

Lesson VII.

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

May 17, 1914

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The last Lesson is followed by a rebuke addressed by Jesus to the Pharisees and then follows to-day's Lesson.

GOLDEN TEXT—Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he shall also cry, but shall not be heard.—Prov. verbs 21 : 13 (Rev. Ver.).

Memorize vs. 30, 31. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Luke 16 : 19-31. Study Luke 16 : 14, 15, 19-31. Read Luke 16 : 16-18.

19¹ There was a certain rich man, ² which was clothed in purple and fine linen, ³ and fared sumptuously every day :

20 And ⁴ there was a certain beggar named Laz'arus, ⁵ which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs ⁶ which fell from the rich man's table : ⁷ moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and ⁸ was carried by the angels into A'braham's bosom : ⁹ the rich man also died, and was buried :

23 And in ¹⁰ hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth A'braham afar off, and Laz'arus in his bosom.

24 And he cried, and said, Father A'braham, have mercy on me, and send Laz'arus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue ; for I am ¹¹ tormented in this flame.

25 But A'braham said, Son, remember that thou in

Revised Version—Now there ; ² and he was clothed ; ³ faring ; ⁴ Omit there was ; ⁵ Omit which ; ⁶ that fell ; ⁷ yea, even the ; ⁸ that he was carried away by ; ⁹ and the ; ¹⁰ Hades he lifted ; ¹¹ in anguish ; ¹² Lazarus in like manner evil things ; ¹³ here ; ¹⁴ in anguish ; ¹⁵ Omit so ; ¹⁶ may not be able, and that none may cross over from thence to us ; ¹⁷ And he ; ¹⁸ But Abraham saith, They ; ¹⁹ go to ; ²⁰ if one rise.

Daily Readings—By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—The rich man and Lazarus, Luke 16 : 14, 15, 19-31. T.—An Old Testament command, Deut. 15 : 7-15. W.—The rich man warned, James 5 : 1-9. Th.—Heavenly treasure to be desired, Matt. 6 : 16-23. F.—Christ's blessing upon the poor, Luke 6 : 20-26. S.—"Fret not thyself," Ps. 37 : 1-11. S.—Faith and works, James 2 : 5-17.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. ON EARTH.—19, 20. A certain rich man. His name is not given, the common title "Dives" being simply the Latin for "a rich man." Purple ; a costly material used for the outer cloak, colored with a dye obtained from the trumpet snail. Fine linen ; "byssus" made from Egyptian flax, used for the undergarment or tunic, also very costly. Faring sumptuously (Rev. Ver.) ; living merrily and in splendor : life was a daily feast. Beggar ; one of a numerous class in the Gospel age (see Matt. 20 : 30 ; Acts 3 : 2). Laz'arus ; Hebrew Eleazar, meaning "he whom God helps." Laid at his gate ; a common custom in the East. Full of sores ; covered with ulcers, supposed to be a leper.

21, 22. Desiring to be fed ; but left to go hungry, so heartless was the rich man. The dogs ; counted as unclean beasts in the East. Licked his sores ; an added torture. The dogs would also scramble for a share of the "crumbs." The beggar died. Nothing is said of his burial : it would be poor and mean enough. Angels. It was a common Jewish belief, that angels carried the souls of the righteous to

thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and ¹² likewise Laz'arus evil things ; but now ¹³ he is comforted, and thou art ¹⁴ tormented.

23 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed : ¹⁵ so that they which would pass from hence to you ¹⁶ cannot ; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

27 ¹⁷ Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house :

28 For I have five brethren ; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29 ¹⁸ A'braham saith unto him, They have Mo'ses and the prophets ; let them hear them.

30 And he said, Nay, father A'braham : but if one

¹⁹ went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Mo'ses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, ²⁰ though one rise from the dead.

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paradise. Abraham's bosom ; one of three Jewish names for the future home of the blessed, the other two being "Paradise" and "The Throne of Glory." The rich man also died ; after the most skillful physicians had done their best for him. Was buried ; with great pomp as was the custom when rich men died.

II. IN HADES.—23,

34. In Hades (Rev. Ver.) ; the abode of all the dead, including both paradise and Gehenna, the place of punishment for lost souls. Here, however, the word is limited to Gehenna. In torments ; suffering punishment, not for being rich but for neglecting the poor. Afar off. Paradise was dimly visible, yet within speaking distance. Father Abraham. The rich man, being a Jew, was, like Lazarus, a son of Abraham, and hoped that



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the patriarch would do something to relieve him. Send Lazarus. He was willing now to receive help even from the beggar whom he had treated with such indifference. This flame ; not literal fire, but the torture of sin with the pleasure gone and the sting left.

25, 26. Son ; literally, "Child ;" the reply is gentle, though it is firm. Remember. The rich man