THE MOST TEACHINGS BROOKLYN TABERNACLE BIBLE STUDIES

MISIMPROVED OPPORTUNITIES TAKEN AWAY.

Matthew 21:23-46.—September 4.

"Therefore say I unto you, The Kingdom of God shall be taken from you."

In this Study the Great Teacher in two parables portrays the mistake made by the religionists of his day. The understanding of these parables gives a clearer insight into the cause which led to the rejection of Israel for a time from Divine favor. Incidentally, too, we are to remember that nominal fleshly Israel was a prototype of nominal Christendom. Hence we may look for somewhat similar conditions and dealings now in the "harvest" time of this Christian Age.

To get the force of the Lord's teachings here and everywhere it is necessary to remember that the Jewish people had been promised the Kingdom of God, of which David's Kingdom was a type on a small scale. For centuries they had been expecting a great King, Messiah, whose coming would exalt them and bring them into prominence as God's Kingdom. John the Baptist, when he came to introduce Messiah, told the Jews that unless they would repent and come back, to the extent of their ability, into harmony with God and the Law they need not expect to share in the Messianic Kingdom. Jesus said the people that unless their righteousness should exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, they should in no wise enter into or become members of the long-waited-for Kingdom. (Matthew 5:20.) The two parables of this Study illustrate what stood in the way of the majority.

The Jewish people professed to be God's people, willing to do him service. They were treated, not as mere slaves, but, rather, like sons. All were told to go and work in God's vineyard; but they divided into two classes, represented by the two sons, in our first parable. One of these sons represented the outwardly religious, pious, who said, Yes, we will serve God. However, they did not really seek the Divine service, but rather the service of their sects and parties and their own personal aims, honor, influence and preferment. The other class of Israelites, represented by the other son of the parable, made no pretense of serving God, and were branded as publicans, sinners, harlots. Nevertheless, when Jesus appeared, when John's message went forth, and afterwards the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles, these same publicans, sinners, harlots, were the ones ready to receive him, while the religious, finding that his message was in conflict with their teachings, repudiated him. Thus one of the charges against Jesus was, "He receiveth publicans and sinners and eateth with them."

The second parable represents God as the owner of a great Vineyard, in all respects well appointed and furnished for his purpose. This Vineyard represents the Jewish nation and the Divine promises made to that people—the Law and all the arrangements of the Law Covenant, for their development. This Vineyard the owner let out to husbandmen, whose duty it was to care for the vines and the fruitage and to render to the owner the results, except a portion which they might keep for themselves. These husbandmen were the prominent religionists, of whom Jesus said, "The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. All, therefore, whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do." (Matt. 23:2, 3.) The owner properly required returns on his property and sent servants to receive his share of the fruitage. But the husbandmen, instead of giving them what was due their Master, abused them by beating, killing and stoning them.

These servants were the prophets of old, sent to Israel. They should have received the kindest treatment and an abundance of fruits of meekness, gentleness, patience, etc., but, instead, they were treated as intruders by the leaders of Israel. Some of them were stoned, some beaten, some murdered, some sawn asunder. Some wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins and dwelt in dens and caves of the earth, because not appreciated. They were not treated as representatives of the owner of the Vineyard. Finally the owner sent his Son, saying, "They will reverence my Son." But these same husbandmen, the religionists of our Lord's day, took counsel to kill him and to seize his inheritance. They somehow got the impression that they could lord it over God's heritage and that anybody reproving them or showing up their hypocrisies or liberating the people from subservience to them, whoever he might be—even the heir—they were at liberty to kill. They crucified him.

What may we presume the owner of that vineyard would do to those wicked husbandmen who, forgetting the ownership of the vineyard, were using it as their own, mistreating his servants and crucifying his Son? The Great Teacher put the question to his hearers, and the answer promptly came that the owner would destroy those wicked men and let out his Vineyard to others who would render him its fruitage.

This is just what happened. The scribes and Pharisees and Doctors of the Law who were using God's promises and blessings and their opportunities selfishly and in disregard of the Almighty, these were dispossessed. Their government was destroyed and Divine favor and privileges as God's mouthpieces, which they once enjoyed, were taken from them and given to others—to the Apostles and their associates, during this Gospel Age.

However, as fleshly Israel was a type or picture of nominal Spiritual Israel, we may not have to look far to find a very similar condition of things today. Today also we see some high in official position as representatives of God and his Word using their positions to entrench themselves, to hold power over the people, to carry out their own schemes. These are inclined to speak harshly, yea, to "murder" any who come amongst them meekly, humbly, in the name of the Lord. They do not literally kill them nor "shoot them full of arrows," but they do behead them in the sense of ostracism. And they do shoot out at them the arrows of bitter words, slanders, etc.

