

Lesson IX.

THE GRATEFUL SAMARITAN

May 31, 1914

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—After the instructions of last Lesson, Jesus, with His disciples, went to Bethany, where the raising of Lazarus took place, John 11 : 1-46. To escape the malice of the Jewish leaders, who sought to put Him to death, (John 11 : 47-54), our Lord then retired to Ephraim (John 11 : 54-57), a city in the hill country, probably 14 miles north of Jerusalem, where He remained for some weeks until near the time of the Passover in March-April of A.D. 30.

GOLDEN TEXT—Were there none found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger?—Luke 17 : 18 (Rev. Ver.).

Memorize vs. 17-19. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Luke 17 : 11-19.

11 And it came to pass, as ¹he went to Jeru'salem, that he ²passed through the midst of Samar'ia and Gal'ilee.

12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off :

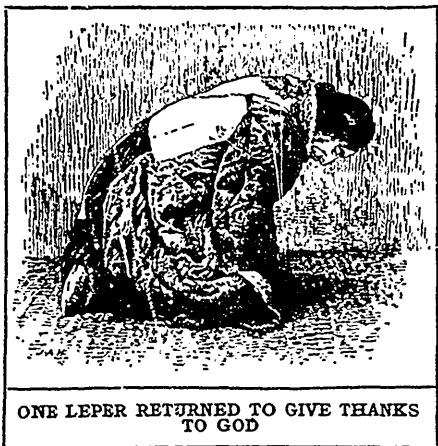
13 And they lifted up their voices, ³and said, Je'sus, Master, have mercy on us.

14 And when he saw ⁴them, he said unto them, Go ⁵shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, ⁶that, as they went, they were cleansed.

Revised Version—¹they were on the way to ; ²was passing ; ³saying ; ⁴and ; ⁵Omit that ; ⁶Omit and ; ⁷glorifying ; ⁸he fell upon ; ⁹not the ten ; ¹⁰Were there none found.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—The grateful Samaritan, Luke 17 : 11-19. T.—The law of the leper, Lev. 14 : 1-9. W.—Naaman the leper cleansed, 2 Kgs. 5 : 8-14. Th.—Christ's willingness to heal, Matt. 8 : 1-10. F.—Through faith, Mark 5 : 21-36. S.—Mercies forgotten, Ps. 78 : 32-42. S.—The thankful heart, Ps. 30.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



ONE LEPER RETURNED TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD

I. HELP IMPOSED.—11. As he went ; as He was on the way. To Jerusalem. The section of Luke's Gospel (ch. 9 : 51 to ch. 19 : 28) to which the Lesson belongs, may be called Journeyings to Jerusalem. Here, for the third time (compare chs. 9 : 51, 52 and 13 : 22), Luke tells us that Jesus was on His way to that city. Through the midst ; literally, "through what lies between," that is, along the border. Samaria ; the middle province of the three into which Palestine was divided. It is mentioned first as being on the right while Jesus was going eastward toward Perea, across the river, to avoid passing through Samaritan territory on His way to Jerusalem (see ch. 9 : 52-55). Galilee ; the northernmost of the three Palestinian provinces.

12, 13. A certain village ; on the road to Beth-shean or Scythopolis, where there was a ford or bridge

over the Jordan. Across the river a road led southward to Jericho. Ten . . lepers ; some Jews and some Samaritans, a common misery having broken down the barrier of race amongst them, and all horribly disfigured by the dreadful disease. Stood afar off ; forbidden to approach passers-by nearer than 100 cubits or 150 feet. "The leper was to go with his clothes rent, his head bare and a covering on his upper lip ; and as he went was to cry, 'Unclean ! Unclean !'" (See Lev. 13 . 45.) Master ; not the Greek word commonly used, which means "teacher," but a word pointing to authority like that of the master of a house. Have mercy ; which would surely show itself in one of such power by working a cure.

II. HEALING BESTOWED.—14. When he saw them ; directly He saw them. There was no delay in the cure when Jesus saw the need. Go ; before there was any sign of healing in their bodies. They must show their faith in Jesus by doing exactly what He bade them. Shew yourselves unto the priests. The law of Moses required that a leper should get a certificate from some priest before he could be regarded as cured. As they went ; each to the priest nearest his own home. The Samaritans would go to priests of the temple on Mount Gerizim (see Geography Lesson). They were cleansed ; not before, nor after, but as "they went." Their obedience proved their faith and their faith brought healing.

III. THANKS RENDERED.—15, 16. One of them ; only one out of all the ten. Saw that he was healed ; knew this by the stirring of new health within and the change in his body, before so ugly and foul. Turned back ; at once : he did not need the priest to tell him that he was healed. With a loud voice ; heard at a distance : there was no fear or shame in declaring his heartfelt gladness. Glorified God ; from whom alone such a cure could come. Fell upon his face ; in adoring worship. Giving him thanks ; render-