

LESSON XI.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

September 9, 1900

Luke 10: 25-37. Commit to memory vs. 23-35.

25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, ¹Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do and thou shalt live.

29 But he, ²willing to justify himself, said unto Je'sus, And who is my neighbour?

30 And Je'sus answering said, A certain man ³went down from Jeru'salem to Jer'icho, and fell among ⁴thieves, which ⁵stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

31 And by chance ⁶there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

Revised Version—¹Margin Teacher; ²Desiring; ³beat him; ⁴A certain priest was going down; ⁵In like manner a Levite also; ⁶Came to the place and saw him; ⁷Was moved with compassion (Omit on departed; ⁸Omit unto him; ⁹Omit now; ¹⁰Proved.

EXPLANATION

Connection—Jesus rejoiced greatly that the common people, who were open-minded, had received the message of the Seventy. (v. 21.) Here comes one, however, full of self-righteousness, who needs different treatment. Jesus deals with him.

25. A certain lawyer; whose profession it was to understand and teach the Law as contained in the books of Moses; probably a Pharisee. **Stood up**; respectfully. **Tempted him**. "He laid a theological trap, but the hoped-for prey walked through it and left him in it." (Maclaren.) He was, however, apparently not so virulent as those mentioned in vs. 53, 54. **What shall I do?** To become a child of God and so inherit eternal life from the heavenly Father. He had his own opinion and thought he would catch this Nazarene tripping.

26, 27. What is written? . . . how readest thou? Jesus properly throws back the man's answer on himself. He ought to know what the Scriptures teach. **He answering said**; quoting Deut. 6: 5, and Lev. 19: 18. **To love the Lord thy God** sums up the first four of the Ten Commandments; **to love thy neighbour**, the other six.

28, 29. Right. This was Jesus' own answer on another occasion. (Matt. 22: 37-39.) **Live.** He who fulfils the Law in spirit as well as in letter, shall have eternal life. (But where to get the power to do it, that is the question.) **Justify himself**; for asking the question. Jesus' answer had made him appear foolish. (See ch. 16: 15.) Perhaps also his conscience was troubling him about the second part of the Law. **And who is my neighbour?** The man who lived near him? All Jews? Or a wider circle?

30. Down from Jerusalem to Jericho;

32 And ¹likewise a Le'vite, when he ²was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he ³had compassion on him.

34 And ⁴he went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring ⁵in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 And on the morrow ⁶when he departed he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said ⁷unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

36 Which ⁸now of these three, thinkest thou, ⁹was neighbour unto him that fell among the ¹⁰thieves?

37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Je'sus unto him, Go and do thou likewise.

¹Was going; ²Robbers; ³Both stripped him and like manner a Levite also; ⁴Came to the place and saw him; ⁵Came to him; ⁶On them; ⁷Omit when he

a descent in less than 20 miles of about 3,500 feet; so infested with robbers that a portion of it was called "the red or bloody way." **Robbers** (Rev. Ver.); brigands, highwaymen. They are still found there.

31-33. A priest; perhaps on his way from God's house. Jericho was one of the cities where the priests resided. They would have to go up and down to Jerusalem on Temple duty. **Saw him**. A glance was enough. **Passed by on the other side.** He had forgotten his Bible. (Isa. 58: 7.) **A Levite**; belonging to the second order of priests, who helped in the Temple. **Saw him** (Rev. Ver.); as did the priest, and like the priest gave him a wide berth. An awful picture of selfish and self-seeking religious leaders! **A certain Samaritan**; hated and despised by the Jews as being almost heathen, and returning the hatred heartily; a most unlikely one to bring help to a Jew. **Was moved with compassion** (Rev. Ver.) There is no monopoly of the virtues of love and kindness. Even savages possess them. The half-heathen Samaritan was a better man than the well-instructed priest and Levite.

34, 35. Oil and wine; the ordinary remedies of that time. **An inn**; a stopping place for travellers. **Two pence**; about 34 cents, but equal to two dollars now. **When I come back**; more than kind, he was.

36, 37. Which . . . proved neighbour? Our Lord gave the lawyer's question a practical turn and there could be but one answer. **Go, and do thou likewise.** Obey the Law, not talk about it; for religion, whether in the Old Testament or in the New, is a most practical thing. (James 1: 27.) The obedience shows that eternal life is in the heart.