

LESSON VIII—May 24th, 1896.

Jesus Teaching in the Temple. LUKE 20: 9-19.

(Commit to memory verses 13-16).

GOLDEN TEXT: "The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner." Luke 20: 17.

PROVE THAT—Our hearts are deceitful. Jer. 17: 9.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 60. *How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?* A. The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 29, 111, 69, 113.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Jesus teaching in the temple. Luke 20: 9-19. *Tuesday.* An unprofitable vineyard. Isaiah 5: 1-7. *Wednesday.* Despising warning. 2 Chr. 36: 11-21. *Thursday.* God's message unheeded. Jer. 25: 1-11. *Friday.* The servant rejected. Jer. 26: 8-15. *Saturday.* The Son rejected. John 11: 47-57. *Sabbath.* Day of Pentecost. Acts 2: 1-21. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. On the day following his triumphal entry, Jesus drove out the profaners of the temple for the second time, and received the Greeks who came to see him (John 12: 20-50). Our lesson is one of a series of parables spoken in the temple on Tuesday. This was our Lord's last public discourse. Parallel passages. Matt. 21: 33-46; Mark 12: 1-12. Read the whole narrative in Matt. 21: 1-25: 46; Mark 11: 12-13: 37; Luke 19: 45-21: 38.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Rejected Servants. vs. 9-12. II. The Rejected Son. vs. 13-15. III. The Rejected People. vs. 16-19.

9. A certain man—God is the householder (Matt. 21: 33). A vineyard—God's kingdom in this world is the vineyard (Deut. 32: 32; Ps. 80: 8-16; Isa. 5: 1-7; 27: 2, 3; Jer. 2: 21; Ezek. 15: 1-6; 19: 10). **Husbandmen**—The interests of the kingdom were entrusted to the Jewish nation. The vineyard was thoroughly equipped with everything necessary for its profitable management, hedge, winepress, and tower. A far country—R. V. "another country." For a long time—From the time when the law was given at Sinai, until Christ appeared, was about 1500 years. 10. A servant—The servants represent the prophets and teachers sent to reform the nation. The fruit—God has a right to expect that our religion will shew itself in our affections and characters and lives. Beat him—Notice that their violence increases with each message. 11. Entreated him shamefully—R. V. "handled him shamefully," literally "they dishonored him." Mark says "they wounded him in the head" with stones. 12. For illustrations of the manner in which God's servants were treated see 1 Kings 22: 24-27; Jer. 37: 15; 2 Chr. 24: 21; 1 Kings 18: 13; Neh. 9: 26; Acts 7: 52; Heb. 11: 36-38. Also read Matt. 23: 34-36; Luke 13: 34; 1 Sam. 22: 18; 1 Kings 19: 10. 13. My beloved son—Mark 12: 6; (R. V. "One son, his well-beloved" (Isa. 5: 4; Hos. 6: 4; 11: 8; John 3: 16). It may be—"Surely" (1 Sam. 25: 21). As if it was almost incredible they should not feel ashamed at such gracious treatment. 14. That the inheritance may be ours—In Eastern lands it was

the rule that if an occupier paid taxes for six years, and no owner could be found, he might claim the property. The husbandmen hoped to discourage the owner from sending any more messengers. The chief priests wished to destroy Jesus in order that they might retain their power over the people (John 11: 47-53; Mark 15: 10). 15—A vivid prophecy of the treatment Jesus actually received (Heb. 13: 12, 13; John 19: 17). Some of those present knew of the plotting to kill Jesus. 16. He will come and destroy—This was done when Jerusalem was overthrown and the Jews dispersed (Luke 21: 24). Give the vineyard to others—Gentiles now enjoy the blessing of the Gospel which the Jews refused (Rom. 9: 26; 11: 11-17; Acts 3: 46). God forbid—Lit. "might it not be," the opposite of "Amen," an exclamation of horror, from the intensely interested crowd, at the enormity of the crime and the severity of its punishment. They dimly apprehended that Christ referred to them 17. He beheld them—A look full of meaning. Written—In Ps. 118: 22, 23, the very psalm from which the "Hosannas" of two days before were taken. The stone—Jesus himself (1 Pet. 2: 6; Isa. 28: 16). The head of the corner—The place of chief honor and importance. 13. Shall he broken—Those who stumble at a suffering Messiah shall incur great injury; but those who continue to reject him will be utterly destroyed. 19. His enemies felt themselves held up to the execration of the people (20: 9) but feared to arrest him in public lest a tumult should be made (Matt. 21: 46).

LESSONS. 1. God expects a return for the privileges he has bestowed. 2. We should hear attentively what his messengers say to us. 3. The sin of rejecting God's Son. 4. The certain punishment of the ungodly. 5. Jesus shall yet reign over the whole world.