

# Teacher Training Course

Presbyterian Church in Canada

*Under the Direction of the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee*

DEPARTMENT OF SCRIPTURE—I. The Life of Jesus Christ; II. New Testament Geography and Institutions.

N.B.—It is recommended that the Revised Version be consulted in these studies.

## LESSON XXI.

### NEARING THE END

SOURCES—Mark, ch. 10, a transitional chapter between the two parts of the Gospel; Luke, chs. 17 to 21; Matthew, chs. 18 to 25; John, ch. 12.

PLACE AND TIME—For a month or more perhaps, in Perea, followed by a journey through Jericho and Bethany to Jerusalem, where Jesus spent the last week of His life, the daytime in the city, the night usually outside, in order to avoid premature arrest.

DISAPPOINTMENTS—Ingratitude, not only from His own nation, but also on the part of individuals, as is illustrated by the incident of the Ten Lepers, Luke 17 : 11-19. The thanklessness of the Jews and the faith of the Samaritan are another sign that the gospel will soon pass to those who will receive it (compare John 4 : 39-42). Again and again Jesus saw with infinite sorrow how men of all sorts and conditions flung from them the pearl of great price; but few rejections caused Him more pain than that of the Rich Young Ruler, Mark 10 : 17-31 and parallel passages. "Jesus looking upon him loved him," but "the world" won, for he did not really desire eternal life above all else. Even Jesus' own disciples were often blind to the true values of things. In the inner circle the world still had power, and Jesus finds it necessary to read James and John a lesson on false ambition, Mark 10 : 35-45. This was the quality of the men to whom He was so soon to entrust His gospel. Was not the outlook dark?

JOYS—But there were bright hours, as well as dark, in the closing months of the life of Jesus, of which none were brighter than those which He spent with children, Mark 10 :

13-16, and parallel passages. He delighted in their pure hearts, upturned faces, and deep, trustful eyes, upon which the world had not yet put its dark stain. The childlike spirit is necessary in the kingdom whose God is our Father. Childhood has its place therein as well as manhood. Jesus gave children their due, Matt. 18 : 10; 21 : 15, 16. Jesus had also many glad surprises of faith. Zachaeus welcomes Jesus, and becomes "a son of Abraham," Luke 19 : 1-10. Another remarkable tribute of devotion is contained in the story of the anointing of Jesus by Mary of Bethany, Matt. 26 : 6-13; Mark 14 : 3-9; John 12 : 1-11. Such an act, together with the fellowship of His closer followers, would give Jesus much happiness, even though the world was growing indifferent or hostile.

## LESSON XXII.

### THE EVENTS OF PASSION WEEK

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM (Luke 19 : 29-44)—The near approach of the Passover brought pilgrims from Galilee through Perea, and Jesus joined them on their way to the Feast in Jerusalem. In this He heard His Father's voice calling Him to death, Mark 10 : 32-46; 11 : 1; John 11 : 55 to 12 : 1. *The order of the days*—: they cross the Jordan at Jericho, come up the defile leading past Bethany to Jerusalem, whither the pilgrims pass on, while Jesus remains at the home of Lazarus, probably over the Sabbath, John 12 : 9-11. On the morning after the Sabbath the pilgrims return with others from the city, to escort Jesus as Messiah into Mount Zion, John 12 : 12, 13. At last He yields, admitting that He is Messiah. But even now He does not enter like a worldly