

Lesson III.

JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

April 15, 1917

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—To-day's lesson follows immediately on Lesson I., April 2, John 9 : 1-11, 35-38, Jesus Gives Sight to the Blind.

GOLDEN TEXT—I am the good shepherd : the good shepherd layeth down his life for the sheep.—John 10 : 11 (Rev. Ver.).

*Memorize John 1 : 1-5.

THE LESSON PASSAGE—John 10 : 7-18. Study John 10 : 1-18.

7 ¹ Then said Je'sus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 All that ² ever came before me are thieves and robbers : but the sheep did not hear them.

9 I am the door : by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and ³ out, and ⁴ find pasture.

10 The thief cometh not, but ⁵ for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy : I ⁶ am come that they ⁷ might have life, and ⁸ that they might have it more abundantly.

11 I am the good shepherd : the good ⁹ shepherd ¹⁰ giveth his life for the sheep.

12 ¹¹ But he that is ¹² an hireling, and not ¹³ the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, ¹⁴ seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth : and

Revised Version—¹ Jesus therefore said ; ² *Omit* ever : ³ go ; ⁴ shall ; ⁵ that he may steal, and kill, and destroy ; ⁶ came ; ⁷ may ; ⁸ may have it abundantly ; ⁹ layeth down ; ¹⁰ *Omit* But ; ¹¹ a ; ¹² beholdeth ; ¹³ snatcheth ; ¹⁴ them ; ¹⁵ he fleeth ; ¹⁶ I know mine own, and mine own know me ; ¹⁷ even as ; ¹⁸ and I know the Father ; ¹⁹ they shall become one flock, one shepherd ; ²⁰ the ; ²¹ may ; ²² one ; ²³ away from ; ²⁴ received I from.

the wolf ¹⁵ catcheth them, and scattereth ¹⁶ the sheep.

13 ¹⁷ The hireling fleeth, because he is ¹⁸ an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd, and ¹⁹ know my ²⁰ sheep, and am known of mine.

15 ²¹ As the Father knoweth me, ²² even so know I the Father : and I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold : them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice ; and ²³ there shall be one fold, and one ²⁴ shepherd.

17 Therefore doth ²⁵ my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I ²⁶ might take it again.

18 No ²⁷ man taketh it ²⁸ from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it ²⁹ down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment ³⁰ have I received of my Father.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Jesus the good shepherd, John 10 : 1-10.

T.—Jesus the good shepherd, John 10 : 11-18.

W.—The safety of the sheep, John 10 : 22-30.

Th.—The shepherd's song, Ps. 23.

F.—A valiant shepherd, 1 Sam. 17 : 32-37.

S.—Seeking the lost sheep, Matt. 18 : 7-14.

S.—One fold—one shepherd, Ezek. 34 : 20-31.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP.

—7, 8. Then said Jesus . . . I am the door of the sheep. Through him alone can any one enter the company of God's true people. And whom he admits, no one else has the right to cast out. All . . . before me . . . thieves and robbers ; such persons as the Pharisees (see v. 6). The sheep did not hear them. These false guides did not touch the hearts and consciences of people



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

as did Jesus (compare ch. 7 : 40).

9. By me if any man enter in ; to the fold of God's kingdom. It is the gracious and loving Saviour who himself admits into that kingdom. Shall be

saved ; from sin, by a simple trust in Jesus. Go in and out ; a picture of the freedom which Jesus gives his people, ch. 8 : 38 ; Rom. 8 : 21. Find pasture ; abundant and satisfying provision.

II. THE GOOD SHEPHERD.—10, 11. The thief cometh . . . to steal . . . kill . . . destroy. His object is to get, not to give. I am come that they might have life. Jesus' object is to give, and to give life, the new life of holiness and joy, which begins here and endures throughout eternity. More abundantly. Jesus supplies in overflowing measure all that his people need, in this world and the next. I am the good shepherd. "The shepherd protects life ; the thief takes life ; the Good Shepherd gives life." Giveth his life for the sheep ; a mark of the Good Shepherd. Only through the giving up of his own life could Jesus give life to his people (see Isa. 53 : 10 ; 1 Tim. 2 : 6 ; 1 John 3 : 16).

12-15. An hireling ; one who works merely for the hire or pay. Seeth the wolf . . . and fleeth. He will run no risks. I know my sheep ; a second mark of the Good Shepherd. Jesus knows each of his followers, his past, present and future, and all he needs. Am known of mine ; a knowledge springing from love, trust, surrender, and answering to the Saviour's all-embracing knowledge. Even as, etc. (Rev. Ver.). The intimacy of Jesus and his disciples is like that between the Father and the Son.

III. THE OTHER SHEEP.—16-18. Other sheep . . . not of this fold ; the Gentiles, whom he came to

* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in either Part of List IV., a Red Seal is added to the Diploma in Colors given for List III., and a Gold Seal for the verses of the other Part. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

† Courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.