

LESSON XII. March 24, 1918.

Jesus Ministering to the Multitude Mark 6: 32.56

Commentary.—I. Jesus teaching the multitude (vs. 32-34.) 32. departed into a desert place—Jesus and his disciples were seeking a place of retirement and directed their course toward the region that the northeast the region that lies at the northeast of the Sea of Galilee. It was called a desert place, since it lay outside the neighboring villages. This was near Bethsaida-Julias, a place lying just outside the jurisdiction of Herod Antinas. As Herod had caused John the tipas. As Herod had caused John the Baptist to be put to death, it might be concluded that he would desire to plan the death of our Lord also. For retirement therefore and possibly for retrement therefore and possibly for safety Jesus and his disciples sought this favored spot. by ship privately—This company went by themselves across the sea in a northeasterly direction from Capernaum. 33. saw them. . . knew him. Many had never seem Jesus, while other had beauth his seen Jesus, while others had heard his teachings and had seen his works, and therefore knew him. ran afoot—As the people saw the boat departing and the direction it was taking, they ran around the head of the lake, perhaps keeping the boat in sight all the way, came together unto him—The eager multitudes from "all cities" were ready to meet Jesus and his disciples as they disembarked. 34. 'came out—from the boat hard and a significant content of the From the boat-moved with compassion—The spiritual needs of the people would appeal to his mercy and their eagerness to approach him would intensify that appeal as sheep not having a shepherd—This is an expressive figure when we consider how helples and exposed to danger was a shepherd-less flock in that country. The people had no spiritual help from the priests. Their religious leaders were charac-terized by our Lord as "blind leaders." began to team them many things—Luke adds "Of the Lingdom" (9: 11), and Matthew says he "healed their sick" (14: 14). The sought-for rest was not realized, but many needy and affiliated presses. and afflicted persons were relieved. Jesus was ready to forego personal comfort for the sake of relieving the distresses of others. He acted out the great love he had for humanity.

II. Feeding the multitude (vs. 35-44). 35. the day was now far spent—
This was the first of two evenings, then recognized, beginning at three o'clock. The second evening began at sunset. his disciples . . . said—Only a part of the conversation between Christ and his disciples is recorded by Mark. We may suppose that the full account is to be gathered by combining the records of the four avangelists. send them away—The disciples saw the needs of the people, pities them and planned for their relief with will all the foresight they possessed. In speaking thus to Jesus, his disciples recognized his authority and his ability to command the multitudes. 37. give ye them to eat—Jesus realized the fact that the people were hungry. Their earnestness had prompted them to neglect their physical needs. He was determined to relieve them and also to teach his disciples, the mul-titudes and the world a lesson. The disciples were commanded to give what they did not have, but Jesus was about to show them that he could make it possible for them to fulfil his commands. shall we go and buy— They had not yet seen Jesus feed the multitudes by increasing an insigni-ficant store of provisions and no other way of providing the amount neces sary occurred to them. two hundred pennyworth—K penny was the Greek mission and desired to make a full "denarius" equivalent to about sixteen cents of our money, and would then buy as much as a dollar or more with us. 38. how many loaves have ye— Jesus was answering their question. They must have been astonished at the suggestion that there was food enough on hand to meet the demands of the hungry multitudes. five, and two fishes—The loaves were circular, six inches in diameter, flat and less than an inch thick. Three loaves would make a meal for one person. These were barley loaves (John 6:9), the food of the poorest classes. Andrew brought to Jesus the answer to his question and asked, "But what are they among so many" "John 6: 9). This was the most natural question, for any country with the state of the country and the countr for he could see the utter disparity between the need and the supply.

39. Sit down by companies—An or-derly arrangement was essential on account of the great number to be fed, that there might be no crowding, and that none might be overlooked. Upon the green grass— This expression shows the tendency of Mark to give details. The freshness of the grass indicates that the event took



place in the spring. 40. In ranks—In groups. Wyclif's translation is, "By parties." By hundreds, and by fifties—Some of the ranks contained one hundred persons and some fifty. It is thought by some that the expression means that there were one hundred groups of fifty persons each or fifty groups of one hundred persons each.

41. Blessed—The words, though not given, were probably those of the ordinary grace before meat in use in dinary grace before meat in use in Israel.—Maclear. It was a recognition that the Father was the giver of the temporal good about to be dispensed to the multitudes. Brake the loaves, and gave them—The tense of the verb "gave," in the Greek, denotes a continuous act. He continued to give to His disciples until all the people were satisfied. 42. Were filled—There was no scantiness in the amount given out. There is no scarcity in the kingdom of grace. God gives abundantly. 43. Twelve baskets full of the fragments—These were the small wickerbaskets used by the Jews to carry their food, and were here used by the apostles to carry a supply of provitinuous act. He continued to give to apostles to carry a supply of provisions for themselves. Although there was an abundant multiplication of the food supply, there must be no waste. 44. About five thousand men— "Beside women and children" (Matt. 14. 21), who would sit apart from the men. It is reasonable to suppose there

men. It is reasonable to suppose there were ten thousand persons in all.

