

GOLDEN TEXT

The seed is the word of God.
Luke 8:2.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Matt. 13: 1-9. Parable of the Sower.

T.—Matt. 13: 10-17. Speaking in Parables.

W.—Matt. 13: 18-23. Parable of the Sower.

Th.—Acts 14: 8-20. Wayside hearers.

F.—John 6: 59-66. No root.

S.—Acts 2: 37-47. Good ground.

S.—John 15: 1-8. Much fruit.

TIME

Last quarter of A. D. 28. The second year of Christ's ministry. Not long after last Lesson. (See Connection below.)

PLACE

On the shore of the Sea (Lake) of Galilee, near Capernaum.

CATECHISM

Q. 22. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

A. Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Sower, 1-3.

The Great Teacher, and after Him all teachers of the kingdom of God.

II. The Seed, 3, 19.

The word of the kingdom.

III. The Sowing and the Harvest—The remaining verses.

Of four sorts (1) By the wayside; (2) In stony places; (3) Among thorns; (4) In good ground; with, in each case, a corresponding failure or success of harvest.

LESSON HYMNS

25; 43 (Ps. Sel.); 255; 529; 119.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—1-3 What events between this Lesson and last? Where is Jesus now? What new way of teaching? What is a parable? How many in this chapter? For whom does the sower stand? What did he sow? In what four places sown?

4-8 What happened to the seed by wayside? On stony ground? Among thorns? In good ground?

19, 19 What was the subject of Christ's preaching? Who cometh? How can he be resisted? (Jas. 4: 7; 1 Pet. 5: 9; 2 Cor. 2: 11.)

20, 21 Give example of stony-ground hearer. (Mark 6: 20.)

22, 23 Who would represent thorny-ground hearers? (Luke 9: 61, 62; Acts 5: 1; 2 Pet. 2: 15.) Why unfruitful? What about the good seed? How is fruitfulness brought about? (John 15: 3; Eph. 5: 9; Phil. 1: 11.)

Seniors—1, 2 Describe the congregation. Why so large? Where were the first five parables spoken? The last three? What are some marks of the Kingdom? (Ps. 45: 6; Luke 1: 33; Rev. 2: 16; 1 Cor. 15: 50.)

3 and 18 What kind of truth does Christ teach in His parables? Upon what does all spiritual life depend? How maintained? (Matt. 4: 4; Gal. 2: 20.) Whom does the sower represent? What is the seed? What is the soil?

4 and 19 Whom do the "fowls" represent? What are consequences of hardening the heart? (Prov. 28: 14; John 12: 40.)

5, 6 and 20, 21 What said about the word of God? (Heb. 4: 12.) What the aim of Satan? How can trials be overcome?

7 and 22 What do the thorns stand for? What is meant by the deceitfulness of riches?

8 and 23 What two things necessary to good fruit? What are the fruits of the spirit? (Gal. 5: 22, 23.) How many causes of unfruitfulness in the parables? How many degrees of fruitfulness? How are the sowing and the reaping connected? (Gal. 6: 7, 8.)

Bible Side Lights—BY THE SEASIDE—Mark 2: 13; Acts 10: 6; Ex. 14: 9.

BY THE WAYSIDE—1 Sam. 4: 13; Matt. 20: 30; Mark 10: 46.

THE FOWLS—Gen. 40: 19; Deut. 28: 25, 26; Isa. 18: 6.

THEY WITHERED AWAY—Gen. 41: 23; Isa. 15: 6; 40: 7, 8; 1 Pet. 1: 24.

YIELDED FRUIT—Lev. 26: 3, 4, 14, 20; Ps. 67: 6; Hab. 3: 17; Rev. 22: 2.

Practical Points—1. Says Mrs. Browning:

"Earth's crammed with heaven,

And every common bush afire with God."

2. We shall understand Christ's parables just as our hearts are in tune. If we are in earnest to know His meaning, they will be plain. If not, they will be dark.

3. Think of the amount of seed which has been sown in our hearts, the teaching of home, of the Sabbath School, of the Church, our own reading. There should surely be a good crop.

4. The wayside soil; it has been "tramped solid by evil habits, profanity, unclean thoughts." The Word of God cannot get in. Satan has an easy time, in such cases, picking it up.

5. The thin soil over the rock; a poor, shallow sort, which brings nothing to perfection. It is well, even when very young, to deepen the soil in our hearts, by reading much and thinking much, especially of the great heroes of faith as in the eleventh chapter of the Hebrews and of the great works of the matchless Master.

6. It is not only in the hearts of grown people but of children also that the Word is apt to be choked. Too much school work or too much play will crowd out God as effectually as business or wealth.

7. In 1868, a remarkable year of heat in Great Britain, there were many single grains of wheat which produced thirty straws, topped with closely set and fully developed ears, and these yielded between 900 and 1,000 grains.—PELOUBET.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What is a parable?

2. Name all the parables of this chapter.

3. Describe the conditions for a plentiful harvest.