

Lesson XI.

THE FRIEND OF SINNERS

June 14, 1914

Luke 18 : 9-14 ; 19 : 1-10—Memory Verse, ch. 19 : 10.

Golden Text—I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.—Mark 2 : 17.

9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others :

10 Two men went up into the temple to pray ; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other : for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased ; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Ch. 19 : 1 And Je'sus entered and passed through Jer'icho.

2 And, behold, there was a man named Zacchæus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

3 And he sought to see Je'sus who he was ; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

4 And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him : for he was to pass that way.

5 And when Je'sus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchæus, make haste, and come down ; for to day I must abide at thy house.

6 And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.

7 And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

8 And Zacchæus stood, and said unto the Lord ; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor ; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

9 And Je'sus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of A'braham.

10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One day Jesus told a story of two men who went to the temple to pray. One was a proud Pharisee who thought himself better than others. One was a Publican, who was hated and despised.

The Pharisee prayed: "God, I thank Thee that I am better than other men. I thank Thee that I am not as other men are, unjust, taking what does not belong to me. I thank Thee that I am not like this publican. I fast twice a week. I give away a great deal to the poor."

The publican prayed also: he was sorry for his sins, and wanted to be forgiven. He bowed his head because he was ashamed. He cried, "God be merciful to me a sinner."

Then Jesus said: "I tell you this publican went home forgiven. The prayer of the Pharisee never reached heaven."

One day Jesus passed through the streets of a big city called Jericho. Many of the people hurried to see Jesus.

There was a man called Zacchæus living

in Jericho. He was one of the chief publicans and he was rich. The publicans were often called sinners by others who lived in the land.

Zacchæus heard that Jesus was coming and ran to see Him. The crowd was so great when Zacchæus drew near that he could not see. He was a small man and could not look over the heads of the people.

But Zacchæus would not give up his hope of seeing Jesus. A sycamore tree grew near and he climbed into its branches.

When Jesus came, He looked up and saw the man who was trying so hard to find Him. He said: "Zacchæus, make haste and come down. I shall visit at thy house to-day."

Zacchæus was a humble man. He was surprised when Jesus spoke to him. He made haste and came down from the tree.

Zacchæus said to Jesus: "Lord, half of my goods I give to the poor. If I have done wrong and cheated any man, I am sorry. I wish to repay him and more."