

LESSON IV.

*THE LOST SHEEP AND THE LOST COIN

April 26, 1914

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—When Jesus uttered the Lesson parables, He was continuing His journey through Perea towards Jerusalem.

GOLDEN TEXT—There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.—Luke 15 : 10.

Memorize vs. 8-10. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Luke 15 : 1-10.

1 Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

2 And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

3 And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

Revised Version—Now all the publicans and sinners were drawing near unto him; both the the; unto them this parable, a, and having lost, his; even so there shall be joy; righteous; Or what; until; together her friends and neighbours; Even so, I.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin, Luke 15. 1-10. T.—The call of Levi, Luke 5. 27-32. W.—The good shepherd, John 10 : 11-18. Th.—Praise of the good shepherd, Ps. 23. F.—The Good Shepherd's joy, John 17 : 12-26. S.—The faithful shepherd's promise, Ezek. 34 : 11-23. S.—The seeking Saviour, Matt. 18 : 7-14.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE LOST SHEEP.—1. All; that is, in the place where Jesus happened to be. "All" is a favorite word of Luke's. He loves to think and speak of gospel blessings as meant for every one. The publican; the officials in Palestine, which was ruled by the Romans, who collected taxes for the Roman governor. These officials paid the governor a certain sum for the right to collect the taxes, and his profit consisted in everything above that sum which could be squeezed out of the people. The publicans were hated, first because they were agents of a foreign government, and also because they were, as a rule, dishonest and oppressive. Sinners; those notorious for their wicked lives.

2, 3. Pharisees. The very name means, "the separated ones," and marks how this Jewish sect held aloof from all who did not belong to it. The Pharisees prided themselves upon their strictness in obeying the law of Moses, and despised such people as the "publicans and sinners." Scribes; the rabbis or teachers of the law. These belonged mostly to the Pharisees. Murmured; talked in a fault-finding way amongst themselves. Receiveth; permits to come near, welcomes. Eateth; which the Pharisees would not do, because about the person or garments of these outsiders there might be some ceremonial uncleanness. (See Matt. 9. 9-13.) This parable. The two parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin are regarded as one.

4, 5. What man of you. Jesus would show that He is doing only what every one thinks reasonable in the ordinary business of life. An hundred sheep. Palestine is still noted for its sheep. The hill country furnishes pasture ground for countless flocks of a broad-tailed breed. Sometimes the tail of such a sheep furnishes as much as 10 pounds of pure fat, which is highly prized. One; only one out of a hundred. In the wilderness; not a desert, but the usual summer pasture. The ninety-nine were in no special danger. Lost; missing when the shepherd at night rounded up the flock in some cave or rough stone enclosure, and therefore exposed to cold and rain, to wild beasts and robbers,—a peril to the shepherd also, but he goes on seeking the lost sheep, until he find it. Layeth it on his shoulders; as Jan Ridd, in the story of Lorna Doone, rescued his sheep from a great snow-drift and carried them home, but two at a time. Rejoicing; as the Pharisees should have rejoiced at the publicans and sinners seeking better things, instead of treating them



SHEPHERD CARRYING HIS
LOST SHEEP ON HIS
SHOULDER

harshly and coldly or with contempt. 6, 7. Cometh home; to the village in which he lived. Calleth together; to a feast in his house. Rejoice with you. The shepherd's gladness is so great that he must share it with others. Joy . . . in heaven. The shepherd's joy is a picture of God's joy when one lost soul is saved. Repenteth; changes

* This Lesson has been selected to be treated as a Special Missionary Lesson for the Quarter.