III. Walking on the sea (vs. 45-56). The miracle of feeding the five thousand with the small supply of provisions deeply impressed the multitudes and they conceived the idea of making the miracle-working Jesus their king. He prevailed upon His disciples, rather against their will, to enter a boat and return to the west side of the sea while He would retire alone into the mountain for retire alone into the mountain for prayer. The reluctance of the disciples to start away without Him may have arisen from two considerations. 1. If Jesus was to be made king, they wish ed to be present. 2. They may have thought that it would appear like an act of desertion on their part to leave their Master thus alone. In the night as the disciples were going across the lake, one of the sudden storms, common on the Sea of Galilee. arose and the disciples were in great dan-ger. With all their efforts they made ger. With all their efforts they made little progress. Just in the early gray dawn of the morning the disciples saw the dim outline of a figure approaching them waiking on the water. In their fear they cried out, believing that an incorporeal being was drawing near. They were soon relieved by hearing the voice of Jesus, saying, "Be of good cheer: it is 1; be not afraid." As He entered the boat, the wind ceased, and the disciples quickly came to the west side of the sea and disembarked in the land of sea and disembarked in the land of Gennesaret. Here Jesus was thronged with people who needed help. The sick who were unable to come to Him themselves were carried on beds. The diseased sought to touch His gar-ments, for they believed that even by this contact they would be cured. The record is. "As many as touched Him were made whole." This shows Christ's willingness to relieve dis-

Questions.-Where and for what purpose did Jesus call his disciples apar by themselves? By what kind of conveyance did they go? Why could they not secure the rest they desired? How did Jesus regard the people? What did the disciples of Jesus request him to do? What seemingly impossible command did Jesus give to his disciples? What supply of food was brought to Jesus? What did Jesus do pefore giving out the food? How many were fed? How much food was How were the people affected? (See John 6: 14.) Describe the events of the night following the miracle of feeding the multitude.

PRACTICAL SURVEY. Topic.-Christian Philanthropies. I. Extended to the weary.

II. Extended to the hungry.

I. Extended to the weary. "Come and rest." There were two classes to whom the invitation given, those mourning at the death of John the Baptist and the apostles who report of their teaching and work. Christ himself was deeply affected by John's death. He had been a faithful herald, giving his life to magnify Christ. Rest was recognized by Christ christ. Rest was recognized by Christ as a necessity for man. It is intended to recognize a wholesome influence on the character. It is needed for the nurture of mind and spirit, as well as body. Rest is as much a duty as work. The mind must at times look away from things, as well as at them, if it is to discern circular large country. The is to discern clearly and soundly. The rest to which Jesus led them was to prepare them for further work. They needed to come into closer converse with the Master. Retirement is essential to the growth of true piety, and yet not alone by solitary meditations or raptures of silent communion with Christ can spiritual work be strong and deep, but by earnest work for him in the world. As the Master and his disciples were interrupted by the mulsary to the development of the disciples seemed before them. Clyrist's mourning for the dead changed into compassion for the living. He always took the broad and inclusive view, and steadily held to his work, so that individual instances of affliction did not deject or hinder him. The multi-tude saw Jesus and ran to meet him. II. Extended to the hungry. Jesus

"was moved with compassion toward them and he began to teach them many things." The people had intruded, yet lesus was not disappointed or annoyed. He endured the pointed or annoyed. He endured the world pressure of surrounding humanity in all its phases. In the people we see a striking representation of the moral condition of the human family. In the provision for their hunger we see an exhibition of the blessings of the gospel. In the distribution of food we see the nature of the office of the Christian ministry. In the abundance of remaining fragments we see the boundlessness of gospel supplies. The miracle as a whole is a type of gospel provisions for the souls of men. an emblem of the work of the church in this world. All races, all ages, from this world. All races, all ages, from the gray-haired to innocent childhood may find in Christ food for their souls

shall the supply fail until all

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nations have been refreshed. The power was in the hands of Jesus. The food, though supernaturally provided, was carried to the hungry by ordinary means. The disciples had to learn the chacket disprenention between the the absolute disproportion between the means at their command and the need of the crowd. It is when the power of man is professedly inadequate that Christ interposes. The disciples Christ interposes. The disciples brought to Christ the result of their efforts, the five loaves and two fishes, and in his hands they multiplied exceedingly. Jesus here manifested him-self as the sustainer of life, but he employed men to minister to men, thereby teaching our dependence upon one another. He taught respect for his ministers as they act on his behalf. The miracle as to time and place encourages confidence in Christ in the most trying and destitute situations.

T. R. A. These Pills Cure Rheumatism .- To the many who suffer from rheumatism a trial of Parmalee's Vegetable Pills is recommended. They have pronounced action upon the liver and kidneys and by regulating the action of these or-gans act as an alternative in prevent-ing the admixture of uric acid and ing the admixture of uric acid and blood that causes this painful disorder. They must be taken according to directions and used steadily and they will speedily give evidence of their beneficialy effects.

