

LESSON XII.

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD

March 19, 1899

John 10:1-16. Commit to Memory vs. 14-16. Study the whole Chapter; also compare Ps. 23; Heb. 13:20; and Peter 5:4.

1. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door, (1) into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

2. But he that entereth in by the door is (2) the shepherd of the sheep.

3. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

4. (3) And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

5. And a stranger they will not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

6. This (4) parable spake Jesus unto them, but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

7. (5) Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

8. (6) All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

9. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he

shall be saved, and shall go in and (7) out, and find pasture.

10. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: (8) I am come that they might have life, and that they (9) might have it more abundantly.

11. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd (10) giveth his life for the sheep.

12. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, (11) seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf (12) catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

13. The hireling fleeth, because, he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

14. I am the good shepherd, and (13) know my sheep, and am known of mine.

15. As the father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

16. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice: and there shall be (14) one fold, and one shepherd.

Revised Version.—(1) Into the fold of the sheep; (2) Marg., Or a shepherd; (3) When he hath put forth all his own; (4) Marg., Or proverb; (5) Jesus therefore said unto them again; (6) All that came before me; (7) And go out, and shall; (8) I came; (9) May have it abundantly; (10) Layeth down His life; (11) Beholdeth; (12) Snatcheth; (13) Know mine own, and mine own know me, even as the Father knoweth me, and I know, etc.; (14) One flock.

GOLDEN TEXT

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." John 10:11.

DAILY READINGS

M.—John 10: 1-10 } Christ the
T.—John 10: 11-18 } Good Shep-
W.—John 10: 19-31. } herder.
Th.—Ezek. 34: 1-10. } Safety of the
F.—Ezek. 34: 11-16. } shepherds.
8.—Ezek. 34: 22-31. } Seeking and
9.—Psalm 23. } feeding.
Safe folding.
My Shepherd.

LESSON PLAN

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

I. THE PARABLE, 1-5.

The thief and robber; The Shepherd; the door opened; The familiar voice; The flock led out; And following.

II. THE INTERPRETATION, 6-16.

In contrast to thieves and robbers, Christ is the door and the shepherd; Sheltering, saving, feeding, bestowing life abundantly, giving His own life for the sheep, knowing His own, and known of them, and to bring all into one fold.

TIME

Autumn of A.D. 29 close upon last lesson.

PLACE

In or near Jerusalem.

CATECHISM

Review questions, 39-44.

LESSON HYMNS 14 (Ps.)

522, 565, 572, 526.

CONNECTING LINKS

This beautiful parable sprang out of the stern rebuke of the Pharisees contained in chap. 9: 39-41. They were the supposed guides of God's people, but guides blind and heartless. Jesus presents Himself as the true Guide, watchful, tender, and strong to care for His helpless charge. The Jewish church was a sheepfold, and these shepherds ought to have dealt kindly with the man who had been healed; but, instead, they criticized him scornfully, and "cast him out." In his loneliness, Jesus, truly the Good Shepherd, went to him and showed him the strength and sympathy of the "Son of God." V. 38.

EXPOSITION

I. The Parable, 1-5.

V. 1, "Verily, verily." See Connecting Links. "He that entereth not by the door." The sheepfold was a high enclosure, without a roof, into which the sheep were led at night for safety. A single door gave access and this was of

solid material and carefully barred so as to resist attack. It was usual for a number of shepherds to gather their flocks into one fold, entrusting them to the care of a "porter" or door-guard, whose duty it was to guard the entrance to the fold until the shepherds came again for their

Jordan Math