

Lesson I.

THE TWO FOUNDATIONS

April 1, 1906

Matthew 7 : 15-29—Memory Verses, 24, 25.*

Golden Text—Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.—James 1 : 22.

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles ?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name ? and in thy name have cast out devils ? and in thy name done many wonderful works ?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you : depart from me, ye that

work iniquity. 24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock :

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not : for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand :

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell : and great was the fall of it.

28 And it came to pass, when Je'sus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine :

29 For he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Miss Robinson

When Jesus Christ wished to warn His disciples against the teachings of the scribes and Pharisees, He said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." By this Jesus meant that, while the words and teachings of the scribes and Pharisees sounded fair and honest, their lives and hearts were filled with all manner of sin and cruelty. The very men who pretended to show others the way into the kingdom of God, were themselves secretly breaking God's laws, and were robbing the people of their possessions by requiring from them many unjust tithes and offerings.

To show how His followers might always be able to judge between true and false leaders, Jesus said, "Ye shall know them by their fruits. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit." Jesus taught by this that it is as impossible for the work of evil men to please God, as for figs and grapes to grow on thorn bushes or thistles.

Jesus saw only two kinds of people in the world : those who were only hearers, and those who were also doers, of His words; and to prove to which of these it was safest to belong, He told a short story about each.

Of the doers, He said, "Whosoever doeth

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Lessons are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. They will be found in the Supplemental Lesson Leaflet.