

SABBATH-SCHOOL LESSONS
ON THE
Life and Teachings of Jesus

As Recorded in the Book of Matthew

SENIOR DIVISION
FIRST QUARTER

1915

Introductory Note

This series of lessons is to continue six quarters. The senior and the junior lessons cover the entire text of Matthew, while the intermediate and the primary are based on the same scriptures, or selected parts of the same, that are studied by the seniors each Sabbath. This will make it possible for family study to be enjoyed together to a considerable degree. Fathers and mothers can study the primary and the intermediate lesson with their children, and at the same time be getting a large part of their own lesson—in many cases all of it.

The plan of these lessons is to make them simple, direct, and connected. It is not an attempt to study all the teachings of Jesus, nor to introduce all the recorded events of His life and seek to follow them in strictly chronological order. The aim is rather to take the record as Matthew gives it, and concentrate effort upon obtaining the greatest practical lessons possible. Matthew's narrative is simple, compact, and highly spiritual, but not always in chronological order. He records twenty miracles, twenty parables, and more distinct events in the life of Christ than any other writer. If we assimilate well the teachings of the Master as presented by Matthew, the converted tax-collector and true disciple, we shall doubtless gain more practical help for daily living than if we sought to follow in our study historical sequence or a harmony of the Gospels. "The *words* that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

2. "I saw that some of God's children have made a mistake in regard to oath-taking, and Satan has taken advantage of this to oppress them, and take from them their Lord's money. I saw that the words of our Lord, 'Swear not at all,' do not touch the judicial oath." "I saw that if there is any one on earth who can consistently testify under oath, it is the Christian. He lives in the light of God's countenance. He grows strong in His strength. And when matters of importance must be decided by law, there is no one who can so well appeal to God as the Christian." "Jesus submitted to the oath in the hour of His trial." The high priest said unto Him, 'I adjure Thee by the living God, that Thou tell us whether Thou be the Christ, the Son of God.' Jesus said unto him, 'Thou hast said.'"—"Testimonies for the Church," volume 1, pages 201-203.

3. That the Saviour's instruction here includes profane, slangy, and careless speech is evident from the tenor of His words, especially in verse 37. The Christian should take this instruction to heart; for while he would not use the name of God in profane or careless ways, he may fall into the habit of using bywords, slang, or uncouth expressions which have in them the principle or spirit of profanity, just as anger has in it the germ of murder, and the lustful look the seed of impurity.

"Some exaggerate in their language. Some swear by their own life; others swear by their head,—as sure as they live; as sure as they have a head. Some take heaven and earth to witness that such things are so. Some hope that God will strike them out of existence if what they are saying is not true. It is this kind of common swearing against which Jesus warns His disciples."—"Testimonies," volume 1, page 201.

Lesson 10 — Treatment of Enemies

MARCH 6, 1915

DAILY STUDY OUTLINE

Sabbath	Read the lesson scripture	
Sunday	Attitude toward evil-doers— Read "Mount of Blessing," pages 106-111	Ques. 1-3
Monday	Giving to them that ask—Read "Mount of Blessing," pages 111, 112	Ques. 4-7
Tuesday	Love your enemies—Read "Mount of Blessing," pages 113-115	Ques. 8-11

Wednesday .. Work for perfection Ques. 12-15
Thursday Read "Mount of Blessing," pages
116-118
Friday Review the lesson

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Matt. 5:38-48

Questions

1. What is the ancient law of compensation for wrong-doing? Matt. 5:38; Lev. 24:17-22.
2. Does this law justify a man in avenging himself on a wrong-doer? Prov. 20:22; 24:29. Note 1.
3. What does Jesus say about our attitude toward the evil-doer? Matt. 5:39-41. Note 2.
4. How ought we to respond to those who ask for help? Verse 42.
5. What is to be our guide in giving to the needy? Deut. 15:7, 8.
6. In what spirit should we render aid to the needy? Luke 6:35.
7. What compensation is assured to those who give to the poor? Deut. 15:10.
8. What other saying did Jesus mention? Matt. 5:43.
9. What course toward enemies does Jesus urge upon us? Verse 44.
10. Whose children do we thus become? Verse 45, first part.
11. How does our Father illustrate this lesson in nature? Verse 45, last part.
12. If we do no more than love those who love us, to whom may we be compared? Verse 46; Luke 6:32.
13. What is intimated concerning those who greet their brethren only? Matt. 5:47.
14. To whom would our Father have us be kind? Luke 6:35, last part.
15. What standard is set before us? Matt. 5:48.

Notes

1. The law in Leviticus requiring the offender to restore in kind, was a civil law, to be administered by proper authority. Its supreme justice is evident. It does not, however, justify a man's seeking to requite the wrong himself, for in so doing he might commit a greater wrong. The exacting of the penalty must be left to disinterested persons.

2. The Revised Version reads, "Resist not him that is evil," or, more literally, "Resist not the evil one." This instruction was especially fitting to the Jews under the Roman yoke, and was evidently meant to teach them not to resist the authority of their rulers. How wonderfully Jesus exemplified the principle during His trial and crucifixion, not only toward authorities, but toward any who did Him evil! See Isa. 50:6: Such a course will often cause him "that is of the contrary part" to be ashamed.

Lesson 11 — Motive and Manner of Service

MARCH 13, 1915

DAILY STUDY OUTLINE

Sabbath	Read the lesson scripture	
Sunday	Motive in right-doing	Ques. 1-4
Monday	Two ways of giving — Read "Mount of Blessing," pages 119-124	Ques. 5-8
Tuesday	Two ways of praying	Ques. 9-14
Wednesday ..	How to pray; two ways of fast- ing	Ques. 15-19
Thursday	Read "Mount of Blessing," pages 125-130	
Friday	Review the lesson	

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Matt. 6: 1-18

Questions

1. What motive should not enter into right-doing? Matt. 6: 1, first part, margin.

2. What shows that our Father regards the motive or spirit even more than the deed? Verse 1, last part; Mark 9: 41. Note 1.

3. How do hypocrites do alms, or deeds of mercy? Matt. 6: 2, first part.