DELIGHTED DAUGHTER.

(Yonkers Statesman)

Our chauffeur wants to marry me pa," said the daughter of the rich man. "Marry you! Well, I like his nerve!" exclaimed the incensed parent. "Oh, I'm glad of that, para. I was so afraid you wouldn't."

She-Do you think we ought to pay \$3 each for those theatre tickets? He—They're worth it! The play may not be any good, but we will be warm for a couple of hours.-Life.



DEVOTION.

(From the Boston Transcript.)
Man in contrite spirit kneeling
Hears the anthems sung on high, Light of Faith the Lord revealing,

Light from heaven on man descending Bright the glow within his breast. To the Father, grateful bending, Finds within eternal rest

As the sun in glory shining. So to man is Light of Heaven: On His mercy e'er reclining. Sins of earth shall be forgiven.

HE WILL HAVE COMPASSION Fear thou not. . . saith the Lord: for I am with thee: I will not make a full end of thee, but correct thee in measure.—For a small moment have I forsaken thee: but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment: but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed: but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my

peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee. Oh, thou afflicted, tossed with tempest and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. I will bear the indunation of the Lord, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.

JUDGE NOT.

I cannot judge myself, it is impossible; I cannot judge my brother it is impertinent; I cannot judge God, it is blasphemous. There is not ground for a judgment seat in my constitution. I cannot weigh, I cannot measure; I know not the source, the course, the destiny of human life, even when applied to my own personality. All I

What is the spirit of men? Is it a What is the spirit of men? Is it a bird, floating on wings so free? Is it a swan propelling itself in majesty in the water? Is it a sphere, like the sun, moon or stars? An egg contains a perfect bird, it is separate, independent, all inclusive. As to God, thou can'st not add one cubit to His stature, neither can you add an inch to your neither can you add an inch to your neither can you ald an inch to your

own.

The spirit of men is not built in water-tight compartments; it is not built as Noah built the ark, timber to timber, plank to plank, pitched over with pitch. The spirit of man is from God, perfect and entire; like Him, part of Him, controlled by Him, bound to arrive at Him. The cells of the brain are numbered by Him, powers and endowments are all from Him, and for Him. He is the only judge; He

for Him. He is the only judge; He has power to banish and to embrace.

Are human spirts stored up by the nillion so that when bodies are born,

million so that when bodies are born, these spirits roll into their places, and man becomes a living soul?

The finer, delicate strains of grandeur, honor and bliss are from Him. He giveth and we receive. "All my springs are in Thee." The time of my arrival on the stage of being was chosen by Him, the color of my skin, my country, my tongue, my mission, my destiny. He knew my name before my parents did. The spirit of man is unconditioned, irresponsible, and with unconditioned, irresponsible, and out choice in all these primal mat-

Do I know myself, have I a plumb line, can I rig up a Jacob's ladder, can If it my horizon, can I attract others, win them, bless them. This also is from the Lord! - How wonderful the power of life; the glance of an eye has changed the destiny of another; there have been meetings of only a moment which have left impressions for life. which have left impressions for life. Who can understand this mysterious mission of a single spirit, as it rolls on in its magnificent orbit, sending out light and healing? Man looks at his actons; God looks

at motives. Blessed are the pure in

Judge not, grudge not, complain not; be thankful, be humble. Behold the Judge standeth at the door.

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A WAR CAKE

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'milkless, eggless, butterless" cake, and we like it better. Try it! Take half a cupful of baking moalsses, half a cupful of syrup, three-quarters of a cupful of water, two tablespoonthis of any fat, one cupful of seeded raisins, cut in half.

Add any other ends and ends of fruit

or nuts.

Also half a teaspoonful of salt, half Also haif a teaspoonful of sait, half a teaspoonful of cinnamon. one teaspoonful of cocoa; boil all these together for five minutes. When told, add half a teaspoonful of soda dissolved in one teaspoonful of hot water, one and a half cupfuls of flour, sifted after measuring, with one and a half teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Grease the pan well, line it with thin brown paper on the bottom, sprinkle it all over lightly with flour, pour in the batter, bake in a slow-oven fluvequarters of an hour, or one and a half

quarters of an hour, or one and a half hours in a fireless cooker with two radiators, each heate dtwenty minutes.

This cake keeps well and is gally better when a week old. If some bing more alaborate is wanted, use capoolate icins. late icing.

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\$18.25. Hogs, receipts 5.000; strong. Hogyy \$18.50 to \$18.75; mixed and yorkers \$19 to \$19.10; light yorkers \$1 1 to \$18.75; pigs \$18.25 to \$18.50; roughs \$16.75 to \$17; stags \$13 to \$14. Sheep and lambs, receipts 2.00; lambs ten cents higher at \$13 to \$13.75; others unchanged

"Opportunity makes the man." quoted the Wise Guy. "Yes. but he man generally has to first make the opportunity," added the Simple Mos.

75; others unchanged.



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