

Lesson IV.

CHRIST SILENCES THE PHARISEES

January 27, 1901

Matt. 22 : 34-46—Memory Verses, 37-40

Golden Text—What think ye of Christ?—Matt. 22 : 42.

34 But when the Pha'risees had heard that he had put the Sad'ducees to silence, they were gathered together.

35 Then one of them, *which was a lawyer*, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37 Je'sus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

41 While the Pha'risees were gathered together, Je'sus asked them,

42 Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, *The son of Da'vid*.

43 He saith unto them, How then doth Da'vid in spirit call him Lord, saying,

44 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool?

45 If Da'vid then call him Lord, how is he his son?

46 And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The Jewish Sadducees hated Jesus' teaching because it was so different from their own.

Once they came to Him with a hard question, thinking in this way to catch Him making a mistake. But Jesus was able to answer them, and sent them away feeling quite foolish.

When the Pharisees, who hated the Sadducees and also hated Jesus, heard how He had answered their enemies, they gathered together and made a plan to ask Him a still harder question. They chose a young lawyer and sent him to Jesus, saying: "Which of all the commandments is the most important?"

Jesus said: "There is one so large that it

holds all the others inside of it. It has two sides. On one side it says, 'Love God with your whole heart and soul and mind'; on the other, 'Love your neighbors, and be as kind to them as you are to yourself.' If you keep these two rules, you will be obeying the whole of the Ten Commandments, and the rest of the Bible as well."

When the lawyer and his friends heard this, they were much ashamed, for they knew that they were not even beginning to do as Jesus had said. For, while they were very strict about keeping rules, they were often cruel and unmerciful to the poor.

Then Jesus asked the Pharisees a question: He said, "What think ye of Christ? Whose son is he?"