What will the Husbandman do with such servants? The answer is again that the opportunities which they have enjoyed will be taken away from them. Thank God that the next step in the programme will be that the King's Son and all of the misused servants associated with him will constitute the new "Kingdom of God's dear Son" "under the whole heavens." Matters will be no longer entrusted to any but the tried, proven, faithful.

Jesus, the rejected, "is become the chief cornerstone" of the great Temple of God, which is the Church. As the privilege of being God's embryotic Kingdom was taken from the Jews and given to Christ and the Church, so presently his embryotic Kingdom will be taken from earth entirely: his faithful will be received to the heavenly plane and power and great glory.

Whoever stumbled over Jesus suffered loss in the sense of being broken, but not beyond possibility of repair. "But upon whomsoever this stone (Messiah) shall fall, it will grind him to powder" in the Second Death. Matt. 21:44.

HOME CIRCLE COLUMN.

COLUMN DEDICATED TO TIRED MOTHERS AS THEY JOIN THE HOME CIRCLE.

Boys, Don't.

Don't forget that you are to be men and husbands.

Don't smoke in the presence of ladies. It is never respectful.

Don't measure your respect to a person by the clothes he wears.

Don't try to make your fortune by easier means than hard work.

Don't speak carelessly of a lady's character. It is her only anchor.

Don't forget that the best and greatest man that ever walked the earth was a boy.

Don't haunt the lady of your choice at a ball, party or picnic. She has certain civilities to pay elsewhere.

Don't fix your stare on the fair ones who pass along the streets. To stare at anyone is not manly at all.

Don't neglect your business. Take pains to do your work well. Good workmen are always in demand.

Don't sneer at the opinions of others. You may learn wisdom from those far less pretentious than yourself.

Don't swear. It is not necessary and does no good. It is neither wise, manly nor polite, nor agreeable to others.

Don't grow up to be a soured old bachelor, when there are so many true and lovely girls that will make such excellent wives.

Don't flirt with a young lady to whom you are a perfect stranger. It looks most ridiculous, and you may get thrashed for it some day.

Don't unnecessarily make enemies. The good will of a dog is better than his ill will. But don't cripple your independence and your individuality to please friends.

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Keep up with the wagon. Change your old views and habits for new and better ones when you find them and be always on the lookout for them.

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Jealousy.

How fortunate it is that there is not a jealous person among our large family of readers. We do not know of one, do you? Such being the case we can severely censure those jealous people that are to be found in most all other communities. The first boy ever born was jealous. If you remember Cain took a rough stick and killed his brother Abel because he was jealous. The sacrifice of Abel had been accepted while Cain's was rejected. Jealousy is simply a grief we experience on account of the superiority of others. Their superiority in talent, wealth, beauty, virtue or social or political ecognition. It is the shadow of other people's success which clouds our lives. It is the thunder of our neighbor's popularity which sours the milk of human kindness in us. It is the father and mother of half the woes and crimes of the human race.

When you hear a man or woman abused, drive in on the defendant's side. Watch for excellences in others rather than for defects, morning glories instead of night shades. If some one is more beautiful than you thank God that you have not so many perils of vanity to contend with. If some one has more wealth than you, thank God that you have not so great a stewardship to answer for. If some one gets a higher office in church or state you can thank God there are not so many to wish for hastening of your obsequies. If you are assailed by jealousy take it as a compliment, for people are never jealous of a failure. Substitute for jealousy an elevating emulation. Seeing others industrious let us work more hours. Life is short at the longest let it all be filled up with helpfulness for others, work and sympathy for each other's misfortunes, and our arms full of white mantles to cover up the mistakes and failures of others. Surely this world is large enough for you all your rivals. God has given you a work to do. Go ahead and do it. Mind your own business. In all circles, in all kinds of business, in all professions there is room for straightforward successes.

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What to Teach Girls.

Teach her that 100 cents make a dollar.

Teach her to arrange the parlor and library.

Teach her to say "No" and mean it or "Yes" and stick to it.

Teach her how to wear a calico dress and to wear it like a queen.

Teach her how to sew on buttons, darn stockings and mend gloves.

Teach her to dress for health and comfort as well as appearance.

Teach her to cultivate flowers and to keep the kitchen garden.

Teach her to make the neatest room in the house.

Teach her to have nothing to do with intemperate or dissolute young men.

Teach her that tight lacing is as comely as wed as injurious to health.

Teach her to regard the morals and habits and not money in seeking her associates.

Teach her to economize the time and use. A place for everything and everything in its place.

Teach her that music, drawing and painting are real accomplishments in the home and are not to be neglected if there be time and money for their use.

Teach her the important fact that the more she lives within her income the more she will save and the further she will get ahead from the poor house.

