

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF OUR LORD.

A.D. 30.] LESSON XII. [June 23.

THE SAVIOUR'S PARTING WORDS.

Luko 24. 44-63. Memory verses, 45-47.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Go ye therefore and teach all nations.—Matt. 28. 10.

OUTLINE.

1. Fulfilling the Scriptures, v. 41-49.
2. Enduing with Power, v. 49.
3. Ascending to Heaven, v. 50-53

TRIN. Forty days after the resurrection. Perhaps May 19, A. D. 30.

PLACE.—In and about Jerusalem. Our Lord ascended from near Bethany, on the Mount of Olives.

RULES.—Carpenter, high priest, Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judæa, Herod Antipas, tetrarch of Galilee and Perea.

INTRODUCTION.

Some have supposed verses 44-49 to have been spoken to "above four hundred disciples at once" fr m a mountain in Galilee; but it is better to regard these verses as a condensation of many communications to our Lord's disciples made during those "forty days."

HOME READINGS.

M. The Saviour's parting words.—Luko 24.

44-53.

Th. The same body.—Luko 24. 36-43.

W. Scene on Olivet.—Acts 1. 1-12.

Th. Going before.—John 14. 1-11.

F. Peter preaching at Jerusalem.—Acts 2.

20-49.

S. Christ's great commission.—Matt. 28.

16-20.

Su. Enlightened understanding.—Eph. 1.

15-23.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Fulfilling the Scripture, v. 44-48.

What Scripture had Jesus said must be fulfilled?

What did he do for his disciples?

What was it necessary that Christ should do?

What doctrines must be preached?

Where and from what starting place?

Of what were the disciples witnesses?

What are Jesus' marching orders to his Church? (Golden Text.)

2. Enduing with Power, v. 49.

What gift did Jesus promise to the disciples?

When, and through whom, had this gift been promised? See Joel 2. 28.

Where were they to wait and how long?

When were they to receive this power?

Acts 1. 8.

3. Ascending to Heaven, v. 50-53.

Where did Jesus and his disciples go?

What did Jesus there do?

Where did he then go?

Where was he seated in heaven? See Mark 16. 19.

Who ever saw him in heaven? See Acts 7. 55.

What promise of his return was given?

See Acts 1. 11.

What did the disciples do, and where go?

How did they conduct themselves?

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. That Jesus is the only Saviour?

2. That Jesus gives power to his witnesses?

3. That we should be witnesses for Jesus?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What did the risen Christ explain to his disciples? The teachings of Scripture.

2. What did he command them to preach? Repentance and remission of sins.

3. To whom were they to preach? Golden Text. "Go ye therefore," etc.

4. What did he promise to send upon them? Power from on high.

5. Where did Christ go after instructing the disciples. He ascended to heaven.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The universality of the Gospel.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What are the chief marks by which Christian Churches are known in the world?

Ascending to worship in the name of Jesus and observing the sacraments appointed by him.

Luko 22. 19, 1 Corinthians 1. 2, 11. 26.

How is the spiritual life of a Christian Church best maintained?

One chief means of maintaining it is close spiritual fellowship, in private assemblies of the Church.

CHINESE KITE-FLYING.

The following interesting account of the Chinese Kite Flying festival is taken from a book written by Rev. Justus Doolittle, who was for fourteen years a member of the Fulechau Mission of the American Board.

The holiday of kite-flying on the highest hills in the city and suburbs is observed regularly on the ninth day of the ninth month at this place. Perhaps the inquisitive reader may be curious enough to inquire why the Chinese select that day for kite flying in preference to any other day, or why they select any particular day at all? The Chinese explain that in ancient times a certain man was informed, by one who pretended to know the future, that on a specified day some calamity would befall his house or his property, so he took all

air, what seems to be an immense bird, and he is filled with surprise and joy at having so near a view of the unusual phenomenon, until he is reminded, by its nearly stationary position and mechanical movements, that it is nothing but a paper kite. At other times he notices a group of large hawks, apparently hovering around a common centre, and finally remembers of having heard of the skill of the Chinese in elevating five or more paper hawks into the air, and of controlling them by one strong cord, to which each are attached by short and separate lines. And again, he will behold with admiration, half a mile distant, an immense kite, consisting as a whole, of a large number of smaller ones, made to resemble the different blocks which constitute the game called "dominoes;" from the two ends of each block extend a reed or rush four or five feet long. This presents a singularly pretty appearance. Every year there is an especial proclamation issued by a city officer with reference to this kite-flying, warning against tumult on the ninth day of the ninth month on the Black Rock Hill. A petty mandarin, with a large staff of policemen or constables, is annually stationed on the hill, on the arrival of the day, for the purpose of keeping the peace and quelling the disturbance should any arise. Probably thirty or forty thousand people visit that hill to fly their kites, especially if the weather is fine, on that day.

