

Archelaus during his absence, and sent a deputation of fifty to Rome to oppose his application to the emperor.

**II. THE DILIGENT SERVANTS.—15-19.** Having received the kingdom. Archelaus succeeded in his request. Pound . . . made ten pounds (Rev. Ver.). The money turned over and over again to profit had coined 1,000 per cent. So the man with the five talents doubled them (see Matt. 25 : 20). Faithful in a very little ; only \$16 but the use of it showed the servant's character and ability. Authority over ten cities. This was the master's purpose, —to find the right kind of governors for his cities. Pound . . . made five pounds (Rev. Ver.). The second man had not shown as much ability or earnestness as the first. Five cities. Each received the place fitted to his ability.

**III. THE USELESS SERVANT.—20-23.** Pound . . . in a napkin ; carefully preserved, not risked nor squandered, but not used to profit. Feared thee ; dreaded punishment should the money be lost. Austere man ; a harsh master. Takest up . . . layedst not down . . . reapest . . . didst not sow ; unreasonable in his demands of profit. (Compare Matt. 25 : 24, 25.) Thou knewest, etc. If what the servant said of his master were true, it should have made him more diligent. Bank ; where it would have been as safe as in the napkin and would have produced some interest besides.

24-27. Take from him the pound. The penalty of neglect was losing what had been received as well as what might have been gained. They said. Probably our Lord's audience remonstrated with Him for giving the story such a turn. V. 26 teaches that we lose powers and faculties which we do not use and that these are increased by use. Mine enemies . . . slay them ; just what an Oriental king would do. The destruction of Jerusalem and the doom of all who deliberately rebel against Christ are here foreshadowed.

## AN EASTERN BAZAAR

The bazaar at JAFFA (the ancient Joppa), on the Mediterranean coast of Palestine (see cover map), is a square surrounded by little shops, none of these being more than a single story in height. Awnings shelter the shops from the blazing sun. Most of the traffickers gather in the open square, where fruit, vegetables, cloth and other kinds of merchandise lie in heaps on the ground. The people are mostly dressed in Oriental fashion, the men in long robes and baggy cloaks, most of them wearing on their heads big soft cotton turbans, or else scarfs of white cotton held in place with coils of camel's hair. The women have cloth veils over their heads.

## LESSON QUESTIONS

11, 12 Explain "these things." How far was Jerusalem from Jericho ? What did the disciples of Jesus expect ? What did our Lord teach them ? To what historical event may He have referred ? What does the period of the nobleman's absence denote ? How did our Lord describe His second coming to Caiaphas ? (Matt. 26 : 64.)

13, 14 To how many servants did the nobleman entrust money ? What did he give to each ? What was a "pound ?" What was each instructed to do with his money ? How did the "citizens" regard the nobleman ? What did they do ? To what event in history may this refer ? Where does Jesus say that the Jews hated Him ? (John 15 : 24.)

15-19 What report did the first servant give ? What was the report of the second ? How was each rewarded ?

20-23 What did the third servant report ? What was his excuse ? What was he told that he should have done ?

24-27 How was the useless servant punished ? What was the fate of the "citizens ?" What does this foreshadow ?

## FOR DISCUSSION

1. Have all the same chance of success in life ?
2. Which have done most for the world—people with many talents or those with few talents ?

## A PRAYER

Lord, teach us Thy joy of service. Daily may we receive from Thee rich gifts, and daily may we pass these gifts to others. Thus may our lives be filled with gladness and peace. Show us how to take advantage of the little opportunities for usefulness, and make us discontented with a life of selfish pleasure-seeking. Give us more of Thyself, that we may daily grow more like Thee. And this we ask for Thine own sake. Amen.

Prove from Scripture—That our Master is in heaven.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 94-96.

The Question on Missions—1. What kind of people are the East Indians ? They are highly intelligent, with strong religious feeling, refined and teachable, yet jealous and resentful when roused. They are eager for education, adapt themselves readily to Western habits and rise rapidly into positions of prominence and responsibility.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise : 449 (Supplemental Lesson), 245, 238, 57 (Ps. Sol.), 532 (from PRIMA-ARY QUARTERLY), 240.

## FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What led Jesus to speak the Lesson parable ?

2. What was the reward of the faithful servants and what the punishment of the useless servant ?

SIGN NAME HERE.