

Lesson VIII.

THE VISIT TO NAZARETH

August 25, 1912

Luke 4 : 16-30—Memory Verses, 18, 19.

Golden Text—He came unto his own, and they that were his own received him not.—
John 1 : 11.



16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up : and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esai'as. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor ; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

22 And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Jo'seph's son ?

23 And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself : whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.

24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Eli'as, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land :

26 But unto none of them was Eli'as sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.

27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elise'us the prophet ; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syr'ian.

28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.

30 But he passing through the midst of them went his way.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Jesus, as He wandered and preached and taught, came back again to the little town of Nazareth where He had been brought up. And when the Sabbath day came, He went into the synagogue and stood up to read and explain the scriptures to the people. They brought the book of Isaiah the prophet to Jesus, that He might read from it. And opening the book, Jesus read from it these words, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor ; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind ; to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Then Jesus gave the book back to the minister again, and began to explain, that these words, spoken so long before by Isaiah, had now come true in Him.

And all the congregation wondered, and said among themselves, "How can this

thing be true ? This man was Joseph's son and has lived all His life among us." And Jesus said sadly, "You are saying now, 'Prove to us that you are what you say. Work some of the miracles here in Nazareth that you have done in Capernaum.' But I say to you, that even miracles would not convince you, for a prophet has no honor or respect shown him in his own country. Even the great prophet Elijah was rejected by his own people Israel, so he was sent to the poor heathen woman of Sarepta ; and because she took him in, he worked for her the miracle that kept them all alive during the long famine of three years and six months.

"There were also many lepers in the land of Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet, but it was only the heathen captain, Naaman, whom he healed." So would it happen now, if the people of Israel still rejected Jesus and refused to accept Him as the Messiah. He would go away from them and