

Lesson III.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

July 15, 1906

Luke 10 : 25-37. Commit to memory vs. 33, 34. Read Matthew 25 : 31-46 ; Luke 10 : 1-24.

GOLDEN TEXT—Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.—Matthew 5 : 7.

25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26 ¹ He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

29 But he, ² willing to justify himself, said unto Je'sus, And who is my neighbour?

30 ³ And Je'sus answering said, A certain man ⁴ went down from Jeru'salem to Jer'icho, and ⁵ fell among thieves, which ⁶ stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

31 And by chance ⁷ there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

Revised Version—¹ And; ² desiring; ³ Je'sus made answer and said; ⁴ was going; ⁵ he fell among robbers; ⁶ both stripped him and beat him; ⁷ a certain priest was going down; ⁸ in like manner a Levite also, when he came to the place, and saw him, passed by; ⁹ was moved with; ¹⁰ Omit on him; ¹¹ on them; ¹² Omit when he departed; ¹³ I, when I come back again, will repay thee; ¹⁴ Omit now; ¹⁵ proved; ¹⁶ robbers.

32 And ⁸ likewise a Le'vite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

33 But a certain Samar'itan, as he journeyed, came where he was; and when he saw him, he ⁹ had compassion ¹⁰ on him.

34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring ¹¹ in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 And on the morrow ¹² when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, ¹³ when I come again, I will repay thee.

36 Which ¹⁴ now of these three, thinkest thou, ¹⁵ was neighbour unto him that fell among the ¹⁶ thieves?

37 And he said, He that showed mercy on him. Then said Je'sus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—November or December, A. D. 29; in Perea, beyond Jordan.

Connection—The Lesson belongs to the last part of the third year of our Lord's ministry. Jesus seems to have spent several months of the year before His death in Judea, the borders of Samaria, and the region beyond Jordan called Perea. He sends forth the Seventy (ch. 10 : 1-24) to preach and heal, and then follows the Lesson.



Samaritan High Priest

I. A QUESTION.—25, 26. A certain lawyer; a student and teacher of the Jewish law. Lawyers and scribes were much the same. Tempted him; that is, tested Him, to see if in His teaching He agreed with the scribes. Master; teacher. What shall I do to inherit eternal life? Life that is blessed and everlasting. This the lawyer pictured as a reward, which he could earn by doing certain things. Written in the law? The place to find out what to do. How readest thou? What do you

understand the law to require? Love the Lord thy God. See Deut. 6 : 5. With all thy heart; setting the affections upon, and yielding the will to, Him. Soul; the inmost self. Here God is to be King, loved and honored. Strength; intensely. Mind; because reason tells us He is worthy of being loved. Thy neighbour as thyself (see Lev. 19 : 18); then nothing will be done to his injury, and everything will be done that is for his good.

28, 29. Thou hast answered right. Whoever obeys the law perfectly has eternal life. But no one has ever done this or can do it, save Christ Himself. We all need, therefore, the new heart which God alone can give. Willing (desiring) to justify himself. His conscience told him that he was not wholly keeping the law. Who is my neighbour? The lawyer wished to make it appear that, if he had failed in love of his neighbor, it had been through ignorance, and that he was therefore not blameworthy.

II. A STORY.—30-32. A certain man; probably a Jew. Down from Jerusalem to Jericho; a descent of about 3,300 feet in 17 miles. Fell among robbers (Rev. Ver.). It was a very dangerous path, so notorious for murders that a portion of it was called the "bloody way." Stripped; of all he had, even to his clothing. Wounded; by cruel blows. Half dead; soon to be whole dead, unless someone came to his help. A certain priest. As Jericho was one of the residences of the priests who ministered in the temple at Jerusalem, they frequently passed that way. Saw . . . passed by; unwilling to spend time, labor or money, in caring for the wounded man. A Levite; a member of the family descended from Levi, Aaron's son, who performed the humbler duties in the temple. He followed the example of the priest.

32-35. A certain Samaritan; belonging to a half heathen people, whom the Jews hated and despised. Saw . . . had compassion, etc. He "got busy" at once in a most practical fashion. Oil and wine; a remedy commonly used by Greeks, Romans and Jews. On his own beast; while he himself walked by his side. Took care of him; grudging neither time nor attention. Two pence; equal to about \$2.00 in our money. More . . . I will repay. A thoroughgoing helper, this; he will not desist until the man is on his feet again.

III. A COMMAND—36, 37. Which . . . was