

DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

Rewards for the Dull.

Unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one to every man according to his several ability.—Matt. 25: 15.

MANY of the parables of Jesus Christ were more graphic in the times in which He lived than they are now, because circumstances have so much changed.

SOMETHING WE ALL UNDERSTAND. It is built on money, and that means the same in Jerusalem as in New York.

WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING with my property since I have been gone? The man who had received the \$9,400 came up and said: "I invested that money."

A LAZY FELLOW. He comes up to the owner of the estate, and says: "Here are those \$1,880."

INTENDED TO BE ACCUMULATIVE. When God plants an acorn, He means an oak; and when He plants a small amount of grace in the heart, He intends it to be growthful, and enlarge until it overshadows the whole nature.

NO EXCUSE FOR INDOLENCE. This man, with the smallest amount of money, came growling into the presence of the owner of the estate, as much as to say: "If you had given me \$9,400 I would have brought \$18,800 as well as this other man."

A VOLUNTARY SERVICE. People are not brought into it as slaves were dragged from Africa. A young man goes to an artisan, and says: "Sir, I want to learn your trade."

teacher lifts a blackboard, and he draws a diagram in order that by that diagram he may impress the mind of the pupil with the truth that he has been uttering.

RUINOUS COMPARISON when a man says: "Oh, if I only had that man's faith, or that man's money, or that man's eloquence, how I would serve God!"

YOU sometimes find a man in the community of whom you say: "He has no talent at all"; and yet that man may have a hundred talents.

THE AGGREGATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED. Oh, that will be the great day of settlement! I have to ask the question: "Am I ready for it?"

HAPPINESS WILL BE GRADUATED according to our degrees of usefulness on earth. Several of the commentators agree in making this parable the same one as in Luke, where one man was made ruler over five cities, and another made ruler over two cities.

REWARD WAITING FOR YOU. There are Christian people in the house who are very near heaven. This week some of you may pass out into the light of the unsetting sun.

MEN OF ONE TALENT. Once in a while, when a great fortress is to be taken, God will bring out a great field-piece and rake all with the very hail of destruction.

sands of common troops under him, to drive down the walls of cities, and, under rathful strokes, to make nations fly like sparks from the anvil.

COMPANION, HELPMATE FRIEND. Two Statesmen's Wives. Not long ago, when speaking of his wife, Prince Bismarck is reported to have said, "She it is who has made me what I am."

Just so, when you come to the gate of the future world, and you are talking with Death, the black porter at the gate, methinks Christ will hoist the window and say: "Come in! come in! I will make the ruler over ten cities."

Lord Beaconsfield described his wife as "the severest critic, but a perfect wife." Shaw said the widow of his friend, Mr. Wadhams Lewis, and twenty years his elder.

Canned Fruit and Vegetables. Many fruit and vegetables, being hermetically sealed while they are fresh from the vine at the point of supply, are fresher, more wholesome and palatable than those called fresh fruits and vegetables exposed for sale for considerable periods of time in city and village markets.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON. SUNDAY DECEMBER 9, 1895. Gideon's Army. LESSON TEXT. Judg. 7: 1-8. Memory verses, 2-3.

LESSON PLAN. TOPIC OF THE QUARTER: God's Promises Fulfilled.

GOLDEN TEXT FOR THE QUARTER: There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.—Josh. 21: 45.

LESSON TOPIC: Regaining God's Favor.

LESSON ANALYSIS. I. PRIDE FORESTALLED. I. Ready for Battle. Gideon, and all the people, rose up early, and pitched—(1).

II. Confident in Numbers. The people that are with thee are too many (2). They came in as locusts for multitude; they came... to destroy (Judg. 6: 5).

III. Liable to Pride. Let Israel vaunt themselves against me (2). Gideon went before destruction (Prov. 16: 18).

II. The many Rejected. The people are yet too many (4). The Lord saveth not with sword and spear (1 Sam. 17: 47).

III. GOD ACCEPTED. I. Encouragement. By the three hundred... will I save you (7).

II. Direction. Let all the people go every man unto his place (7). The meek will be taught his way (Psa. 25: 9).

III. Submission. So the people took victuals, and their trumpets (8). The people hastened and passed over (Josh. 4: 10).

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So the people took victuals, and their trumpets (8). The people hastened and passed over (Josh. 4: 10). So he caused the ark of the Lord to compass the city (Josh. 6: 11).

They then that received his word were baptized (Acts 2: 41).

We must obey God rather than men (Acts 5: 29).

1. "And the Lord said unto Gideon," (1) The Lord guiding Gideon; (2) Gideon guided by the Lord.

LESSON SURROUNDINGS. MIRACULOUS VICTORIES. At the Red Sea (Exod. 14: 26-31). Over Amalek (Exod. 17: 8-13).

LESSON BIBLE READING. The general statement of the condition of Israel during the period of the judges is followed by a chief description of the nations that remained in the land (Judg. 3: 1-6).

The place of the lesson was probably on the north side of Mount Gilboa, in the tribe of Issachar. The time is uncertain, since the periods named in this book evidently overlap each other.

The Aquatic Spider and Its Diving-Belt. While their nearly constant abode is the water, they are, like most other spiders, air-breathers; consequently they need some special provision for providing themselves with air while living under the water.

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