

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN.

A.D. 30.] LESSON VIII. [August 22
John 13, 21-38. Commit vs. 30-33.

WARNING TO JUDAS AND PETER.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 1 Cor. 10, 12.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Under the best influences men may fall.

DAILY READINGS.

M. John 13, 18-38. Tu. Matt. 26, 21-35. W. Mark 14, 18-31. Th. Luke 22, 21-38. F. 1. John 3, 1-24. Sa. 1. John 4, 1-21. Su. John 18, 1-27.

TIME.—Thursday evening, April 6, A. D. 30. The same time as the last lesson.

PLACE.—An upper room in Jerusalem.

PARALLEL ACCOUNTS.—With vs. 21-26,—Matt. 26, 21-25; Mark 14, 18-21; Luke 22, 21-23. With vs. 30-33,—Matt. 26, 30-35; Mark 14, 26-31; Luke 22, 31-38.

INTRODUCTION.—After the washing of the disciples' feet Jesus reclines again at the table, and the Passover supper continues, while Jesus converses with his disciples.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—21. *Jesus troubled in spirit*—Indignation and grief that one for whom he had done so much should be so wicked, and lose his soul.—a type of many others. 22. *Looked one on another*—And asked, "Lord is it I?" Luke 22, 23; Matt. 26, 22. Each one thought of himself, not his neighbours. 23. *Whom Jesus loved*—John himself. 26. *To whom I shall give a sop*—Some of the unleavened bread dipped in a sauce of bitter herbs. The head of the table was accustomed to give this to all, and so John only knew what this giving the sop to Judas at this moment meant. 31. *Now is the Son of man glorified*—His death, by which he was to have the glory of redeeming the world was to be the next morning, and he would soon be with the Father, on his throne in heaven. 33. *Whither I go ye cannot come*—They must stay in the world a little longer to do their work. But in time he would take them to himself, v. 31 (14-3). 36. *Thou shalt follow me afterwards*—He not only went to Jesus, but by way of the cross. 38. See the fulfilment in John 18, 16-27.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Judas.—Why he betrayed Christ.—The disciple whom Jesus loved.—Jesus troubled in spirit.—The Son of man glorified.—The new commandment.—Peter's denial.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTION.—When and where was our last lesson? How is the present lesson connected with it?

SUBJECT: TWO FAILURES.

I. THE TRAITOR.—A TOTAL FAILURE (vs. 21-30).—Why was Jesus troubled in spirit? Which one of the disciples was a traitor? What had Jesus done for him that should have made him good? If people become bad now, must it be against many good influences? What are some of them? How did the disciples receive the announcement of Jesus? (v. 22; Matt. 26, 22.) How did Jesus point out to John who it was? Who entered into Judas after this? What does this mean? What were the effects? Who is mentioned in striking contrast with Judas? (v. 23.) In what way may we be disciples whom Jesus loves? With what spirit are such persons filled? (John 16, 7, 13)

II. THE NEW COMMANDMENT (vs. 31-35).—How was the Son of man to be glorified? What commandment did Jesus give his disciples? Why is it called a new commandment? Is it easy to obey? What things does it forbid? What things would it lead you to do? What mark distinguishes Christians from the world?

III. THE IMPETUOUS DISCIPLE.—A PARTIAL FAILURE (vs. 36-38).—Where was Jesus going that his disciples could not follow him? (vs. 33, 36.) Would they follow him there some time? (John 14, 3.) What did Peter think he could do? (v. 37.) How could he be so mistaken about himself? What did Jesus say to him? When did he do as Jesus said? (John 18, 1-27.) Did Peter repent of his act? Did Judas' act prove that he was not a Christian? Did Peter's prove that he was not? What was the difference? Who alone can keep us from falling?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. The sins of God's professed people bring sorrow to his heart.
2. Men may grow bad under the best influences.
3. It is blessed to be a disciple whom Jesus loves.
4. We may be such, (1) by loving him; (2) by living near him; (3) by cherishing a lovely character.
5. We can put ourselves under the influences of Satan or of the Holy Spirit, and the choice will be followed by corresponding results and rewards.
6. Love in the great law of the Christian life.
7. True Christians sometimes fall, but they quickly repent and do deeds meet for repentance.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

16. Who betrayed Jesus? ANS. Judas Iscariot.
17. Under whose influence did he put himself? ANS. Satan entered into him.
18. What is the new commandment? ANS. (Repeat v. 34.)
19. What did Jesus foretell that Peter would do? ANS. Deny him three times before morning dawned.
20. What did Peter do when he had committed this sin? ANS. He went and wept bitterly.

A.D. 30.] LESSON IX. [August 29.

JESUS COMFORTING HIS DISCIPLES.

John 14, 1-14.

Commit vs. 1-6.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.—John 14, 1.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Jesus Christ gives comfort and strength to those who believe in him.

DAILY READINGS.

M. John 14, 1-14. Tu. John 14, 15-31. W. Rev. 21, 1-27. Th. Rev. 22, 1-21. F. Rom. 10, 1-15. Sa. Eph. 3, 8-21. Su. Matt. 7, 7-11.

