

LESSON XII.

THE FEEDING OF FIVE THOUSAND

June 17, 1900

John 6: 5-14. Commit to memory vs. 9-12. Compare Matt. 14: 13-21; Mark 6: 30-44; Luke 9: 10-17.

5 When Je'sus<sup>1</sup> then lifted up his eyes, and <sup>2</sup>saw a great <sup>3</sup>company come unto him, <sup>4</sup>he saith unto Philip: Whence <sup>5</sup>shall we buy bread, that these may eat? <sup>6</sup>And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

7 Philip answered him Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two <sup>7</sup>small fishes: but what are <sup>8</sup>they among so many?

10 <sup>9</sup>And Je'sus said, Make the <sup>10</sup>men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat

down, in number about five thousand.

11 <sup>11</sup>And Je'sus took the loaves; and <sup>12</sup>when he had given thanks, he distributed <sup>13</sup>to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; <sup>14</sup>and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

12 When they were filled, he <sup>15</sup>said unto his disciples, Gather up the <sup>16</sup>fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

13 <sup>17</sup>Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with <sup>18</sup>the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over <sup>19</sup>and above unto them that had eaten.

14 <sup>20</sup>Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Je'sus did, said, This is <sup>21</sup>our truth <sup>22</sup>that prophet that <sup>23</sup>should come into the world.

**Revised Version.**—<sup>1</sup> Therefore lifting up; <sup>2</sup> Seeing that; <sup>3</sup> Multitude cometh; <sup>4</sup> Omit he; <sup>5</sup> Are we to buy? <sup>6</sup> Omit of them; <sup>7</sup> Omit small; <sup>8</sup> These; <sup>9</sup> Omit and; <sup>10</sup> People; <sup>11</sup> Jesus therefore; <sup>12</sup> Having given thanks; <sup>13</sup> Omit to the disciples and the disciples; <sup>14</sup> Likewise of the fishes; <sup>15</sup> Saith; <sup>16</sup> Broken pieces which remain over; <sup>17</sup> So they gathered them up; <sup>18</sup> Broken pieces from; <sup>19</sup> Omit and above; <sup>20</sup> When therefore the people saw the sign which he did, they said; <sup>21</sup> The; <sup>22</sup> Cometh.

GOLDEN TEXT

Give us this day our daily bread. Matt. 6: 11.

DAILY READINGS

M.—John 6: 5-14. The feeding of five thousand.

T.—Mark 8: 1-9. Four thousand fed.

W.—Mark 8: 10-21. Dull of understanding.

Th.—1 Kings 17: 8-16. The widow's meal to spare.

F.—2 Kings 4: 38-44. Enough and to spare.

S.—Psalm 107: 1-9. The hungry filled.

S.—Mr.: 6: 30-44. Blessing makes abundance.

TIME

Spring of A. D. 29. Shortly after death of John the Baptist, and close to the time of the Passover. (John 6: 4.)

PLACE

Near Bethsaida, at northern end of Sea of Galilee, on eastern side.

CATECHISM

Q. 26. How doth Christ execute the office of a king?

A. Christ executeth the office of a king in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

LESSON PLAN

I. A Question of Supply, 5-9.

Whence shall the multitude be fed?

II. Enough and to Spare, 10-14.

Hunger satisfied and heaps of fragments left, to the wonder of all present.

LESSON HYMNS

14 (Ps. Sel.); 201; 161; 509; 142.

See Lesson I

EXPOSITION

**Connecting Links.**—Jesus, having heard of the death of John the Baptist, went across the Lake of Galilee. (Matt. 14: 12, 13.) This movement was probably not, as some have thought, to avoid the hostility of Herod, but rather for rest for Himself and His disciples. (Mark 6: 31.) John's death awakened thoughts of His own death, and He sought the solitude of the desert for rest and communion with God. The people followed Him there, and He fed them miraculously. This miracle is the only one recorded by all four Evangelists. "It marks," says Edersheim, "the climax in our Lord's doing"; and he adds: "we cannot fail to mark the contrast between King Herod and the banquet that ended with the murder of the Baptist (Lesson XI.), and King Jesus, and the banquet that ended with His lonely prayer on the mountain side, the calming of the storm on the lake,

and the deliverance from death of His disciples."

I. A Question of Supply, 5-9.

V. 5. *Saw a great company.* The crowds had possibly been coming all day. (Mark 6: 33.) Some seeing Him depart had followed Him on foot around the lake. (v. 2.) Many others who were on their way to the Passover at Jerusalem (v. 4) would turn aside to hear Him. Jesus, though needing the rest for which He had come (Mark 6: 31) and though engaged in quietly teaching His disciples (v. 3; sitting was the attitude of the Jewish Rabbi when teaching), received them graciously, teaching them and healing their sick. (Luke 9: 11.) Jesus was never too busy to think of those in need. *Saith unto Philip.* Why did he address Philip in particular? He was nearest to Him at the time, say some. He had charge of the provisions, say others; whilst, again, it has been sug-