

Lesson XI.

THE LAWFUL USE OF THE SABBATH

March 15, 1914

Luke 13 : 10-17 ; 14 : 1-6.—Memory Verses, 3-5.

Golden Text—The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath.—Mark 2 : 27.



10 And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.

11 And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.

12 And when Je'sus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.

13 And he laid his hands on her : and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

14 And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Je'sus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work : in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.

15 The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering ?

16 And ought not this woman, being a daughter of A'braham, whom Sa'tan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day ?

17 And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed : and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him.

Ch. 14 : 1 And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Phar'isees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him.

2 And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy.

3 And Je'sus answering spake unto the lawyers and Phar'isees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day ?

4 And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go ;

5 And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day ?

6 And they could not answer him again to these things.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One Sabbath day the people of a certain town in the land where Jesus lived were going to church. The church in that land was called the synagogue.

Jesus was visiting in the town and He went to the synagogue. Jesus went to read the law to the people.

Some of the Pharisees, Jesus' enemies, were there. Among many other people in the church was a poor woman who had not been well for eighteen years. She was bowed down because of her disease and could not stand up straight.

Jesus saw the poor woman and called to her. He said, "Woman, thou art cured of thine illness." Then He laid His hand upon her and she was given strength to lift herself

up. When the woman found that she was well, she gave thanks.

The face of the ruler of the synagogue grew dark with displeasure. Jesus was working on the Sabbath day ! He said to himself, "Jesus has broken the Commandment which says, 'Thou shalt not do any work on the Sabbath day.'"

Jesus knew what mistakes the people were making about the keeping of God's laws. The Sabbath day is one of God's best gifts to His people. But the scribes and Pharisees were making it a day of burden by their wrong and foolish laws. Not even the sick and suffering could be given help on the Sabbath day, because they said that was work.