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Teacher Training Course

Presbyterian Church in Canada

Under the Direction of the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee

DEPARTMENT OF SCRIPTURE—I. The Life of Jesus Christ; II. New Testament Geography and Institutions.

N.B.—It is recommended that the Revised Version be consulted in these studies.

LESSON IX.

THE TEACHING OF JESUS

THE KINGDOM OF GOD—In Matthew it is called the "Kingdom of Heaven." In John's Gospel the word occurs only twice, the idea being found instead in the term "Eternal Life." The people of Israel had been God's people, but were rejected for their unfaithfulness. Now, no nation as such will be the Kingdom. Its sphere is wherever God rules. Though the source and final goal of God's blessings to His creatures is in heaven, the kingdom is being wrought out upon earth also.

CONDITIONS OF CITIZENSHIP—The new birth (John 3 : 3-5); the following of Christ (Matt. 11 : 28-30; Mark 10 : 17-22; and a life of faith and trust, Matt. 6 : 33; 18 : 3, 4; Mark 9 : 36, 37.

BLESSINGS OF THE KINGDOM—God is revealed as both Sovereign and Father of those who belong to the kingdom, and these are not confined to the Jews, but are gathered from every nation, Luke 12 : 32; John 4 : 39-42. They have "forgiveness of sins," Mark 2 : 10; Luke 7 : 47. As sons of one Father, they are brethren who are ruled by the law of love, Matt. 7 : 12. At last, they will be received into the glory of the Father, Luke 16 : 9.

JESUS THE HEAD OF THE KINGDOM—He calls all men to Himself, for He alone can reveal to them the true nature of God His Father, Matt. 11 : 27-30. As the Son He is the object of the Father's love, (Matt. 3 : 17; John 5 : 20); therefore He can make known to men perfectly the will of God, (John 5 : 20), for the life and power of the Father are His (John 5 : 20, 26), and He will judge men, Matt. 25 : 31; John 5 : 27. He is the Messiah,

but does not use the title in the early part of His ministry, lest the people should be misled by the earthly associations of the term. The death of the Son of Man will be treated later. Wherever Jesus goes there are the blessings of the kingdom.

PARABLES—Jesus found it necessary to separate between those who sought Him with earnestness of spirit, and from curiosity. So he used the parable as a beautiful form for conveying the profounder truths of His kingdom. Only genuine disciples would seek to fathom their meaning, which does not lie open to the first glance, Matt. 13 : 10-16. Parable is an illustration of spiritual truths from the natural realm or human life.

Parable is used in the synoptic Gospels, allegory in John; the former is an extension of simile, the latter of metaphor. Mark has few parables. Matthew groups his together, especially in ch. 13, and they deal chiefly with the kingdom of God as the new Israel. Luke preserves, especially in chs. 15 and 16, some of the most beautiful parables of grace, which picture Jesus as the Saviour of men.

LESSON X.

THE WORKS OF JESUS

HIS CHARACTER—As we have seen, Jesus did not come forward at first as the Messiah; but His personality at once impressed all who met Him. So gracious (Luke 4 : 22), and yet possessing such authority (Luke 4 : 32); so humble, and yet claiming such homage, Matt. 11 : 27-30; Mark 8 : 38. He was a sinless Man who forgave sins in others (Mark 2 : 10; Luke 7 : 48; John 8 : 46), but He was full of sympathy for the erring, Matt. 9 : 13; John 8 : 11. A Man of sorrows and distressed by the suffering and evil of the world, He