

Lesson IX.

*JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND

March 1, 1908

BETWEEN THE LESSONS John passes over a whole year between last Lesson (ch. 5. 1-18), and to-day's. Jesus spent this period in Galilee. Immediately before the Lesson He was at Capernaum, on the western shore of the Lake of Galilee. Here He heard of the murder of John the Baptist by Herod, then ruler of Galilee, Matt. 14. 1-12. At the same time the Twelve returned to Capernaum from a tour of preaching and healing on which the Master had sent them, Mark 6. 7-13, 30, Luke 9. 1-6, 10. Our Lord desired a time of quiet and rest, both for Himself and for His disciples. He therefore crossed with them to the neighborhood of Bethsaida (Luke 9. 10) on the eastern shore of the Lake.

GOLDEN TEXT—He shall feed his flock like a shepherd.—Isaiah 40: 11.

Memorize vs. 11, 12. THE LESSON PASSAGE—John 6: 5-14. Study John 6: 1-21.

5 ¹ When Je'sus then lifted up his eyes, and ² saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence ³ shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

7 Philip answered him, Two hundred penny-worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Si'mon Pe'ter's brother, saith unto him,

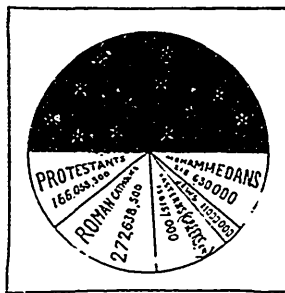
9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two ¹⁰ small fishes: but what are ¹¹ they among so many?

10 ¹² And Jesus said, Make the ¹³ men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men

Revised Version—Jesus therefore lifting up; ² seeing that a great multitude cometh unto him, saith; ³ are we to; ⁴ omit of them; ⁵ omit small; ⁶ these; ⁷ omit And; ⁸ people; ⁹ Jesus therefore; ¹⁰ having given; ¹¹ omit six words; ¹² likewise also; ¹³ And when; ¹⁴ saith; ¹⁵ broken pieces which remained over; ¹⁶ So they; ¹⁷ up; ¹⁸ broken pieces from; ¹⁹ omit and above; ²⁰ When therefore the people saw the sign which he did, they said; ²¹ the; ²² cometh.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Jesus feeds the five thousand, John 6: 1-21. T.—Four thousand fed, Mk. 8: 1-9. W.—Reminder of the miracles, Mk. 8: 10-21. Th.—The handful of meal, 1 Kgs. 17: 8-16. F.—Enough and to spare, 2 Kgs. 4: 38-44. S.—Stilling the storm, Matt. 14: 23-33, 8.—Saved from the tempest, Ps. 107: 21-32.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



LIGHT AND DARKNESS

The black half circle represents the heathen world; the stars the Protestant mission stations established in heathen lands.

were swelled by pilgrims on their way to keep the Passover at Jerusalem, v. 4. Jesus, though sorely in need of rest, taught and healed the multitudes all day and until evening, Mark 6: 34, 35.

I. THE HUNGRY MULTITUDES.—5, 6. Jesus . . . saw a great company; as He now beholds the vast multitudes of the heathen, with a heart full of pity and a hand ready to save. Saith unto Philip; perhaps because his home was in this neighborhood (ch. 1: 44), and he would therefore be likely to know

where food might be got; or because he was a practical man of business, who might be expected to work out a plan to meet the situation. Whence . . . buy bread . . . ? Jesus would have His disciples think of the needs of others. Gospel blessings are given to us, not for our selfish enjoyment, but to share with all mankind. To prove him; to test whether he had caught the Saviour's spirit of compassion and had learned to trust the Saviour's power. Knew what he would do. There is no measure to Jesus' knowledge or power, any more than to His love.

II. THE SLENDER PROVISION.—7-9. Two hundred pennyworth (about \$32 worth) . . . not sufficient. Nor is our strength or wealth sufficient to meet the needs of the heathen world: we need the might and resources of Jesus. Every one . . . a little; much less a full meal. To Philip the difficulty seems impossible to overcome. Andrew . . . saith; eager to help now, as he had been to bring Peter to Jesus, ch. 1: 41, 42. Lad; literally, a little lad or "laddie". None are too young to help in the Lord's work. Five barley loaves; the cheapest and coarsest kind of food. Two small fishes; small pickled fishes. "Bring them . . . to Me", said Jesus (see Matt. 14: 18). And He asks us to do this with our abilities and means, however small they may be, that He may use them in supplying the world's need.

*This Lesson has been selected by the Sunday School Editorial Association and the Young People's Missionary Movement, as a special missionary Lesson.