

LESSON. VII—May 17th, 1896.

Parable of the Pounds. LUKE 19: 11-27.

(Commit to memory verses 13-15).

GOLDEN TEXT: "He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least, is unjust also in much," Luke 16: 10.

PROVE THAT—We are responsible for our privileges. Luke 12: 48.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 59. *Which day of the seven hath God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?* A. From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian Sabbath.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 112, 175, 224, 174.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Parable of the pounds. Luke 19: 11-27. *Tuesday.* The talents. Matt. 25: 14-30. *Wednesday.* Integrity rewarded. Gen. 41: 37-45. *Thursday.* Serving God. Mal. 3: 13-18. *Friday.* Spiritual gifts. 1 Cor. 12: 1-11. *Saturday.* Right use of gifts. Rom. 12: 1-9. *Sabbath.* The day of the Lord. 2 Pet. 3: 1-14. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Jesus had crossed the Jordan on his way to Jerusalem. At the entrance of Jericho he had opened the eyes of Bartimaeus, and was now seated in the house of Zacchaeus, the publican, whom he had honored with his presence as his guest. Read the narrative in the first part of the chapter.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Trust Conferred. vs. 11-14. II. The Trust Discharged. vs. 15-19. III. The Trust Neglected. vs. 20-27.

11. Night to Jerusalem—About 18 or 19 miles. There he was about to close his ministry. Immediately appear—or "be displayed." There seems to have been a general expectation that Christ would declare himself their king at this feast (Acts 1: 6, 7). 12. A certain nobleman—Herod and Archelaus had both gone to Rome to be made king of Judaea. The nobleman in the parable stands for Christ, who is now in heaven receiving his kingdom. 13. Ten pounds—The *mina* was equal to 100 drachmas, or "pence" and was worth about \$17. (Compare Matt. 25: 14-30). Occupy—R. V. "Trade ye herewith." An obsolete word for "do business with" (Ex. 38: 24; Judges 16: 11; Ezek. 27: 9, 16, 19, 21, 22, 27). 14. A message—R. V. "An ambassador." The Jews had sent a delegation after Archelaus in order to prevent the Emperor from making him king (John 1: 11; 15: 18; 19: 14, 15, 21). The Jews had good reason to hate Archelaus, for he had begun his reign with a hideous massacre of his subjects. But they hated Jesus without a cause (John 15: 25). 15. Had gained by trading—When we are summoned before Christ at death, or at the day of judgment, we shall have to give an account of the use we have made of the blessings we enjoy (Luke 16: 2; 2 Cor. 5: 10; Matt. 12: 36; 18: 23; Rom. 14: 12; 1 Pet. 4: 5). 16. Thy pound—He gives his master all the profit and the credit of it too. 17. Ten cities—Archelaus had given the government and revenues of cities to adherents who had remained faithful to him. Christ's reward to his faithful ones will be on a like munificent scale (2 Tim. 2: 12). 18, 19. Five pounds—He might have done better. He is rewarded, but not praised. 20. Laid up—But he was told to "trade with" it. So we are guilty if we do not use our abilities and opportunities faithfully. 21. I feared thee—(Matt. 25: 24). Those who fear God but do not love him will find his service very irksome (1 John 4: 18). Austere—harsh, stern, severe. Takest up—He thinks that his Master exacts a great deal more than he has any right to expect a servant to give. 23. Into the bank—To the money changer. Usury—Interest. The wealth we cannot employ ourselves we can give to others, our mission boards, &c., who will see that it is used for Christ. 24. Take from him the pound—Idle Christians will grow more and more careless and unspiritual; active and earnest disciples will do the work they have left undone, and receive the reward they might have enjoyed. 25. Probably an expression of surprise from the hearers that Jesus should represent the first, and not the second, servant as receiving the pound. 26. Make the best use of what you have and God will give you more. Do nothing for Christ and your power and desire to serve him will be taken away (Luke 8: 18; Matt. 13: 12; Mark 4: 25; Matt. 25: 29). 27. Slay them—The unfaithful servant was punished, but the rebels were destroyed.

LESSONS. 1. Christ entrusts us with something to use in his service. 2. The day of reckoning will surely come. 3. God's payment will be according to our diligence in his service. 4. We cannot escape responsibility by refusing to perform a duty. 5. Unused gifts will be taken away.