JESUS' PARTING WORDS.

LESSON XII, FOURTH QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, DEC. 21.

Text of the Lesson, Luke xxiv, 44, 53. Commit Verses 45, 48—Golden Text, John xiv, 3—Commentary by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

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44. And He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you while I was yet with you." He is no longer with them as when in His mortal body. He is the same Jesus as He has proved by walking, talking, eating with them, allowing them to handle Him; but while all this is grandly true, yet He has ceased to belong to the earth in its present state (I mean only as to abiding upon it), for the immortal and incorruptible does not yet dwell on earth.

"That all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms concerning Me." Here is the only key to all Scripture, Jesus Himself. Moses wrote of Him, and to Him gave all the prophets witness, while David also in the psalms spake concerning Him (John v, 46; Acts x, 43; ii, 31).

45. "Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures." As He is the key to all Scripture, so He also by His Spirit is the only Teacher. Who teacheth like Him? The inspiration of the Almighty giveth understanding (Job xxxvi, 23; xxxii, 8). The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual discerneth all things.

46. "And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day." Jesus in all His teaching appealed to the Scriptures, saying, "It is written," or "What is written, how readest thou?" And now he repeats what He had said to the two on the way to Emmaus, that, according to the Scriptures, the Christ must die and rise again the third day. The promise was that the Christ, or Messiah, should put away sin; but in order to do that He must become Himself a sacrifice, the sinners' substitute, as was typified in all the sacrifices and so plainly stated in Ps. xxii and Isa. liii.

47. "And that repentance, and remission of sins, should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." This the apostles faithfully preached. "Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins" (Acts v, 31). Thus preached Peter to Jews only, before he received the vision which sent him to Gentiles also. "Through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins, and by Him all that believe are justified from all things" (Acts xiii, 38, 39). Thus preached Paul to both Jews and Gentiles at Antioch in Pisidia.

48. "And ye are witnesses of these things." Or, as it is written in Acts i, 8 "Ye shall be witnesses unto Me, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Unto Israel God had said, "Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God" (Isa. xliii, 10, 12). It is considered an honorable and very desirable position to be a representative of a country or a government at a foreign court. God chose Israel from among all the nations of the earth to be His witness to all nations that He is the one only living and true God, but while a faithful remnant stood for Him, the majority of the people failed to honor God, but sadly dishonored him, and made His name a reproach. The apostles were chosen to go forth in the name of Jesus, and by living His life over again, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, to win to Christ such as might believe on Him through their word. The Acts of the Apostles tell how faithfully they did this.

49. "And behold I send the promise of my Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high." It is not possible for the natural man to please God (Rom. viii, 7, 8); he must be born again or from above (John iii, 3, 5, 7). It is just as impossible for the new man to be a faithful witness unto Christ except by the power of the Holy Spirit; and here is where all the failure in Christian life and service comes in.

50. "And He led them out as far as to Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them." During forty days He had showed Himself alive at various times to various individuals or companies of His followers on ten or twelve different occasions, and always speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God (Acts i, 3). But now the last time has come, and He is about to leave them to appear no more on the earth till His feet shall stand again on the same Mount of Olives when He comes in power and glory, bringing His saints with Him (Zech. xiv, 4, 5; I Thess. iii, 13).

51. "And it came to pass while He blessed them, He was parted from them, and carried up into Heaven." Gradually He ascended from their midst, until a cloud received Him out of their sight, and He was seen of them no more. As Stephen was dying he saw Heaven open, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God. As Saul of Tarsus journeyed to Damascus Jesus spoke to him from Heaven and appeared to him. And again to John on Patmos Jesus appeared in vision.

52. "And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy." When they were so sad at His death, because He had not redeemed Israel as they expected He would have done, how is it that they are now full of great joy when He has gone again and the Kingdom had not yet come? Some tell us that now they understood, as they did not before, that He had come, not to restore the Kingdom to Israel, but to set up a spiritual kingdom in the hearts of men. This is a mere fabrication of man, and it is not only without foundation in Scripture, but is contrary to all Scripture. The true reason of their joy is found in the message of the angels who stood by them after He ascended, and said, "This same Jesus which is taken up from you into Heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven" (Acts i, 11).

