

often, as in the case of Absalom, becomes their ruin. 3. How great is the love of God, who, though we have rebelled against him, yet like David seeks our salvation—Rom. 5, 8.

No. 12.—Plague Stayed. 2 Sam. 24, 18—25.

David had numbered the Israelites, who were therefore plagued. The destroying angel was now at the threshing floor of Araunah—called Ornan—1 Chr. 21, 10. This was on Mount Moriah, where Isaac had been offered, and where the temple was afterwards built. *Fifty shekels* (v. 24) may have been the price of the floor, and six hundred shekels (1 Chr. 21—25,) the price of the whole ground.

LESSONS.—1. National judgments should lead to humiliation and prayer. 2. God is the hearer and answerer of prayers offered through faith in the sacrifice of Christ. 3. Like David, we should not serve God merely with what costs us nothing.

FOURTH QUARTER.

No. 1.—The Sower. Matt. 13, 1—13.

Parables are narratives of common occurrences representing spiritual truth. Jesus *sat*, the multitudes *stood*; these were the ancient postures of teacher and hearers. See explanation of this parable—v. 18—23.

LESSONS.—1. When the word preached does not profit, the fault is in the hearers. 2. We should