

Lesson II.

THE SEED IN THE FOUR KINDS OF SOIL

July 14, 1912

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Following the coming of our Lord's mother and brethren, He uttered a discourse in parables. Matthew records seven of these, Matt. 13 : 1-52. Mark records three. The Lesson is one of them.

GOLDEN TEXT—Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.—James 1 : 21. Memorize v. 20. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Mark 4 : 1-20. Read Matthew 13 : 1-23; Luke 8 : 4-15.

1 And ¹ he began again to teach by the sea side : and there ² was gathered unto him a ³ great multitude, so that he entered into a ⁴ ship, and sat in the sea ; and ⁵ the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

2 And he taught them many things ⁶ by parables, and said unto them in his ⁷ doctrine,

3 Harken ; Behold, ⁸ there went out a sower to sow :

4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some ⁹ fell by the way side, and the ¹⁰ fowls of the air came and devoured it ¹¹ up.

5 And ¹² some fell on ¹³ stony ground, where it had not much earth ; and ¹⁴ immediately it sprang up, because it had no ¹⁵ depth of earth :

6 ¹⁶ But when the sun was ¹⁷ up, it was scorched ; and because it had no root, it withered away.

7 And ¹⁸ some fell among ¹⁹ thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

8 And ²⁰ other fell on good ground, and ²¹ did yield fruit that sprang up and increased ; and brought forth, ²² some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

9 And he said ²³ unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

10 And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him ²⁴ the parable.

11 And he said unto them, Unto you ²⁵ it is given ²⁶ to know the mystery of the kingdom of God : but

Revised Version—again he began ; ² is gathered ; ³ very ; ⁴ boat ; ⁵ all the multitude were by ; ⁶ in ; ⁷ teaching ; ⁸ the sower went forth to ; ⁹ seed ; ¹⁰ birds came ; ¹¹ Omit up ; ¹² other ; ¹³ the rocky ; ¹⁴ straight-way ; ¹⁵ deepness ; ¹⁶ and when ; ¹⁷ risen, it ; ¹⁸ the ; ¹⁹ others fell into the good ; ²⁰ yielded fruit, growing up and increasing ; ²¹ thirtyfold, and sixtyfold, and a hundredfold ; ²² Who hath ears ; ²³ parables ; ²⁴ Omit it ; ²⁵ Omit to know ; ²⁶ Omit these ; ²⁷ haply they should turn again, and it should be forgiven ; ²⁸ saith ; ²⁹ shall ye ; ³⁰ and when ; ³¹ straightway cometh Satan, and ; ³² which hath been sown in them ; ³³ in like manner are they that are sown upon the rocky places, who ; ³⁴ joy ; ³⁵ they have ; ³⁶ but endure for a while ; then, when tribulation or ; ³⁷ because of the word, straightway they stumble ; ³⁸ others are ; ³⁹ that ; ⁴⁰ these are they that have heard the word ; ⁴¹ those ; ⁴² that were sown upon the good ground ; ⁴³ accept ; ⁴⁴ bear fruit.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—The seed in the four kinds of soil, Mark 4 : 1-9. T.—The seed in the four kinds of soil, Mark 4 : 10-20. W.—Blessing upon the sower, Isa. 32 : 13-20. Th.—Unfruitful, Isa. 5 : 1-7. F.—Choked by riches, 1 Tim. 6 : 9-19. S.—Seed in good soil, Acts 2 : 37-47. S.—An explanation by Jesus, Matt. 13 : 10-23.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE TEACHER.—1, 2. He began again ; on the very day of our last Lesson (see Matt. 13 : 1). A very great multitude (Rev. Ver.). The Greek word denotes an exceedingly large crowd. A ship ; Rev. Ver., "boat." On this lake only smaller fishing craft were used. Sat in the sea ; the boat, perhaps, rode at anchor a short distance from the shore. On the land ; pro-

bled. By parables. A parable is a story from ordinary life, picturing moral or spiritual truth.

II. THE PARABLE.—3-6. **Hearken.** Jesus here begins a new method of teaching, and asks special attention to it, at the beginning and end of the first parable. Behold. Possibly a man was even then sowing a field in sight of the people. By the way side ; that is, on the hard footpath, which ran through the field. Luke adds, "and it was trodden down." Stony ground ; not a soil mingled with stones, but ground where a thin covering of soil lay on the surface of rock that allowed no deep rootage.

7-9. **Among thorns.** In the rich soil of Galilee, thorns and thistles grew rapidly. The custom was to burn these down before preparing the ground for sowing ; but the roots of them remained, as the ploughing was a mere scratching of the surface. The roots sprouted and grew up again, choking the young grain. Good ground ; because, unlike the other three, it was soft, deep and clean. Thirtyfold . . . sixtyfold . . . hundredfold (Rev. Ver.). These three represent the lowest,



THISTLE OF PALESTINE

bably the beach curved where the people were assem-