Teach her that a good, steady, honest young mechanic, farmer, clerk, or day laborer, without a cent, is worth more than forty loafers or nonproducers in broadcloth.

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When most people are not taking medicine to cure them they are eating something to make them sick.

$100 Reward, $100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now nown to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional dkisease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taenk internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and gising the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they ofer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

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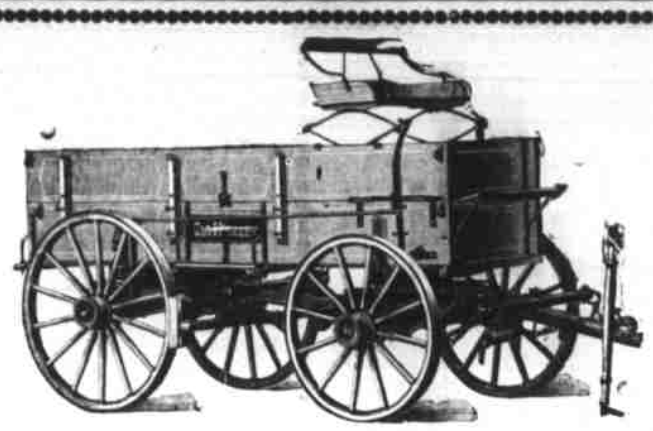
Sold by druggists, 75c.

Tae Hall's Family Pills for constipation. k

M. C. Rankin, Commissioner of Agriculture, was nominated as the Republican candidate for Congress in the Seventh district to oppose J. Campbell Cantrill, at a meeting of the Republican district committee yesterday in Frankfort.

Don't waste your money buying plasters when you can get a bottle of Chamberlain's Liniment for twenty-five cents. A piece of flannel dampened with this liniment is superior to any plaster for lame back, pains in the side and chest, andm uch cheaper. Sold by all dealers.



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A NEW APOSTOLATE.

(Continued from page 6.)

room for you. It may be more poetical to hitch your wagon to a star, but you are surer to arrive at some place in particular if you hitch yourself to a fire-wagon. You do not need to be reminded that opportunities are usually not found but made, and that a successful career is not a bequest but a conquest.

Mr. Benjamin Kidd in "Social Evolution," says society approaches its goal only as men lose themselves in the service of others. Science joins its voice with that of Holy Writ in declaring that sacrifice is at the base of all progress and blessedness. The path of progress is strewn with the wreckage of those who thought to buy the crown of success too cheaply and refused to throw themselves into the struggle.

It fell on a day when God was building his America that the beasts of the fields and the birds of the air and the fishes of the sea were all assembled before the Lord, and the Lord said, "Who will build for me a barrier about the coast of Florida, that the whelming wave may not destroy it?" And the beasts of the field and the birds of the air said, "We will build it." So the beasts brought great rocks and logs of wood and the birds were laden with their bills, and the fishes covered all with sand and with slime. But presently the ocean rose in his might and tossed their great labor, with huge scorn, away. And when next they were gathered before the Lord they kept silence for very shame. But out of this silence there arose a tiny voice; it was the voice of the coral. And the corals said, "We will go up," and the Lord said, "Go up and prosper, for I have delivered it into your hand." And so the coral reefs have stood through the ages. The beasts and the fishes and the birds were mighty, but they gave the labor of their hands alone. The corals were tiny, but they gave themselves."

If you are willing to pay this price the future unfolds before you with infinite possibilities of joy and glory unspeakable. As of old the Master stands summoning men and women to throw their best into the task of hushing the world's cry of anguish. Blessed indeed is it even to have started in this way of progress and to complete it is joy and peace.

Joaquin Miller sees in the hardy pioneer who fared forth on an unknown sea with confidence in the God above that union of faith and progress which you may well make your own. And the highest wish I might have for you is expressed in his lines:

William Loeb, Jr., collector of the port of New York, declared that within a short time the United States customs service will undergo the greatest shake-up in history.

Your complexion as well as your temper is rendered miserable by a disordered liver. By taingk Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets you can improve both. Sold by all dealers.

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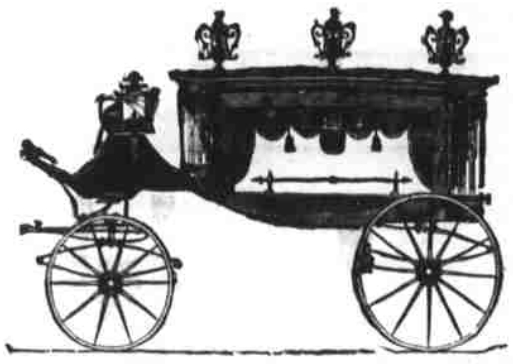

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