53. "And they were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen." May such be the end of each chapter of our spiritual life, the end of each day and of each week till we see Him. May our days begin and end with praise to God for giving unto us His dear Son, His unspeakable gift, and the great redemption which is in Him. May we be filled with the Spirit, so as to be His faithful witnesses even unto death, and may we each day be found eagerly longing for and expecting His return. Let our hearts say, "I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall be continually in my mouth." "My meditation of Him shall be sweet; I will be glad in the Lord" (Ps. xxxiv, 1; civ, 34).

Smoking Affects the Eyesight.

A smoker may suffer from derangement of the eyesight, consequent upon inflammation of the optic nerves, "tobacco amaurosis," as it is sometimes called. For a long time oculists differed in regard to the existence of such a disease, and I was among the doubters. But I believe there is now no difference of opinion among those who make a specialty of diseases of the eye, and I have for several years been convinced from actual experience of the reality of inflammation of the optic nerves caused by the excessive use of tobacco, several cases of the kind having come under my own immediate observation.

In all of these, as soon as the victims ceased to smoke, the optic nerves began to assume a healthy appearance, the vision to improve, and eventually the sight to be entirely restored. In one case the use of tobacco was resumed, and shortly afterward the vision again began to fail, to be a second time restored on the patient entering upon a course of entire abstinence.—Dr. William A. Hammond in New York Herald.

Some Big Theatrical Receipts.

Marcus Meyer has given a list of the largest theatrical receipts ever known in this country. The figures are amazing. Mapleson's Opera company, with Patti and Gerster as stars, sang in San Francisco to $160,000 in eighteen performances, or an average of over $9,000 a performance. Christine Nilsson sang in San Francisco to $27,440 in four concerts. Patti, during her first engagement with Mr. Abbey, sung to $12,350 in one performance at Boston. Mrs. Langtry, in her first season under Abbey, played to $356,000 in twenty-six weeks. Bernhardt drew $390,000 in twenty-four weeks. Edwin Booth played to $380,000 in twenty-eight weeks. Henry Irving played to $315,000 in twenty-seven weeks.—New York Telegram.

An Effective Signal.

"It doesn't seem to be generally known," said a railroad telegraph operator yesterday, "that where the block system is in use travelers are protected at night whether the operator in the signal tower stays awake or not. Every lamp signal has three glass slides to it—red, green and white. The red is the outermost, the green next and the white inside that. To allow a train to pass the tower the operator has to pull down the red slide by a cord and hold it down. Directly he lets go the red light goes in position again. He is not allowed to do anything else. So that if he goes to sleep or is taken sick the danger signal always bars the way."—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Manufacture of Glucose.

The prejudice against glucose has about worn itself out. As is now generally known, glucose is made from corn, and cannot help but be wholesome when well made. The manufacture is entirely confined to the west, and about 1,000,000 pounds a day are turned out. At first it had to be delivered in disguise, and candy makers especially were particular about this. Now the very best candies are made out of glucose, and no secret is made of the fact. There are over twenty glucose factories within twenty-four hours' ride of St. Louis.—Interview in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

When Is an Actor an Artist?

It is, in a word, the power of feeling that marks the artist; all else is but the mechanical side which is common to all the arts. There are many born actors who have never faced an audience, as there are many true poets who have never written a verse, and painters who have never taken a palette in hand. To some only is given the power of expression as well as of feeling, and they become artists in the sight of the world as the others are in the sight of our semi-divine mistress, the art universal.—Salvini in Century.

The street car conductors and police use the same kind of whistles in Bay City, Mich., and it creates more fun than a barrel of monkeys. Every few hours a whistle will sound, and a copper start on a run in the direction of the sound, only to learn that some conductor has been starting the car. It's fun for the street car folk, but death to the police.

Fire destroyed Christ Episcopal church in New York Wednesday. The $50,000 painting, "The Ideal Head of Christ," was also burned.

The presiding judge has refused to quash the indictment against ex-State Treasurer Noland, of Missouri, charged with embezzlement.

The Burton block, Chicago, burned. The loss on the building and contents will aggregate $80,000, most of which is covered by insurance.

An exploding gas well near Carey, O., killed Henry Wilson, a driller, and fatally burned Charles Henderson and wounded several others.

