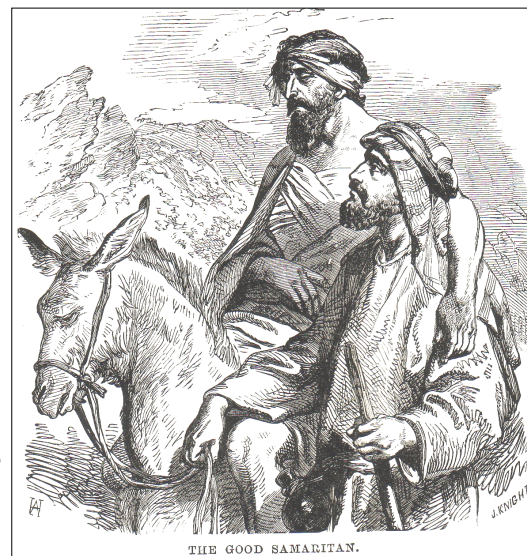


TEACHING BY PARABLES (2)

1. Last week, we thought about **why** our Lord taught by p_____.
 2. Today we are thinking about the great lessons our Lord t_____ by his parables.
- The **first lesson** we learn from parables is that to have f_____ in Christ as our S_____ is the most v_____ and pr_____ thing we can have on earth. The Parables of 'The P_____ of Great Price' and 'The Treasure hid in a F_____' teach us this.
 - The **second lesson** is Christ's great love for s_____. There are many parables that teach us this.... 'The Lost Sh_____', 'The Lost piece of S_____', and of course, 'The Prodigal S_____'.



THE LESSON OF KINDNESS

*'Think kindly of the erring
Thou knowest not the power
With which the dark temptation
came
In some unguarded hour;
Thou knowest not how earnestly
They struggled, or how well,
Until the hour of weakness came,
And sadly then they fell.*

- The **third lesson** is that of 'kindness'. The best example of this is 'The Parable of the Good S_____'.
- The **fourth lesson** He taught by parables is the importance of a good example. One example is 'The parable of the Burning Candle'.

Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel,
but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all
that are in the house.' Matt 5 v 15-16

Androcles and the Lion

Androcles and the Lion.—Most of those who read these pages may have heard this story, but it illustrates the point before us so well, that I do not hesitate to use it here.

Androcles was a Roman slave. To escape the cruel treatment of his master, he ran away. A lonely cave in the midst of a forest was his home for a while. Returning to his cave one day, he met a lion near the mouth of the cave. He was bellowing as if in pain; and on getting nearer to him, he found that he was suffering from a thorn which had run into one of his paws. It was greatly swollen and inflamed, and was causing him much pain. Androcles went up to the suffering beast. He drew out the rankling thorn, and thus relieved him of his pain. His nature, savage as it was, felt the power of the kindness thus shown to him. He became attached to the lonely slave, and shared his prey with him while they remained together.

But after a while the retreat of Androcles was discovered. He was taken and carried back to his master. The lion also was made a prisoner soon after. Androcles was kept in prison for some time; and finally, according to the custom of the Romans, he was condemned to be devoured by wild beasts. The lion to be let loose on Androcles had been kept a long time without food, and was very hungry. When the door of his den was opened, he rushed out with a tremendous roar. The Colosseum was crowded with spectators. They expected to see the poor slave torn to pieces in a moment. But, to the surprise of every one, the great monster, hungry as he was, instead of devouring the condemned man, crouched at his feet, and began to fondle him, as a pet dog would do. He recognised in the poor prisoner his friend of the forest, and showed that he had not forgotten his kindness. The kindness of Androcles had been like the honey shield to him. It saved his life, first from the savage beast in the forest, and then from the savage men in the city. Let us all put on this shield, and wear it wherever we go. The lesson of kindness which Jesus teaches in the parable of the Good Samaritan has been very well put by some one in these sweet lines:

THE LESSON OF KINDNESS.

‘Think kindly of the erring !
Thou knowest not the power
With which the dark temptation came
In some unguarded hour ;
Thou knowest not how earnestly
They struggled, or how well,
Until the hour of weakness came,
And sadly then they fell.
Speak kindly to the erring !
Thou yet may'st lead him back
With holy words, and tones of love,
From misery's thorny track :

