

LESSON IX—March 1st, 1896.

Jesús the Messiah. LUKE 9: 18-27.

(Commit to memory verses 23-26).

GOLDEN TEXT: "This is my beloved Son: hear him." Luke 9: 35.

PROVE THAT—We should confess Christ openly. Rom. 10: 9.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 49. *Which is the second commandment?* A. The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*. Nos. 30, 60, 146, 98.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday*. Jesús the Messiah. Luke 9: 18-27. *Tuesday*. Testimony from heaven. Luke 9: 28-36. *Wednesday*. Foretold in prophecy. Isaiah 53. *Thursday*. John's record. John 1: 19-28. *Friday*. The Spirit's witness. John 1: 29-34. *Saturday*. Christ's own claim. John 4: 19-26. *Sabbath*. Not ashamed. 2 Tim. 1: 1-12. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. After his discourse at Capernaum on "The Bread of Life," many of his followers forsook Jesús. They were disappointed in him. He would not come up to their expectations of an earthly prince, and his doctrine was above their spiritual comprehension. It was the turn of the tide of his popularity. Henceforth he met increasingly bitter opposition. For a time he leaves Galilee and takes a tour to the north, passing through Caes-ar-e'a Phil-ip'pi, where the conversation recorded in our lesson took place. Parallel passages Matt. 16: 13-28; Mark 8: 22-38; 9: 1.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Christ of God. vs. 18-22. II. The Cross of Christ. vs. 23-27.

18. *Alone*—In private. (ch. 11: 1.) They reverently joined him in his devotions. When he arose Jesús asked the question following in order to draw out the confession of his disciples' faith. The people—R. V. the multitudes. Those whom he taught and healed and fed. 19. *John the Baptist*—See Matt. 14: 1-2. *Elias*—*Elijah*. (Matt. 11: 14; Luke 1: 17). No one seems to have said that he was the Messiah. (John 1: 5, 10, 11). 21. *The Christ of God*—No prophet or forerunner, but the Messiah himself, "the son of the living God." (Matt. 16: 16). See other confessions, Luke 2: 26, 30, 32; John 1: 49; 11: 27; 6: 69; Acts 8: 37; Heb. 1: 2-5. 21. *Tell no man*—Because (1) his time for full disclosure was not yet come; (2) the disciples did not yet understand sufficiently the true nature of his kingdom; (3) such news might lead to an insurrection, in his name, against the Romans, and this would be disastrous to his real spiritual kingdom. 22. *Suffer many things*—The true road to his sovereignty as Messiah lay by the garden and the cross. *And be slain*—The first clear intimation of his death and resurrection. But they did not understand him, and Peter ventured to remonstrate with him for speaking in that way. (Mark 8: 32, 33). He does not name the mode of his death until later (Matt. 20: 19), but the thought of it suggests what follows. 23. *Take up his cross*—This was said to the people as well as to his disciples. (Mark 8: 34). To follow Christ does not mean earthly gain, but self-denial. (ch. 14: 26, 27; Acts 14: 22.) 24. *Save his life*—Whoever makes worldly happiness his chief aim, and, even to save his life, denies Christ, will lose eternal life, and with it all that makes this life really blessed. *Will lose his life*—Count even his life not worth preserving at the cost of denying Christ. *Shall find it*—Have real happiness in this world and heaven at last. (2 Tim. 2: 11; Luke 17: 33; John 12: 25) 25. *Lose himself*—R. V. "lose or forfeit his own self." See Matt. 16: 26. To deny Christ, or refuse to accept him as our Saviour, is to be lost forever. (Acts 4: 12; 1 Tim. 2: 5, 6). 26. *Ashamed of me*—Because to shew himself my follower would bring upon him the censure, or ridicule of others. *In his own glory*—At the day of judgment. (ch. 12: 9; 2 Tim. 1: 8, 12; 2: 12). 27. *The kingdom of God*—This was fulfilled when Jesús rose from the dead, and at the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came.

LESSONS. 1. No confession of Christ which does not accept him as the Son of God is pleasing. 2. The kingdom of Christ is founded upon his sufferings and death. 3. Self-denial, not self-indulgence, must mark the follower of Jesús. 4. Worldly gain, or pleasure, will not compensate for the loss of the soul. 5. It is a shame to be ashamed of Jesús.