TIME.—Thursday evening, April 6, A. D. 30. Directly after our last lesson.

PLACE.—An upper room in Jerusalem.

PLACE IN THE OTHER GOSPELS.—Matt. 26, between vs. 29 and 30; Mark 14, between vs. 25 and 26; Luke 22, between vs. 38 and 39.

INTRODUCTION.—Just after the close of our last lesson Jesus instituted the Lord's supper, and then held a long confidential talk with his disciples at the table. To-day's lesson is a portion of this discourse.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. *Troubled*—By his death soon to follow, and the power of their enemies, and their own weakness. *In my Father's house*—i. e., heaven, God's home. Perhaps it includes the universe. *Many mansions*—Dwelling-places, enough for all; a variety suited to all. *I go to prepare a place for you*—He will be still working for them though they do not see him. 4. *Ye know*—By remembering what he had taught them. 6. *I am the way*—To the Father, and to his heavenly home. He is the way: (1) his life and character revealed to them the Father's life and character; (2) his words taught them about the Father; (3) his atonement prepared the way, so that all can go; (4) his character drew men to himself to love and to obey him, and thus drew them to the Father; (5) by giving spiritual life. 9. *He that hath seen me hath seen the Father*—Because he was the express image of the Father. Whatever he was, or did, or said, was from the Father. 12. *Greater works than these shall he do*—More healing of sickness; more sight to the blind. More help to men has come through Christianity than Christ gave on earth; more disciples are made than he made. His Gospel has made greater triumphs, wonderful conversions, nations brought to Christ. *Because I go unto my Father*—By his atoning death he makes these triumphs. He is the mighty Prince in heaven working in all his Church, abiding with his disciples, and not an humble teacher. Men now see him in his glory, and are drawn to him. 13. *In my name*—As my representatives, in my service, as my loving friends seeking my will.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Why the disciples might be troubled.—The many mansions.—Christ's coming again.—Jesus as the Way.—As the Truth.—As the Life.—He that hath seen Jesus hath seen the Father.—v. 12.—v. 13.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—What was our last lesson about? Where were Jesus and his disciples? What great sacrament of religion was instituted between the last lesson and this?

SUBJECT: SOURCES OF COMFORT AND STRENGTH.

I. COMFORT THROUGH FAITH (v. 1).—What troubles were threatening the disciples at this time? How would faith in God give the comfort? How would faith in Jesus bring comfort?

II. COMFORT FROM AN ASSURANCE OF HEAVEN (vs. 2, 3).—What was his Father's house? What are the many mansions? What comfort in the knowledge that they are many? To what does Jesus refer when he speaks of going? How did he prepare a place for us? What is meant by his coming again? How do these things comfort us?

III. COMFORT FROM CHRIST AS THE WAY TO THE FATHER (vs. 4-11).—Where was Christ going? What is meant by his being the way? The way where? How is he the truth? How the life? Show how it is that those who have seen Jesus have seen the Father. (Heb. 1-3.) What is his argument in v. 13? What do we learn about God's character and works from Jesus?

IV. COMFORT FROM THE POWER OF JESUS WORKING IN THEM (v. 12).—What works are referred to here? What promise does he make those who believe? Why is it only to believers? How has this promise proved true? What comfort to us is this?

V. COMFORT IN THE PROMISE TO ANSWER PRAYER (vs. 13, 14).—What promise does Jesus make? On what condition? Is all true prayer answered? In what ways? How is this a comfort?

SOURCES OF COMFORT.

1. Faith in God as the good, wise, loving controller of all things.
2. Faith in Jesus as our Teacher, Guide, Saviour, and King.
3. The assurance of a home in heaven.
4. A Saviour who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
5. A knowledge of God's character and works in Jesus Christ.
6. An ever-present Saviour working in us mightily.
7. The assurance of an answer to our prayers.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. Why were the disciples troubled? ANS. (1) They were surrounded by enemies. (2) Their Master was about to be taken from them. (3) They were exposed to danger and death. (4) Their hopes seemed disappointed.
2. What sources of comfort did Jesus give them. ANS. (Repeat the question headings.)

The Spirit of Discontent.

THE other day we stood by a cooper who was playing a merry tune with his adze round a cask. "Ah!" said he, "mine is a hard lot—driving a hoop." "Heigho!" sighed the blacksmith on a hot summer day, as he wiped the perspiration from his brow, while the red iron glowed on the anvil; "this is life with a vengeance—melting and frying one's self over a hot fire in such weather." "Oh! that I were a carpenter," ejaculated the shoemaker as he bent over his lapstone. "Here I am, day after day, wearing my soul away making soles for others—cooped up in this seven by nine room. Hi! ho! hum!" "I'm sick of this out-door work!" exclaimed the bricklayer, "broiling under the sweltering sun or exposed to the inclemency of the weather. I wish I were a tailor." "This is too bad," petulantly cried the tailor, "to be compelled to sit perched up here plying the needle all the time. Would that mine were a more active life." "Last day of grace! Banks won't discount, customers won't pay! What shall I do!" grumbles the merchant. "I had rather be a truck, a dog, or anything else."

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