Mrs. J. M. McFarland, a patient in the Huron street hospital, Cleveland, O., committed suicide by jumping from a fourth story window.

A secret meeting of stove manufacturers is in session at Chicago. It is surmised that they are endeavoring to form a trust and advance prices.

Bob Atkinson, a deputy sheriff, was killed by E. L. Smith, a planter, near Arcola, Miss. The difficulty grew out of a bill for costs of court.

Asa Warnock and wife, who were robbed and badly hurt at New Castle, Ind., recognize in their grandson, Lincoln Gosset, the perpetrator of the deed.

North Manchester, Ind., burglars go clad in silken attire, which to the value of $1,000 they abstracted from the store of Frame, Signs & Company.

Hon. Henry D. McHenry, a prominent Kentucky Democrat, member of the National Democratic committee since 1872, died Wednesday morning.

The collector of customs at Victoria, B. C., has seized the German schooner Adele, which returned from the Behring sea after raiding the Pribyloff islands of 400 seals.

White Buffalo man, a son of Sitting Bull, says the killing of his father was right, but unless the government is prompt there will be serious trouble result.

Millionaire silver men propose to test the constitutionality of the new silver law, their claim being that the government has no right to refuse to exchange bullion for coin.

All the saw-mills on Lake Charles and the Calcasieu river, Louisiana, have been shut down, owing to a strike of the men for ten hours instead of eleven hours labor per day.

Fred. Martell, a Chicago boy 16 years old, committed suicide by shooting himself in his employer's office. His mother had been divorced and remarried a man whom the boy disliked.

On Tuesday Governor Steel returned the Kingfisher capital bill to both houses of the Oklahoma legislature, with a communication setting forth his objections to it. The legislature refused to change the bill.

At Athens, O., Carl Davis was struck on the head with a beer glass by John Rose, and died in a few minutes. At the moment of the murder Davis' wife was at the saloon door beseeching her drunken husband to come with her.

Surrogate Ransom, of New York, has granted an order permitting Gen. John C. Fremont's will to be withdrawn from the files there and sent to Mrs. Jessie Benton Fremont, his widow, at Los Angeles, Cal., where she desires to have it probated.

Nellie Mayres, charged with robbing and seriously wounding John Yost, at Wichita, Kan., was found guilty after religious services had been held in the jury room. The discourse was on the immortality of the soul. Her counsel will appeal.

Paul Holtz, who late Monday night killed his father at Chicago, said to the police: "I did it because he starved me. I work in a picture frame factory, and earn $6 a week; but my father takes it away from me and does not give me enough to eat. He was a cabinetmaker. He did not earn much more than I do, and spent most of his money on women."

Petitions are circulating all over Oklahoma asking that congress delare the present legislature an illegal organized body, and all its works set aside. It will reach Washington next Monday. It is the outgrowth of general dissatisfaction among the people over the work of the legislature, no section getting as much territorial recognition as desired.

Non-Resident Notice.

State of Tennessee—Montgomery County.

Pickering & Wilkerson vs. Diehl Fireworks Co.

It appearing from affidavit filed in this case, that defendants, Diehl Fireworks Co., are non-residents of Tennessee and that an attachment was issued by S. A. Caldwell, J. P., on the 3d of Nov. 1890, against the property of said defendant, and a debt of nineteen dollars due them from E. B. Ely having been levied on and said attachment returned before me by C. W. Staton, sheriff, on Nov. 5th, 1890, showing said levy, it is therefore ordered that publication be made in the TOBACCO LEAF-CHRONICLE, a newspaper published in the town of Clarksville, notifying the said Diehl Fireworks Company to put in their appearance at my office on

December 22, 1890,

and plead, answer or demur to complainant's bill, or the same will be taken as confessed as to them and proceeded with ex parte.

S. A. CALDWELL, J. P.

November 24, 1890, 4w,d

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Owing to the mildness of the weather I will sell men's and boy's clothing, overcoats and gent's furnishing goods at cost. B. Friedman. n26,dtf

Bargains in Envelopes.

The LEAF Job Office has some extra good circular envelopes, numbers 6 and 6¾, at cut prices, in lots of 2,000 to 10,000, either printed or plain. There are 75,000 of these envelopes and a bargain in every one.