

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 And ¹⁹other fell on good ground, and ²⁰did yield fruit that sprang up and increased ; and brought forth, ²¹some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

9 And he said ²²unto 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 the ²³parable.

11 And he said unto them, Unto you ²⁴it is given ²⁵to know the mystery of the kingdom of God : but

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

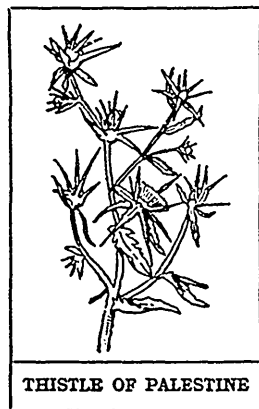
THE LESSON EXPLAINED

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 ; prob-

ably the beach curved where the people were assembled. 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,



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bably the beach curved where the people were assembled.