

LESSON V.—MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.

January 30 - February 5, 2022

In the Desert Near the Jordan, Spring of A. D. 27.

(Matt. 3: 1-12; Luke 3: 1-15.)

	<i>Side texts to be studied with questions.</i>
1. WHILE Jesus was yet with His parents in Nazareth, who began preaching in the wilderness of Judea? Matt. 3: 1.	Luke 3: 2; John 1: 28.
2. What was the burden of his message? Verse 2. See note 1.	Matt. 4: 17; 10: 7.
3. By what did John prove the authority of his mission? Verse 3.	Isa. 40: 3; Mal. 3: 1; Matt. 11: 10.
4. What proclamation did he include which was calculated to stir all the people? Luke 3: 5, 6.	Isa. 52: 10; Ps. 98: 2; Luke 2: 10.
5. Who was then Roman emperor? Luke 3: 1.	
6. Who were acting high priests in the Jewish nation? Verse 2. See note 2.	John 11: 49; 18: 13, 24.
7. In what garb was Christ's forerunner dressed? Matt. 3: 4.	2 Kings 1: 8; Matt. 11: 14; 17: 12.
8. What was the nature of his diet?	
9. Who were attracted by the appearance and preaching of John? Verse 5.	John 1: 19.
10. Upon confession of sin, to what did the people also submit? Verse 6.	Acts 13: 24, 25; 19: 2.
11. How did the leaders of the people regard John's message? Luke 7: 29, 30.	
12. In view of their attitude, with what sharp words did John address them? Matt. 3: 7.	Matt. 12: 34; 23: 33.
13. What remedy did he recommend for their desperate circumstances? Verse 8.	2 Cor. 7: 10, 11; Matt. 26: 75.
14. Of what were these Pharisees evidently thinking? Verse 9.	John 8: 33, 39; Rom. 9: 8.

15. From what did John tell them God was able to raise up seed unto Abraham?	Luke 19:39, 40; Zech. 9:9.
16. What warning did He then proceed to give them? Verse 10.	Luke 13:7, 9; Matt. 21:41-43.
17. What reply did the people make to this? Luke 3:10.	Acts 2:37; 9:6.
18. Of what nature was the work John assigned them? Verse 11.	Luke 11:41; James 2:15, 16; 1 John 3:17; Job 29:15, 16.
19. What question did the publicans ask concerning their duty? Verse 12.	Luke 7:29; Rom. 3:4.
20. What very practical answer did they receive? Verse 13. See note 3.	Luke 19:2, 8; Lev. 6:4.
21. What counsel did John give the soldiers who inquired as to their work? Verse 14.	Ex. 23:7; Phil. 4:8.
22. What condition of mind did the people find themselves in because of John's words? Verse 15.	

READING. *

"Desire of Ages," pp. 97-108.

NOTES.

1. "At hand;" that is, *has come nigh*. This was the herald of an expected leader to take them forth from their wanderings in the wilderness of sin. See note 6 of lesson 3. Those to whom the Baptist preached were like their prototypes of old, while in Egypt,—outside of God's kingdom, in the service of another king. Therefore the message to them in the wilderness was to be ready to sustain the better administration which was at hand, and so enter the kingdom of heaven.

2. At this time the Roman emperor claimed and exercised the right to appoint and depose the Jewish high priests, as he chose. All who served in this office must please the emperor. Annas, though a sagacious and purchasable man, was not able to hold the office undisturbed. Appointed by Cyrenius, imperial governor of Syria, in A. D. 7 (Luke 2:2), he was obliged to resign at the beginning of the reign of Tiberius Cæsar, A. D. 14. He managed, however, to secure the office in turn for five of his sons, and for

his son-in-law, Caiaphas, with whom he managed to be associated up to and beyond the time of the crucifixion of Christ. Acts 4:6. See "Desire of Ages," p. 30.

3. Publicans—those holding public office, chiefly tax-gatherers. Doing this work under appointment of, and in the interest of, the Roman Government, this class was odious and despised in the eyes of their countrymen, not only as traitors, but extortioners of large profits out of the national degradation. They received, like all the others, an answer just suited to their needs.
