

No. 99, Dominion Hymnal.

Sowing their seed by the dawnlight fair,
Sowing their seed in the moonlight glare.

TIME.—28 A. D.

PLACE.—Sea of Galilee, near Capernaum.

RULERS.—Same as before.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Fruit-bearing.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

1. The Mystery of the Kingdom.

What was the parable of which the disciples and others asked him the meaning?

Where had it been spoken?

What sight in the landscape might have suggested this parable to Jesus?

Was Jesus surprised that they failed to catch his meaning?

In ver. 13 does Jesus mean that he purposely tried to speak blindly to the outside multitude?

What is the mystery of the kingdom? 1 Tim. 3. 16.

What does Jesus mean by ver. 12?

Are men in fault for spiritual deafness and blindness, or is God in fault?

How may any man have eyes and ears and understanding opened?

2. The Meaning of the Parable.

In the application of the parable, who is the sower, and what is the seed?

What is the soil?

Who are way-side hearers?

Who are stony ground hearers?

Who are the hearers among thorns?

Is there any fault here with sower or seed?

What does Jesus himself say is the great cause of unfruitfulness? ver. 19.

Find in Gal. 5. 22, 23 certain fruits that prove the presence of good ground.

What sort of a picture of human life, as you know it, is here painted?

Do you find any wonderful characteristic of Christ's personality in this explanation of the parable?

Practical Teachings.

How hard for those nearest to Jesus to grasp the meaning of spiritual truth. Why is it?

Man is averse to truth by nature, and Satan is always at hand to keep him so if he can.

Satan comes (ver. 15). Not some adversity; not man's environment; not chance—but Satan. When?

Immediately on good influence touching the heart.

Ver. 17. See the poor fellow without the courage of his conviction? who dare not say, Yes! I will; or No! I will not, to sin.

Ver. 19. See the business men, without time for Christ; the rich, men who love gold more than God; the card-players, dancers, theater-goers, and wine-drinkers who have the word of truth by the throat.

Hints for Home Study.

1. Commit Mark's story of the parable (vers. 3-9) to memory.

2. Read Matthew's account (Matt. 13. 1-9), and Luke's also (Luke 8. 4-8), and see if the three are alike.

3. Write out what you think this parable means:

1. The sower means.....

2. The seed.....

3. The way-side.....

4. The fowls.....and so on clear through.

4. Compare your explanation with that of Jesus.

5. Learn what you can about the Oriental customs suggested.

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

1. The Mystery of the Kingdom, v. 10-12.

Where had Jesus been teaching? Read verses 1-9.

How had he taught the people?

What is a parable?

To what had Jesus likened the kingdom of heaven?

What is the golden Text, and its meaning?

Who among the hearers of the parable showed that they had ears to hear? ver. 10.

What was given to such? ver. 11.

What happens to those who do not seek to understand Christ's teaching? ver. 12.

2. The Meaning of the Parable, v. 13-30.

What is meant by the seed in the parable? 1 Pet. 1. 23, 25.

How many and what kinds of soil are shown?

Who are they by the way-side?

Who are meant by the stony ground?

Who are the thorny-ground hearers?

Who are the good ground?

How may we bring forth fruit?

What kind of fruit is mentioned in Phil. 1. 11?

Teachings of the Lesson.

Where in this lesson do we learn—

1. That we need to study Christ's teachings?

2. That we need heart when we hear the word?

3. That we need to keep the word as well as hear it?

Home Work for Young Beginners.

Find a chapter in Matthew which contains seven parables.

Find a parable in Mark which is not given in any other gospel.

Find in John's gospel a parable which shows us how we may be fruitful.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

How did Jesus often teach? By parables.

What is a parable? A story with a meaning.

What parable did he speak to the people? The parable of the sower.

Why did some follow him when he ended? To ask what he meant.

To whom will Jesus always make his word plain? To honest hearts.

What did Jesus mean by the sower? One who teaches God's word.

What does Jesus call the word of God? Seed.

Where did some of the seed fall? By the road-side.

Who came and took it away? Satan.

What does this show? That the listeners were careless.

Why will not seed grow on stony ground? It withers away.

What is this like? Those who give up easily.

What else keeps seed from growing? Weeds and thorns.

What are like these? The pleasant things of this world.

What hearts are like the good ground? Those that love to hear and obey.

What fruit will such hearts bear? Love, peace, kindness.

Words with Little People.

The Seed has been sown!

Will you let Satan snatch it away by your carelessness?

Will you give up easily, and so let the seed wither away?

Will you let your pleasures choke the word?

Or,

Will you ask Jesus to make your heart "good ground?"

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

[For the entire school.]

1. Who asked Jesus to explain the meaning of his parable? The twelve disciples and their friends.

2. What did Jesus say was contained in this parable? The mystery of the kingdom of God.

3. Who are they that sow good seed in the world? Teachers and preachers of truth.

4. What is the seed which they sow? The word of God.

5. What admonition has our Golden Text for each hearer of this word? "If any man have ears," etc.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

7. In what other ways did he show this?

By the heavenly wisdom, the authority, and the graciousness of his teaching.

Luke iv. 22. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the words of grace which proceeded out of his mouth.

John vii. 46; Luke xxiv. 32; Mark i. 22.

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