THE SEED IN THE FOUR KINDS OF SOIL T aggon IT 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 thom

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 ² was gathered unto him a ³ great multi-tude, so that he entered into a ⁴ ship, and sat in the sea; and ⁴ the whole multitude was by the sea on sea ; and the land.

2 And he taught them many things ⁶ by parables, and said unto them in his ⁷ doctrine, 3 Hearken; Behold, ⁸ there went out a sower to

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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.

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 ¹⁶ 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 ¹² some fell among ¹⁸ thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it vielded no

fruit

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

9 And he said 22 unto them. He that hath ears to

⁹ And he said "thin her. ¹⁰ And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the ²² parable. ¹¹ And he said unto them, Unto you ²⁴ it is given ²⁵ to know the mystery of the kingd.m of God : but

unto them that are without, all 26 these things are done in parables : 12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive ;

12 Inst seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest 27 at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them. 13 And he 28 said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how 29 then will ye know all ¹⁶ parables? 14 The sower soweth the word.

15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; ³⁰ but when they have heard, ³¹ Sa'tan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word ³² that was sown in their hearts.

16 And these ³³ are they likewise which are sown on stony ground ; who, when they have heard the word, ¹⁴ innmediately receive it with ³⁴ gladness ;

17 And S have no root in themselves, ³⁶ and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth ³⁷ for the word's sake, im-mediately they are offended.

18 And ³⁸ these are they ³⁹ which are sown among ¹⁸ thorns ; ⁴⁰ such as hear the word,

¹⁹ thorns; ⁴⁰ such as near the word, ¹⁹ And the cares of ¹⁸ this world, and the deceit-fulness of riches, and the lusts of other things enter-ing in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful, ²⁰ And ⁴¹ these are they ⁴² which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and ⁴³ receive ⁴⁴, and ⁴⁴ bring forth fruit, ²¹ some thirtyfold, some ⁴⁵ the source of th sixty, and some an hundred.

²² to know the mystery of the kingd_m of God: but sixty, and some an hundred. **Bevtjeed Version**—' again he began; '2 is gathered; '3 very; '4 boat; 'all the multitude were by; 'a in; 't teaching; '5 the sower went forth to; 's seed; '10 birds came; '11 Omit up; '12 other; '13 the rocky; '14 straight-way; '15 deepness; '16 and when; '17 risen, it; '16 the; '16 others fell into the good; '20 yielded fruit, growing up and increasing; '2 thirtyfold, and sixtyfold, and a hundrefold; '2 Who hath ears; '2 parables; '21 Omit it; '27 Omit to know; '25 Omit these; '27 haply they should turn again, and it should be forgiven; '28 saith; '29 shall ye; '20 and when; '1 straightway cometh Satan, and, '22 which hath been sown in them; '31 like manner are they that are sown upon the rocky places, who; '4 joy; '33 they have; '36 but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or; '75 because of the word, straightway they stumble; '36 others are, '34 bat; 46 these are they that have heard the word; '4 those; '24 that were sown upon the good ground; '4 accept; '4 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.



bably the beach curved where the people were assem-

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE TEACH-ER.-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 ahort distance from the shore. On the land ; probled. By parables. A parable is a story from ordinary life, picturing moral or spiritual truth.

II. THE PARABLE .- 3-6. Hearken. Josus 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 . . sirtyfold . . hundredfold (Rev. Ver.). These three represent the lowest,