

LESSON XII.

THE GREAT REFUSAL

June 21, 1914

LESSON SETTING—The events of to-day's Lesson, like those of last day's Lesson, took place during our Lord's journeyings through Perea.

GOLDEN TEXT—Ye cannot serve God and mammon.—Luke 16 : 13.

Memorize vs. 25-27. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Mark 10 : 17-31. Read Matt. 19 : 16-30.

17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

24 And the disciples were astonished at his words.

Revised Version—¹as he was going forth; ²ran one to him; ³none is good save one, even God; ⁴kill; ⁵commit adultery; ⁶Do not defraud; ⁷Omit answered and; ⁸things; ⁹And Jesus looking upon him; ¹⁰Omit thy way; ¹¹Omit take up the cross and; ¹²But his countenance fell at the saying, and he went away sorrowful; ¹³was one that had; ¹⁴amazed; ¹⁵a needle's eye; ¹⁶exceedingly, saying unto him, Then who can be saved; ¹⁷Omit And; ¹⁸all things are possible with God; ¹⁹Omit then; ²⁰Jesus said; ²¹mother, or father, or children; ²²for the gospel's sake; ²³a

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey London, England.)—M.—The great refusal, Mark 10 : 17-22. T.—The great refusal, Mark 10 : 23-31. W.—The Commandments, Ex. 20 : 8-17. Th.—Wisdom better than gold, Prov. 16 : 8-16. F.—The danger of riches, 1 Tim. 6 : 1-11. S.—"Which?" Matt. 6 : 19-24. S.—Rich in good works, 1 Tim. 6 : 12-21.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. A GREAT TEST.—17. As he was going forth (Rev. Ver.); from the house where He had blessed the little children, vs. 15, 16. **Ran** (Rev. Ver.); eager and breathless. **One**; a "young man" (Matt. 19 : 22) and a "ruler" (Luke 18 : 18) either the chief official of a synagogue in some town or a member of the great Jewish council called the Sanhedrin. **Kneeled**; as was customary before an honored teacher. **Good master** (literally "Teacher"); a title of great courtesy and respect used quite sincerely. **What shall I do.** The questioner did not know that the first step in pleasing God is not trying but trusting. **Inherit eternal life**; the life of blessedness, regarded as endless, to which the Jews looked forward at the Messiah's coming.

18-20. **Why . . . good? none . . . good save . . . God** (Rev. Ver.). Jesus' meaning is: "God alone is good, that is perfect. You call Me good. Are you willing to call Me God?" **The commandments.** Those named are from the second table (see Ex. 32 :

15-19 : 31-1), which are all included in the great command, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," Matt. 19 : 19. Jesus thus tests the young ruler's earnestness in seeking eternal life. **All these . . . observed from my youth.** He had tried that way, and yet was not satisfied.

21, 22. **Jesus looking upon him** (Rev. Ver.); with a searching gaze, seeing into his very soul and discerning the hero he might become if only he would pay the price. **Loved him**; for the noble and beautiful character shown in his reply. **One thing thou lackest**; to prove your willingness to do whatever might be required. **Sell . . . give**; and thus prove that you love God supremely and your neighbor



CHRIST AND THE RICH YOUNG RULER

as yourself. **Take up the cross** (live a self-denying life), and follow me; giving up all for Christ's sake and thus proving himself to be really in earnest about eternal life. **His countenance fell** (Rev. Ver.) The gloom in his heart cast its shadow on his face. **Went away**; because Jesus' demands were too great.