

Lesson XII.

LESSONS BY THE WAY

March 22, 1914

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The Lesson follows directly upon the first of the two Sabbath incidents narrated in last Lesson.

GOLDEN TEXT—Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.—Matthew 7: 21.

Memorize vs. 18, 19. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Luke 13: 18-30. Study Luke 13: 18-35.

18 Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I liken it?

19 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it.

20 And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God?

21 It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

22 And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.

23 Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,

24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

25 When once the master of the house is risen up,

Revised Version—He said therefore; ¹likened it; ²unto; ³own; ⁴became a tree; ⁵birds of the heaven; ⁶thereof; ⁷it was all leavened; ⁸on his way; ⁹Omit the; ¹⁰on unto; ¹¹And one said; ¹²they; ¹³by the narrow door; ¹⁴shall; ¹⁵Omit Lord; ¹⁶to; ¹⁷did eat and drink; ¹⁸didst teach; ¹⁹and he; ²⁰Omit you; ²¹the weeping; ²²yourself cast forth without; ²³Omit from the.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—Lessons by the way, Luke 13: 18-30. T.—Lessons by the way, Luke 13: 31-35. W.—Despise not God's warnings, Prov. 1: 24-33. Th.—Isaiah's parable, Isa. 5: 1-7. F.—Saying and doing, Matt. 7: 21-29. S.—A prayer for protection, Ps. 17: 1-8. S.—The Baptist's warnings, Matt. 3: 1-12.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. TWO

PARABLES.—

18, 19. The

Kingdom of

God; the king-

dom over which

God reigns, in

which all men

should be loyal

and loving sub-

jects. Like.

Eastern peoples

are very fond

of comparisons

or parables.

Mustard seed;

one of the small-

est of seeds (see

Matt. 13: 31,

32). "Small as

a mustard seed"

was a Jewish

proverb for the

least drop of blood, the least defilement, etc. Cast into his own garden (Rev. Ver.). So God's kingdom was set up first amongst God's own people Israel. Became (Rev. Ver.) a great tree. Sometimes the mustard grew as tall as a horse and its rider. Birds (Rev. Ver.) of the air. Wild birds mentioned in the Gospels are: dove, eagle, raven, sparrow, turtle dove. Lodged; literally, "pitched their tents." So the kingdom of God will grow from small beginnings to cover the whole world.

20, 21. Leaven; like our yeast. A woman; to

whom the task of baking would naturally fall. Hid; by kneading it in. Three measures (seahs) of meal; equal to a Jewish ephah, about 4½ of our pecks. A usual quantity for a baking (see Gen. 18: 6; Judg. 6: 19; 1 Sam. 1: 24). Whole was leavened. So the kingdom would not only spread to every land, but would completely change the hearts and lives of all who received it.

II. A QUESTION AND ANSWER.—22, 23. Through cities and villages teaching (Rev. Ver.). This was Jesus' last journey to Jerusalem, and teaching was His main occupation, as He went on His way. Toward Jerusalem; through the province of Perea, east of the Jordan. One; who had just been listening to the two parables, which seemed to teach that the saved would be a great number. But Jesus had been rejected by so many and received by so few, that it looked as if the number would be small. He said unto them; to all present, as well as to the one who had asked the question.

24, 25. Strive; "agonize," like athletes putting forth all their strength to win a race or a game. Narrow door (Rev. Ver.); like the door into a house from the street. The entrance into the kingdom is wide enough for every person to enter, but too narrow to admit any one with his sin. Master...risen up; when the time for the assembling of the guests has passed. Shut to the door; making it fast with bar and bolt. Begin...to knock. Only a very loud knock would be heard in the inner court of an Eastern house, where the guests would be gathered. Lord, Lord. They who really acknowledged Jesus will obey His commands. I know you not. They were not true guests, but intruders.

