

Master, expressing admiration for His teachings, doing everything except obeying His commands in daily life. **Shall enter**, etc.; be reckoned amongst the true followers of Jesus. **Doeth the will of my Father**. This includes trust in Jesus (John 6 : 29); love to our fellow men (John 15 : 12); purity of life (1 Thess. 4 : 3); and practising the virtues which are the fruit of the Spirit, Gal. 5 : 22, 23. **In that day**; the day of judgment. **Prophesied**; declared God's will. **In thy name**; giving honor to Thee as the Source of wisdom and power. **Cast out devils**. Compare ch. 12 : 27. **I never knew you**; never recognized you as My disciples. My name was on your lips, but your hearts were far from Me. **Depart from me**; to be separated from Jesus forever (see ch. 25 : 41), because His goodness has not led them to repentance, Rom. 2 : 4.

II. **THE TWO HOUSES**.—24-27. **Whosoever heareth... and doeth**. The "doing" is not a way of earning salvation, but a proof of being saved (compare James 1 : 22). **A wise man**; a prudent, thoughtful man, who considers well what he is about. **Built his house**. On our Lord's account of the two houses and their fate, see Oriental Sidelight. **Hear-eth... and doeth... not**. Compare James 1 : 23. **A foolish man**; a thoughtless man. He did not deliberately choose a bad foundation, but simply gave the matter of a foundation no thought at all.

28, 29. **The people were astonished**. Compare ch. 13 : 54, etc. **Doctrine**; both the matter of His teaching and His method and spirit. **As one having authority**; speaking out of His own soul what He knew to be true. **Not as the scribes**; the rabbis or religious teachers of the day. They taught only what other rabbis had taught before them, saying nothing on their own authority. But in Jesus' words there was the ring of originality and independence.

#### ORIENTAL SIDELIGHT

In the East, the peasants' huts are often unsubstantial structures, built of mud or sun-burnt brick, and sometimes washed away by a single furious rainstorm. The mountain streams, too, are of a peculiar character. These water courses, called wadies, are, in the summer, perfectly dry, in the rainy season, they are swollen streams. If a house is built high up on a rock, it is safe; if on sandy soil, lower down, the treacherous foundation gives away with the first freshet. Such floods often come with

almost no warning, and as a result of rains farther up the stream.

#### LESSON QUESTIONS

13, 14 What is meant by "the strait gate"? Why is it narrow? Explain the meaning of "way". Find some passages where the Christian religion is called a "way". (Acts 9 : 2 ; 19 : 9 ; 24 : 14.) Why do many enter on the broad way? Whither does it lead? What is the end of the narrow way? Why do few find it? Is God willing to save all men? (John 3 : 16.)

15-20 To what did Jesus liken false teachers? How were they to be known? In what parable does Jesus describe the fate of a barren fig tree? (Luke 13 : 6-9.)

21-23 What is meant by calling Jesus, "Lord, Lord"? What further does He require?

24-27 What two classes of hearers did Jesus describe? To whom did He liken each?

28, 29 What effect had Jesus' teaching on His hearers? With whose teaching did they compare it? What was the difference between the two?

#### FOR DISCUSSION

1. Christianity judged by its fruits.
2. The peril of not thinking.

#### A LESSON FOR LIFE

Children by the seaside build houses of sand below the high tide mark, not thinking that in a few hours the tide will roll in and sweep away their houselet. Like those heedless children, are the men who, in the building of their lives, count only upon fair weather and make no preparation for the storm and temptation and trial that are sure to come. The only life that will stand firm in the time of strain and stress is the life that is firmly built on the Rock of Ages.

**Prove from Scripture**—That Jesus expects fruit from us.

**Shorter Catechism** Review Questions 45-48.

**The Question on Missions**—9. What is being done for people in hospitals? A chaplain is appointed to the General Hospitals in St. John, Halifax and Charlottetown, who visits regularly Presbyterian patients. People from United States, Great Britain and the West Indies, and even from Australia and New Zealand, are found in these hospitals, as well as Canadians.

#### FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What is it to "enter in at the strait gate"? .....
2. How are we to distinguish true religious teachers from false ones? .....
3. Who alone are true disciples of Jesus? .....