

## Lesson V.

## PRAYER AND PROMISE

May 1, 1904

Luke 11: 1-13. Commit to memory vs. 11-13. Read Luke 10: 25-42.

: **GOLDEN TEXT**—Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find.—Luke 11: 9.

1 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, 4 Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. 5 Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; 8 but deliver us from evil.

5 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say 9 unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;

6 For a friend of mine 10 in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will 11 rise and give him as many as he needeth.

9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

11 12 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he 13 offer him a scorpion?

13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

**Revised Version**—1 Omit that; 2 that; 3 even; 4 Father: Hallowed be thy name; 5 Omit Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth; 6 ourselves; 7 bring; 8 Omit but deliver us from evil; 9 to; 10 is come to me from a journey; 11 arise; 12 And of which of you that is a father shall his son ask a loaf, and; 13 give.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

**Time and Place**—November-December A.D. 29; somewhere in Persea.

**Connection**—Jesus soon followed the seventy, passing through northern Galilee and Persea on His last journey to Jerusalem. The Lesson belongs to some stage of the journey. It may be called "With Christ in the School of Prayer."

**I. THE PRAYER OF PRAYERS.**—1. As he was praying; Jesus' constant practice, ch. 3: 21; 5: 16; 6: 12; 9: 18, 28, 29. Luke says more about prayer than the other gospels. Teach us to pray: for what? with what words? in what spirit? John also taught his disciples. We have no record of this, but Jewish rabbis were accustomed to give their pupils forms of prayer.

2. When ye pray, say; not always in the same words. The form is a model, embracing, "in the best order, every divine promise, every human sorrow and want, and every Christian aspiration for the good of others." Our Father. More than seventy times in the gospels Jesus uses this title for God. In the Old Testament, God is seldom called Father; and then He is viewed as Father of the nation, not of the individual. Which art in heaven; the throne of God, while the earth is His footstool, Isa. 66: 1. Hallowed; treated as holy. Thy name; including all the attributes of God, such as His power, wisdom, etc. Thy kingdom come; let God's rule be extended from heaven to earth, so as to root out all wickedness. Thy will be done; the one rule of Jesus' life, John 5: 30: 6: 38. As in heaven; by the angels, Ps. 103: 20.

3, 4. Give us day by day our daily bread; a petition acknowledging our dependence on God for the simplest blessings, asking these for all, asking them day by day, and asking no more, Prov. 30: 8; John 6: 27. Forgive us our sins. See the promise, 1 John 1: 9. As we forgive; else we cannot be forgiven, Matt. 6: 14, 15. Indebted to us; not those who owe us money, but all who have wronged

or injured us. Lead us not into temptation. God permits us to be tempted (John 17: 15; Rev. 3: 10), but with each temptation makes a way of escape, 1 Cor. 10: 13. We pray, therefore, that we may not be



A Scorpion

tempted beyond our ability. Deliver us from evil; "the evil one," that is Satan.

**II. AN ILLUSTRATION TO ENCOURAGE.**—5-8. Shall go unto him at midnight. In the East it is common to travel at night, to avoid the heat of the day. The late hour is the first difficulty. And say... I have nothing to set before him. It would be a deep disgrace for the poorest, not to provide food for a visitor. The soul has needs which God alone can supply. The door is now shut; a second difficulty. In bed; difficulty number three. Yet because of his importunity; by sheer persistence all difficulties are overcome. (Compare ch. 18: 1-8; Matt. 15: 27, 28.) Will give him as many as he needeth; more than the three asked for.

**III. A PROMISE TO CONFIRM.**—9-13. Ask; of the heavenly Father. It shall be given you; not because God does not wish to be troubled, but because He loves to give. Every one; not merely some particular friend or favorite, but all who ask aright. Any of you that is a father; whose relation to his son is a picture of God's relation to us. A stone. Stones shaped like the small, flat, round