

GOLDEN TEXT

The field is the world. Matt 13: 38.

DAILY READINGS

M.-Matt. 13: 24-38; Parables of the kingdom.

T.-Matt. 13: 34-43. The parable explained.

W.-Matt. 13: 44-52. Further parables.

Th.-Gen. 3: 1-8. The enemy at work.

F.-Matt. 25: 31-46. Separation.

S.-Rev. 20: 11-15. Judgment.

S.-Mark 4: 26-34. Growth of the kingdom.

TIME AND PLACE

As in the Lesson of last Sabbath, Jesus is teaching from a boat pushed out a little from the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The people standing on the shore. Autumn of A. D. 28.

CATECHISM

Q. 23. What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?

A. Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

LESSON PLAN

1. The Wheat and the Tares, 24-38.

A mixed multitude and final separation.

2. The Mustard Seed, 31, 32.

A small beginning, but a great ending.

3. The Leaven, 33.

The hidden growth of the kingdom.

LESSON HYMNS

16 (Ps. Sel.); 449; 84; 451; 486.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—24 Where did Christ utter these parables? When? To whom? What parables went before? To what is the kingdom now compared? Who is the sower? (v. 37.) Who are the good seed? (v. 38.) 25 What happened? When? What lesson taught? (1 Pet. 5: 8.) What are tares? What is the field? (v. 38.)

26-28 When were the tares seen? Why not before? What question asked? What reply made? Who was blamed? Who is the enemy? What is his chief work? (2 Cor. 11: 3.) How does he appear? (2 Cor. 11: 14.) What did the servants request?

29-30 Why was the request not granted? When to be separated? When can the tares be distinguished? Why burned? When is the harvest? Who are the reapers? Where is the wheat to be stored?

31, 32 What is the subject of this parable? What is said of the mustard seed? Of the "tree"? What lesson taught?

33 What is leaven? How does it work? How does the new life work?

Seniors—24 What three comparisons made by Christ in this Lesson? Draw a lesson from each. Who is meant by the sower? By what name is he spoken of seventeen times in Matthew?

25-26 What injury done? By whom? When does Satan sow his evil seed? How can he be resisted? (Matt. 4: 3-11; 1 John 3: 8.) When was the triumph over him completed? (Col. 2: 15; Heb. 2: 14.)

27-30 With whom are we laborers? (1 Cor. 3: 9.) What about the results? (1 Cor. 3: 7, 8.) What is the source whence the growth is derived? (Col. 2: 6, 7.) What does it require? (2 Pet. 1: 5-7.) When will the separation take place? Who will make the separation? How further described? (Matt. 16: 27; 2 Thess. 1: 7-10.) How is "fire" employed in the Bible? (Isa. 5: 24; Mal. 4: 1; Matt. 3: 10; Heb. 6: 8.) What about the good seed? (Col. 3: 4; Rom. 8: 18.) What is the secret of growth? (John 3: 8.) What law of development in spiritual growth? (1 John 2: 12-14.)

31, 32 Compare the mustard seed as a seed, and when grown. What were the small beginnings of

Christ's kingdom? (Luke 2: 7; Matt. 23: 16, 19; Mark 15: 21; Acts 1: 15.) What encouragement? To what does Christ call especial attention in this parable?

33 The nature of leaven? Where is Christ hidden? What promise given? (Dan. 7: 27.)

Bible Side Lights—AN ENEMY—Prov. 27: 6; Jas. 4: 4; Matt. 5: 43, 41; Rom. 12: 20.

THE HARVEST—Matt. 9: 37, 38; John 4: 35; Rev. 14: 15.

BURN THEM—Isa. 7: 31; John 15: 6; Heb. 6: 7, 8; Mal. 4: 1.

THE LEAST AND GREATEST—Matt. 18: 1-4; 23: 11; Luke 22: 24-26.

LEAVEN—1 Cor. 5: 8; Matt. 16: 6, 12; Gal. 5: 9.

Practical Points—1. In all these parables the kingdom of heaven is likened to things that grow. Christianity is a living thing. It cannot stand still.

2. God is careful of His own children. He plants them where they have a chance to grow.

3. We may sleep, but Satan never does. Therefore, beware!

4. It does not follow that because the ungodly are let alone now, that they shall always escape. There is a day of judgment coming.

5. Wait long enough and bad men will show themselves bad. They cannot always deceive even their fellow-men.

6. None of us are wise enough to separate the tares from the wheat. We must leave that to God, who sees the heart.

7. The mustard seed is so small that it is easily lost. The first impulse towards Christianity is easily destroyed. Take care of it. Let it grow and it will change your whole destiny.

8. Like leaven, the new life acts silently. We can see the results of it in changed lives, but the growth of religion in the soul is a secret between the soul and God.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What truth is illustrated by the parable of the wheat and the tares?

2. By the parable of the mustard seed?

3. By the parable of the leaven?