

hear the word with diligence, preparation and prayer. 3. The hearing of the word should lead us to bring forth fruits of holiness in our lives.

No. 2.—The Tares. Matt. 13, 24—30.

The Kingdom of Heaven, is Christ's spiritual reign, begun in grace and completed in glory. *Tares* are a degenerate kind of wheat. The difference is not known till the ear is formed. See explanation—v. 37, 43.

LESSONS.—1. Satan is a personal agent, ever doing evil. 2. It is often difficult to distinguish between true believers and hypocrites in this world. 3. The distinction will be manifest to all on the day of judgment. 4. The happiness of the righteous and the misery of the wicked will be inconceivably great.

No. 3.—Two Debtors. Matt. 18, 23—35.

This parable illustrates the answer given to Peter—v. 21—22. *Ten thousand talents* of silver would be about two millions, and an *hundred pence* only four pounds of our currency. *Worshipped* (v. 26) means entertained. *Delivered to the tormentors*, (v. 34) that is, to be punished by torture.

LESSONS.—1. Our offences against God are infinite, and we cannot atone for them. 2. God is willing to pardon the greatest sinners. 3. Offences committed against us are as nothing compared with ours against God. 4. If we do not forgive others, we need expect no forgiveness from God.

No. 4.—Marriage Feast. Matt. 22, 1—14.

The *Marriage Feast* represents the blessings of the gospel. Those first bidden,