

LESSON XII.

PARABLE OF THE POUNDS

December 23, 1900

Luke 10: 11-27. Commit to memory vs. 26, 27. Read Matt. 23: 14-30.

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—1 Suffered; 2 Was immediately to appear; 3 Gave; 4 Trade ye herewith; 5 An ambassador; 6 What they; 7 And the first came before him; 8 Made ten pounds more; 9 Well done; 10 Well found; 11 Made; 12 Am; 13 And I at my coming should have required it with interest; 14 Take away; 15 The ten pounds; 16 Omit for; 17 Howbeit these.

GOLDEN TEXT

Every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Rom. 14: 12.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Luke 10: 11-27. Parable of the Pounds.

T.—Matt. 25: 14-30. The talents.

W.—Gen. 41: 33-43. Joseph's promotion.

Th.—Luke 12: 41-48. Responsibility.

F.—1 Cor. 12: 1-11. Diversity of gifts.

S.—2 Peter 3: 9-14. Be diligent.

S.—Luke 22: 24-30. Reward of steadfastness.

TIME AND PLACE

On His last journey to Jerusalem, A. D. 30, not many days before His crucifixion. He was about to go into "a far country, to receive for Himself a kingdom."

CATECHISM

Q. 55 What is forbidden in the third commandment?

A. The third commandment forbiddeth all profaning or abusing of any thing whereby God maketh himself known.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise—16 (Ps. Sel.); 252; 237; 245; 239; 591.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Nobleman, the Servants and the Citizens, 11-14.

The nobleman leaving home to obtain a kingdom, his servants accept a charge from him, his citizens send a treasonable message after him.

II. The Faithful and Their Reward, 15-19.

Each rewarded according to his diligence.

III. The Unfaithful and Their Fate, 20-27.

The unfaithful servant deprived of his trust, the rebels slain.

EXPOSITION

Connecting Links—The occasion for the parable is clearly stated in "Time and Place" above, and in the exposition of v. 11 below. It has some features like the parable of the Ten Talents (Matt. 25: 14-30), but it is sufficiently unlike it to have been spoken on a different occasion and with a different purpose.

I. The Nobleman, the Servants, and the Citizens, 11-14.

V. 11. *And as they heard these things; the words about salvation just spoken to Zacchæus. Because he was nigh to Jerusalem.* About eighteen or twenty miles away was the city where the crowds thought the Son of man would show Himself with power to be the Messiah, their King. *The kingdom of God should immediately appear; suddenly and*

from heaven, Jesus exercising His supernatural powers. To dispel this illusion, and to further instruct them as to the true nature of the kingdom, the parable was spoken. (vs. 12-27.)

V. 12. *A certain nobleman.* "Herod the Great and his son Archelaus had actually gone from Jericho on this errand, and Archelaus had had the experience described in v. 14." (Bruce.) Not that Jesus compares Himself with the wicked Herods, but as in the case of the Unjust Steward (ch. 16: 1-13), He uses the incident to bring vividly before His hearers the lesson He wishes to teach. *Into a far country . . . and to return.* He would have to be away for some length of time.

V. 13. *He called ten servants of his* (Rev. Ver.). He had evidently an extensive