

LESSON VI.

JESUS WARNING AND INVITING

May 6, 1900

Matt. 11: 20-30. Commit to memory vs. 28-30. Read Isaiah 23.

20 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not:

21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, ¹ which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

22 ² But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon ³ at the day of judgment, than for you.

23 And thou, Capernaum, ⁴ which art exalted unto heaven, ⁵ shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, ⁶ which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

24 ⁷ But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment,

Revised Version—Which were done in you omitted here and brought in after Sidon; ² Howbeit; ³ In; ⁴ Shalt thou be exalted? ⁵ Thou shalt go down unto Hades; ⁶ Had been done in Sodom which were done in thee; ⁷ Season; ⁸ That thou didst hide; ⁹ Understanding; ¹⁰ Didst reveal; ¹¹ Yea; ¹² Was well-pleasing; ¹³ Have been; ¹⁴ One; ¹⁵ Save; ¹⁶ Doth any man know; ¹⁷ Willeth to.

EXPLANATION

Connection—At the close of last Lesson, Jesus paid a splendid tribute to the character of John the Baptist, but knowing the fickleness of the people, who were satisfied neither with John nor with Himself (Matt. 11: 18, 19), He warns them of their danger.

20. **Then began he**; words introducing an impressive discourse. **To upbraid**; to rebuke severely. There was pity as well as righteous anger in His words. Jesus could be very angry with sin, but there was always compassion for the sinner. (Luke 19: 41.) **The cities**. From Capernaum, as a centre, Jesus went throughout Galilee, visiting the many cities and towns (Luke 8: 1). **Mighty works**; His many miracles. These mighty works were proofs that He was the true Messiah, even the Son of God. **Repented not**. They saw in His miracles the proof of His divinity, and they heard His loving teaching, but they would not forsake their sins and accept Him as Saviour.

21, 22. **Chorazin**. The modern Keraseh, on the north-west shore of Galilee, not far from Capernaum. **Bethsaida** (House of Fish); a town on the eastern side of the River Jordan, where it enters the lake. Some think it was on both sides of the river. **Tyre and Sidon**; two wealthy, wicked Phœnician cities, on the shore of the Mediterranean. (See Isa. 23; Ezek. 28: 2-4; Amos 1: 9, 10.) **Sackcloth and ashes**. In the East, it was common for mourners to put ashes on their heads, and to clothe themselves with a coarse, sack-like garment, made of goats' hair (Jonah 3: 6). **More tolerable** (endurable); because they had fewer privileges (Luke 12: 48). **The day of judgment**; the final judgment, when Christ shall be judge (2 Cor. 5: 10; Matt. 25: 31-46).

23, 24. **Capernaum**; a town on the

than for thee.

25 At that 7 time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, ⁸ because thou hast hid these things from the wise and ⁹ prudent, and ¹⁰ hast revealed them unto babes.

26 ¹¹ Even so, Father: for so it ¹² seemed good in thy sight.

27 All things ¹³ are delivered unto me of my Father: and no ¹⁴ man knoweth the Son, ¹⁵ but the Father: neither ¹⁶ knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son ¹⁷ will reveal him.

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

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