

LESSON OUTLINE.

The Fast Young Man.

I. HIS VANITY.

Chariots....horses....men. v. 1.

Much praised....for his beauty. 2 Sam. 14. 25.

Man looketh....appearance. 1 Sam. 16. 7.

II. HIS AMBITION.

O that I were made judge! v. 4.

Lay not wait, O wicked man. Prov. 24. 15, 16.

Greatest among you....servant. Matt. 23. 11.

III. HIS INSINCERITY.

Put forth his hand....kissed him. v. 5.

By....fair speeches deceive. Rom. 16. 18.

Flattereth....spreadeth a net. Prov. 29. 5.

IV. HIS FILIAL IMPIETY.

Absalom said unto the king. v. 7.

Honor thy father. Exod. 20. 12.

The eye that mocketh. Prov. 30. 17.

V. HIS HYPOCRISY.

Vowed a vow. v. 8.

Whited sepulchers. Matt. 23. 27, 28.

Be not rash. Eccles. 5. 2-5.

VI. HIS POLITICAL CORRUPTION.

Sent spies throughout....tribes. v. 10.

Mine own....against me. Psalm 41. 9.

Many rise up against me. Psalm 3. 1.

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

General Statement.

Eleven or twelve eventful years lie between our last lesson and that of to-day. These years witnessed Amnon's crime and death, Absalom's exile, and Joab's artifice to secure his recall. Dr. Geikie also places here the numbering of Israel and the pestilence which followed it. While David's own life had proved that his fall was but a passing lapse from which he soon recovered himself, the seed of his sin, under God's great law, gradually yielded its sad harvest. A glance at the circumstances will suffice to show how this rebellion stood related to David's own sin. As a parent he failed to punish Amnon for his dastardly crime. It is said "he was very wroth." But the anger was only the sheet-lightning of passion, and then fear Absalom sought refuge at the court of his maternal grandfather, Talmi, King of Geshur. Here he remained three years. It is probable that he regarded himself as unjustly blamed for having done what his father should have done. This exile, with its enforced idleness, gave him opportunity to nurse his fancied wrongs, and plan for redress. He regarded himself as rightful heir to the throne. But Bathsheba's influence would be exerted in favor of Solomon. Psalms 41, 55, 38, and 39 are by some referred to this period. If properly so they show that the king must have been too sick to administer justice. Absalom was of imperious mien and beautiful presence. Rising early to meet the "cases" needing judgment, by an appeal to the scenic appetite of the Eastern, appearing in splendid equipage he set off his personal claims. By flattering the people, and speaking evil of his father, he made some believe that a change was necessary. When his plans were fully formed, on pretense of wishing to offer a sacrifice to God, he obtained permission to go to Hebron, where, by his appointment, other conspirators met him and proclaimed him king. "Sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child." To have those whom we have nursed, fed, clothed, and prayed for, turn against us, is the last dreg in life's cup of bitterness. This was now David's doom.

Verse 1. It came to pass. As the fulfillment of Nathan's prophecy (2 Sam. 12. 10, 11). **After this.** The recall of Absalom and his readmittance to favor. This was done without repentance on his part. **Chariots and horses.** He imitated the magnificence of foreign monarchs in order to make an impression on the people. **To run before him.** In oriental fashion. Dr. Trumbull says when his little party started from Cairo for the pyramids a handsome young "sai" clad in blue, scarlet, green, and gold, ran before them at the top of his speed, calling out for a clear path among the camels, donkeys, and foot passengers. Horses were a novelty among the Hebrews, having only been recently introduced from Egypt. (1) *True greatness is not dependent on outward show.*

2. Rose up early. To show his zeal and be on hand before the king, who would probably sit

in the gate during part of the day. **Way of the gate.** On one side of the street which led to the door of the king's palace, in which door David administered justice. Here he intercepted such persons as came to Jerusalem with complaints of wrong, and by flattering arts sought to ingratiate himself in their good will. **Had a controversy.** A suit, as in verse 4. Foreign wars, extensive building enterprises, the love of pleasure, and probably the weakness of advancing years, led David to neglect his duty as the only "court of appeal" in all Israel. **Absalom called.** Thus showing friendly familiarity and affecting a particular interest in each newcomer. Such generosity and civility would make him a favorite. (2) *Flattery bequies the unwary to their ruin.*

3. Thy matters are good. "Thy cause is just." This the citizen already believed. He