

Lesson VIII.

JESUS TEACHES HUMILITY

May 22, 1904

Mark 10: 35-45. Study vs. 32-45. Commit to memory vs. 43-45. Read Luke 16: 1 to 17: 10; John 11: 1-54; Luke 17: 11 to 18: 14; Matt. 19: 1 to 20: 19.

GOLDEN TEXT--For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.--Mark 10: 45.

35 And James and John, the sons of Zeb'edee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldst do for us whatsoever we shall desire.

36 And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you?

37 They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.

38 But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?

39 And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:

40 But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.

41 And when they heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John.

42 But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.

43 But so shall it not be among you; but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:

44 And whosoever will be of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Revised Version--1 there come near unto him James and John, the sons of Zebedee, saying unto him; 2ask of thee; 3one; 4 Are ye able to drink the cup that I drink? or to be baptized; 5are able; 6The cup that I drink ye shall drink; 7is for them; 8hath been; 9 moved with indignation concerning; 10And; 11 lord it; 12over; 13 it is not so; 14 would become; 15 would be first among you; 16 verily.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—March, 30 A.D.; Peræa.

Connection—The main event between the Lessons is the raising of Lazarus at Bethany, whither Jesus had been summoned by Mary and Martha, John ch. 11. To escape the hatred of the Jews (John 11: 53-57)

He went to Ephraim, a city of Judæa, remaining there until near the Pass-over season. Then, with His disciples, He went over again to Peræa, and continued His journey to Jerusalem, teaching and working miracles by the way.

I. AN AMBITIOUS REQUEST.—35-37.

James and John, who, with Peter, formed the inner circle of our Lord's disciples. Come unto him. Matthew (ch. 20: 20, 21) says that Salome, their mother, came with them. The three prostrated themselves before Jesus, as a King, though He was about to die the death of a slave. Master, we would, etc.; testing His willingness to

grant their request. What would ye? Jesus' first step in curing ambition is to bring it out into the clear light. They said unto him; showing the same spirit rebuked once before, ch. 9: 33-37. That we may sit . . . on thy right hand . . . on thy left hand; a Jewish form of expression for being next to the king in honor. In thy glory. They still dreamed of a great earthly kingdom, instead of a spiritual kingdom to be won by suffering. It was hard to get this mistaken notion out of their minds.

II. A SEARCHING QUESTION.—38. Ye know not what ye ask. To have the first place was not, as they thought, a matter of appointment, but of achievement. Further, it meant suffering, instead of honor. Drink of the cup? A common figure, denoting a man's portion

in life, Ps. 16: 5; 23: 5; Isa. 51: 17; Jer. 49: 12. Here it refers to the Saviour's sufferings. Be baptized with the baptism; another description of Christ's sufferings, pointing to their overwhelming power: "Are ye able to be drenched in those deep waters of afflictions, pains, and miseries which shall come upon Me?"

39-40. We can; a sincere, even if too self-confident reply. Ye shall indeed. Beneath their worldly ambition there was an honest desire to be near Jesus, to share His lot, to be spent in His service. Their request was, therefore,

granted, though not in the way they looked for. James became the first martyr (Acts 12: 1, 2), and John lived longest of the twelve in the service of the Master. Not mine to give. Position in Christ's kingdom is not to be gained by influence, but by fitness. For whom it is prepared. The place is prepared according to each one's worthiness of it.

III. A GREAT PRINCIPLE.—41-45. The ten . . . began to be much displeased; thinking an unworthy attempt had been made by James and



"Of Such is the Kingdom of Heaven"