread;
I gave him all, he blest it, brake,
And ate, but gave me part again,
Mine was an angel's portion then,
For while I fed with eager haste,
The crust was manna to my taste.

I saw him where a fountain burst,
Clear from the rock; his strength was gone;

The heedless water mocked his thirst,
He heard it, saw it, hurrying on;
I ran and raised the sufferer up,

Thrice from the stream he drained my cup,
Dipped and returned it brimming o'er,
I drank and never thirsted more.

Then in a moment to my view,
The stranger started from disguise
The tokens in his hands I knew—
My Saviour stood before my eyes:
And said unto my trembling heart,
'Since thou hast done a brother's part,
These gifts shall thy memorial be—
Fear not, thou didst it unto Me!'

—Unknown.

Lesson Hints.

'The Son of Man shall come in his glory'—his first coming was in the deepest humiliation and poverty, his second coming shall be with wondrous glory, attended by all the holy angels, his servants. His first coming was as a servant and Saviour, his second coming will be as King and Judge.

'Separate'—the judging, separating, is for our Lord to do, not for us. As in the parable of the wheat and tares the judgment and separation takes place only on the final day of judgment.

'Shepherd'—John x., 11: Heb. xiii., 20.

'Sheep'—Isa. xl., 11; liii., 6: I. Pet. ii., 25.

'Goats'—It is said that in Hebrew the word for 'goat' is the same as that for 'demon.' A goat is a very disagreeable animal.

'Inherit the kingdom'—we are to be joint-heirs with Christ, (Rom. viii., 17).

'Prepared for you'—Heb. xi., 16: Rev. xxi., 1, 2.

'Ye gave me'—'He that does these things has the Spirit and follows the example of Christ, for we were hungry and he gives us to eat (John vi., 32-35), thirsty, and he gives us to drink (John iv., 14; vi., 55, 56), strangers from the promise and he receives us to himself (Eph. ii., 18, 19), naked and he clothes us (Rom. xiii., 14: II. Cor. v., 3: Gal. iii., 27: Rev. iii., 18), sick and he visits us with redeeming love (Psa. cxlvii., 3: Jer. iii., 22: Hos. xiv., 4: Luke 1., 68, 78: Heb. ii., 6), in prison and he comes to us, shares our prison fare, and so ransoms and delivers us (Rom. viii., 2, 3: Heb. ii., 9, 10). — Abbot, quoted in 'Practical Commentary.'

'When saw we thee?'—almost unconsciously these loving deeds have been performed. The life and love of Christ flows through the Christian's work so naturally into kindness to all around him that he keeps no track of his acts of charity, and is much astonished at the mention of them.

'Inasmuch'—the smallest service rendered in Christ's name must bring a reward from Christ. The followers of Christ are his representatives here, and kindness or neglect, love or cruelty, shown to them are in reality shown to their Master. (Matt. x., 40-42.)

'Ye cursed'—these have brought the curse on themselves, it is not the Father who curses them as he blesses the others.

'Everlasting fire'—those who neglect God must suffer forever, just as those who obey him shall reign in glory forever. (Dan. xii., 2, 3: Matt. xiii., 40-43.)

'Prepared for the devil'—not prepared for sinful humanity, for our Saviour is not willing that any should perish, (II. Pet. iii., 9), but prepared for the devil and wilfully chosen by those who serve him. (Rev. xx., 10-15.)

'Ye did it not'—these are all sins of omission but they showed that those accused were not lovers of God or followers of Christ, for 'he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?' (I. John iv., 20.)

Primary Lesson.

When a little twig is grafted on to a tree the life of the tree begins to flow through the twig, and the twig grows and grows with the life of the tree. Then the twig begins to bear fruit through the life of the tree in it.

So we are little twigs grafted on to Christ, and his nature and life flowing through us make us grow and bear fruit for him. The fruits we must bear are deeds of kindness and love to all around us, not only to the nice people who are kind to us but to the disagreeable people, too, and specially to those who most need kindness.

Thus we shall grow like Jesus and please him day by day.

If we try to do good acts from any other reason than for the sake of pleasing Jesus, it will be like paper flowers tied on a tree instead of real ones growing there.

Suggested Hymns.

'We are but little children,' 'Do something for Jesus to-day,' 'Jesus bids us shine,'

'Saviour, thy dying love,' 'I'll live for him,' 'There are lonely hearts to cherish,' 'Scatter seeds of kindness.'

Practical Points.

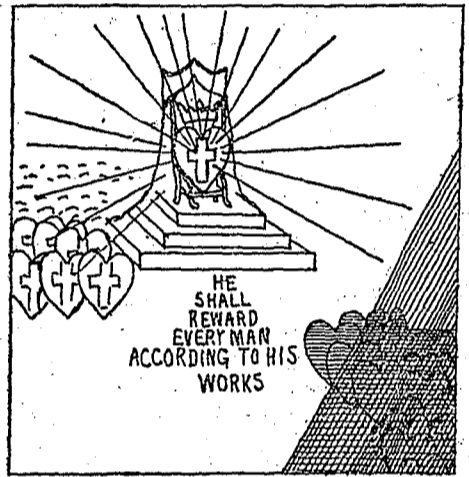
A. H. CAMERON.

May 22. — Matt. xxv., 31-46.

Glory is the leading feature of the second coming. Verse 31. The last separation shall be the only correct one. Verse 32, 33. We ought to look into verse 34 till we feel richer than the wealthiest magnate upon earth. Well for us if our deeds of mercy were so many that we could remember but a small part of them. Verses 35-39. The King's 'inasmuch' will speak rapture to the righteous, but woe to the wicked. Verses 40, 45. They who persist in saying 'depart' to the Holy Spirit, will hear their own word echoed at last. Verse 41. 'He that loveth not his brother, whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen.' Verses 42-44. There are two eternities, but the love of our Saviour that overflowed at the cross, sends its brightness forward into that eternity which is prepared for those who love him. Verse 46.

The Lesson Illustrated.

The great thoughts of the lesson are two, judgment and separation. The illustration pictures the Christ; still bearing the marks of the crucified life, seated for judgment upon 'the throne of his glory,' crowned at



last for ever. The separation is marked by the lives 'like him,' in their symbols, as they that day shall be in fact, gathered upon the right hand to life eternal; while the others, 'go away into everlasting punishment,' in the outer darkness of separation from God.

Christian Endeavor Topic.

May 22.—Christ our model.—Matt. x., 24, 25: John xiii., 12-15.

The Praying Teacher.

The devoted teacher will be much in prayer. He will talk much to the Lord about his class and especially about their spiritual welfare. The anxiety of his soul will be the conversion of every member of his class. How many teachers never think to pray for the precious souls committed to their care for religious instruction from one week's end to another? Such teachers ought to wake up and get the class into their hearts or resign. Otherwise an intelligent unconverted person will do as well as they. How many godly teachers have been rewarded for their faithful fidelity to God and the class by the conversion one after another of every member of the class? And so it comes about that when one unconverted comes into the class, he finds such a blessed spirit that it is easy for him to come to Christ. A teacher should not be discouraged by delayed conversions. How many in later years have credited their salvation to the influence of faithful teachers?—J. H. Thomas.

Around the base of the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral this inscription is written in honor of the architect, Sir Christopher Wren: 'Si monumentum requiras, circumspecte.' If you are seeking his monument, look around. But that monument to Wren's genius and gift will crumble to mother earth, whilst the salvation that has accrued to souls through the devoted work of humble men and women will be monuments of their painstaking, self-sacrificing zeal.

When the sun is old
And the moon grows cold.
—Rev. F. E. Meyer.