A GOOD INVESTMENT.

SEVERAL winters ago a woman was coming out from some public building where the heavy doors swung back and made egress difficult. A street urchin sprang to



his family on the morning of that day and went to the hills, spending the time the best he could. On returning home at nightfall he found his domestic animals all dead. That day was the ninth of the month. They also say that in imitation of his example they go to the hills on the ninth of the month and thus avoid any domestic calamity which might have befallen them, at home; and to while away the time pleasantly they take along their kites and fly them. This is called "ascending on high," and indicates the flying of kites on the particular day mentioned. The interest of the sport centres on the day specified. Then if the weather is fine, the air is full of kites, of all sizes and of a large variety of shapes. Some are in the shape of spectacles; others represent a kind of fish; others are like an eel, or some similar-looking animal, being from ten to thirty feet long and of proportionate size, others are like various kinds of birds, or bugs, or butterflies, or quadrupeds. Some resemble men sailing through the air, others are eight-sided, in imitation of the eight diagrams, invented by one of the earliest Chinese emperors. Most or all of those which represent animals are gaudily painted. The most common and simple ones are usually adorned with the head of the tiger or the dragon, or some idol, or some felicitous character, painted in bright colours. A foreign resident or transient visitor passing along in the street about this period often sees, at a distance in the

the rescue; and as he held open the door, she said "Thank you," and passed on. "Cracky! I've hear that?" said the boy to a companion standing near.

"No; what?"

"Why, that lady in seal-skin said 'Thank ye' to the likes of me!"

Amused at the conversation, which she could not help overhearing, the lady turned round and said to him, "It always pays to be polite, my boy; remember that."

Years passed away, and last December, when doing her Christmas shopping, this woman received an exceptional courtesy from a clerk in Boston, which caused her to remark to a friend who was with her, "What a comfort to be civilly treated once in awhile—though I don't know that I blame the clerks for being rude during the holiday trade."

The young man's quick ear caught the words, and he said, "Pardon me, madam, but you gave me my first lesson in politeness."

She looked at him in amazement, while he related the little forgotten incident, and told her that that simple "Thank you" awakened his first ambition to be something in the world. He went the next morning and applied for a situation as office-boy in the establishment where he was now an honoured and trusted clerk.

Only two words dropped into the treasury of street conversation, but they yielded returns of a certain kind more satisfactory than investments in stocks and bonds.

Mission Ships.

The mission ships are sailing.
Across the waters blue,
To tell the sweet old story,
The story ever new;
To carry to the heathen,
So far across the sea,
The news of that dear Saviour
Who died for you and me.

Kings shall fall down before him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore him;
His praise all people sing;
For he shall have dominion
O'er river, sea and shore,
Far as the eagle's plume
Or dove's light wing can soar.

A BRAVE POOR BOY.

MR. EDISON, who is known all over the world as a great electrician, was a poor boy. He sold newspapers, he ran errands, he did everything an honest boy could do to support himself. The following story, relating an event in his boyhood, shows that he was a brave boy:

One summer forenoon, while a train was being taken apart and made up anew, a car was uncoupled and sent down the track with no brakeman to control it. Edison, who had been looking at the fowls in the poultry-yard, turned just in time to see little Jimmie on the main track throwing pebbles over his head, utterly unconscious of danger.

He dropped his papers upon the platform, seized the child in his arms, and threw himself off the track, face downward, in sharp, fresh gravel ballast; without a second to spare. As it was, the wheel of the car struck the heel of his boot.

"I was in the ticket-office," says the child's father, "and, hearing a shriek, ran out in time to see the train hands bringing the two boys to the platform."

Having no other way of showing his gratitude, the agent said:

"Al, if you will stop off here four days in the week, and keep Jimmie out of harm's way until the mixed train returns from Detroit, I will teach you telegraphing."

"Will you?" said Edison.

"I will!"

He extended his hand and said, "It's a bargain," and so Edison became a telegrapher.

JAPAN:

THE LAND OF THE MORNING

BY

Rev. J. W. Saunby, B.A.

Contents:

The Land—Myth and Tradition—In the Ancient Days—The Scholar and the Priest—The Struggle for the Mastery—The Samurai and his Lord—The Trader and the Missionary—Tokugawa's Triumph—Daybreak—Sunrise in Sunrise Land.

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