

LESSON II—April 12th, 1896.

Parable of the Great Supper. LUKE. 14:15-24.

(Commit to memory verses 21-23).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Come, for all things are now ready." Luke 14: 17.

PROVE THAT—We should repent now. 2 Cor. 6: 2.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 54. *What is required in the third commandment?* A. The third commandment requireth the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, word, and works.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 92, 200, 206, 86.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Parable of the great supper. Luke 14: 15-24. *Tuesday.* The marriage feast. Matt. 22: 1-14. *Wednesday.* Wisdom's invitation. Prov. 9: 1-11. *Thursday.* Sin of refusing. Prov. 1: 20-33. *Friday.* Free invitation. Isa. 55: 1-7. *Saturday.* The truth rejected. Acts 13: 42-52. *Sabbath.* The supper of the Lamb. Rev. 19: 4-10. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. A prominent pharisee had invited our Lord to an entertainment at which there were many guests. Observing how these strove among themselves for the most honorable seats at table he reproved such paltry ambition and pointed out to the host that humbler guests would reflect more real honor upon him. The commonplace remark by one of the guests, with which our lesson opens, may have been uttered with a view of turning the conversation into a more agreeable channel.

LESSON PLAN. I. Supper Ready. vs. 15-17. II. Vain Excuses. vs. 18-20. III. Welcome Guests. vs. 21-24.

15. *Sat at meat*—"Reclined at the feast." Rich Jews adopted the Roman custom. The table surrounded three sides of a square and on the outside, couches were placed with their ends to the table. On these the guests reclined on their left sides, taking their food with the right hand. These things—Particularly our Lord's last remark. *Eat bread*—Be admitted to partake of the heavenly feast (Rev. 19: 9). 16. *A certain man*—This is similar to but distinct from the parable in Matt. 22: 1-10. He who gives the invitation is God. *A great supper*—This represents the blessings which come through the gospel. *Bade many*—"Invited many." He invites all who hear the gospel, and missionaries go out to tell the heathen of this wonderful feast. *Sent his servants*—This is not only John the Baptist and Christ himself, but every preacher of the gospel and Christian worker. The oriental custom was to give two invitations; the first a warning one and the second when the feast was ready to be served. *Come*—Gal. 4: 4; Luke 10: 1, 9; Matt. 3: 1, 2; Rev. 22: 17. 18. *With one consent*—Actuated by the same feeling of indifference towards their generous friend. They felt flattered by the invitation but it did not make any change in their worldly lives and they did not really desire the good things provided. *To make excuse*—Lit. "to beg off" (John 1: 11; 5: 40; 15: 24; Luke 13: 34). *Must needs go and see it*—i. e. "see to it," examine it carefully and

decide what to do with it, how to cultivate it, &c: He represents those whose worldly possessions keep them from Christ. 19. *I go to prove them*—There was really no need for haste in doing this. He is not even polite enough to plead necessity. He represents those who are so busy accumulating wealth that they have no time to think about religious matters. 20. *I cannot come*—This is a thinly veiled "will not." The third represents those who are so engrossed in the pleasures of social life that they have no desire for Christ (1 Cor. 7: 29-33). Compare Deut. 24: 5. 21. *Angry*—Love slighted turns to indignation. The "wrath of the Lamb" will be a terrible reality to those who despise him (Rev. 6: 16). *The streets and lanes*—While the rulers refused to accept Christ the publicans and harlots were welcomed (Luke 4: 18; Mark 12: 37; Matt. 21: 32; Jas. 2: 5). 22. *Yet there is room*—No one will ever be shut out of the kingdom of heaven because there is no room for any more. Millions have been saved and still there is room for millions. 23. *Highways and hedges*—Representing the gentile and heathen world. *Compel them*—Not by persecution, but by the gentle constraint of loving invitation and earnest persuasion. 24. These are the solemn words of Jesus himself to the unbelieving Jews (John 8: 24). Every soul decides its own destiny (Acts 13: 46; Heb. 12: 25; Matt. 21: 43; 22: 8).

LESSONS. 1. All are invited to accept of the blessings of salvation. 2. The excuses made for not accepting are foolish and wicked. 3. Our unworthiness need not keep us from Christ. 4. We should go after the careless and sinful.