

Matt. 7 : 21-29—Memory Verses, 24, 25.

Golden Text—Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.—James 1 : 22.

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven ; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name ? and in thy name have cast out devils ? and in thy name done many wonderful works ?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you : depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock :

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house ; and it fell not : for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand :

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon

that house ; and it fell : and great was the fall of it.

28 And it came to pass, when Je'sus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine :

29 For he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One of the reasons the people flocked in such numbers to hear Jesus, was because of the wonderful stories He told. These stories were called parables. - They were stories with a meaning. Through them it was easy for even the common people to understand Jesus' teaching, for in them He spoke of the simple and ordinary things of everyday life ; not like the learned and pompous Rabbis, whom it was impossible for any but the learned to understand.

Jesus knew that among the crowds that followed Him every day were some, who, though they called Him Master, were not His true friends. To these Jesus said, " Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven ; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. At the last day many will say to Me, ' Lord, Lord, have we not preached in Thy name ? and in Thy name have cast out devils ? and in Thy name done many wonderful works ? And then will I

say unto them, ' I never knew you : depart from Me, ye that work iniquity ? ' "

To show the difference between those who were His true servants and those who were not, Jesus told the parable of two men, each of whom wanted to build himself a house. They both of them lived in a mountainous country, where in the winter great rushing streams came pouring down the steep hill-sides, over-flowing the valleys and carrying away trees, fences, houses and everything else that came in their path. In summer these same river-beds would dry up leaving only bare sand and gravel until the next winter, when the rush of waters began again.

The first man who wanted to build, looked about, until he found a solid rock out of reach of the water, and built his house, there, making it as strong and firm as he could. That winter when the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew, his house stood firm, for it was founded upon a