

Lesson IV.

THE POUNDS AND THE TALENTS

July 26, 1914

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The Lesson parable seems to have been spoken either at Jericho (see vs. 1-10) or on the way from Jericho to Jerusalem.

GOLDEN TEXT—Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.—Matthew 25: 21 (Rev. Ver.).

Memorize vs. 16, 17. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Luke 19: 11-27.

11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

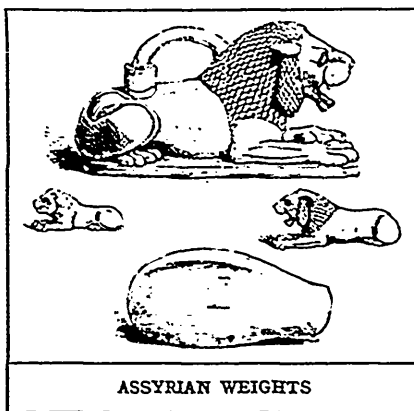
18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

Revised Version—supposed; ¹ was immediately to; ² ten servants of his; ³ gave them; ⁴ Trade ye herewith till I come; ⁵ an embassy; ⁶ that this man; ⁷ Omit that; ⁸ come back again; ⁹ that he; ¹⁰ servants, unto whom he had given the money, to be called to him; ¹¹ what they had gained; ¹² And the first came before him, saying; ¹³ made; ¹⁴ more; ¹⁵ Well done; ¹⁶ wast found faithful; ¹⁷ Thy pound, Lord; ¹⁸ unto him also; ¹⁹ Omit have; ²⁰ Omit And; ²¹ am; ²² then wherefore gavest thou not; ²³ and I at my coming should have required it with interest; ²⁴ away; ²⁵ unto; ²⁶ the; ²⁷ Omit For; ²⁸ that hath; ²⁹ but; ³⁰ which; ³¹ Howbeit these mine enemies.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—The pounds and the talents, Luke 19: 11-27. T.—The pounds and the talents, Matt. 25: 14-30. W.—"Divers gifts," Rom. 12: 1-8. Th.—Walk worthy of your calling, Eph. 4: 1-7. F.—An inspiring example, Acts 9: 36-42. S.—Fruit bearing, the test, John 15: 1-8. S.—Much given—much required, Luke 12: 41-48.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE MASTER'S TEST.—11, 12. Heard these things; the words which Jesus spoke to Zacchaeus about salvation, vs. 9, 10. Nigh to Jerusalem; the Jewish capital some seventeen miles from Jericho. Kingdom of God . . immediately to appear (Rev. Ver.) The disciples had got the idea that Jesus was to establish this kingdom at once. But our Lord teaches that there is to be a period for patient waiting and faithful service before the kingdom is set up. A certain nobleman, etc. Thirty years before this, Archelaus, who had been appointed king of Judea by the will of his father Herod, went to Rome to secure the confirmation of the will from the emperor. Jesus, in His parable, may have had this in mind. To return. The period of the nobleman's absence pictures the interval between



ASSYRIAN WEIGHTS

our Lord's death and resurrection and His second coming.

13, 14. Ten servants (slaves) . . ten pounds; one to each. The "pound" was not a coin, but a sum of money reckoned by weight. It was worth about \$16. The "talent" (see Matt. 25: 14-30) was worth 60 times as much. The pound, therefore, stands for the blessings which all disciples have in common, while the talent denotes the special gifts and opportunities of individuals. The master in the Lesson wished simply to test his servants; hence the smallness of the

sum. Trade ye herewith (Rev. Ver.); do business for their master. Till I come. So Christians are to be patient and diligent until Christ shall come again. Citizens hated him . . sent an embassy (Rev. Ver.). The people of Jerusalem rebelled against