

5. "Would God my lord were with the prophet which is in Samaria!" An illustration of simple, perfect, victorious faith. "Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." Num. 13 30; Dan. 3. 17; 6. 10, 23; Luke 7. 50; John 11. 27.

6. "And he went in, and told his lord." The "little maid" exhibited in her solicitude a divinely imposed, and so influential, spirit. "Seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives." Jer. 29. 7; Rom. 12. 19; Col. 3. 13; 1 Sam. 25. 14-17; Ruth 2. 4.

7. "Thus said the maid." The influence of a testimony given in simple faith. "And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe." Eph. 1. 19; Prov. 14. 26; Heb. 10. 35; 1 John 2. 28; 3. 21; 5. 14.

8. "Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel." A striking illustration of conviction, not by the persuasion of the "little maid," but by the Truth. "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart." Acts 2. 37; Luke 15. 17; Jonah 3. 4-6; Acts 16. 29, 30; 24. 25.

9. "That thou mayest recover him of his leprosy." Think of the leprosy of sin, and its possible instantaneous cure. "From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores." Isa. 1. 6; Jas. 4. 17; Prov. 15. 9; Eccl. 7. 20; Rom. 6. 18.

10. "Took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment." How natural, and yet how futile, the effort to purchase the divine favor. "Not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph. 2. 9; 2 Tim. 1. 9; Tit. 3. 5; Rom. 3. 20; Gal. 2. 16.

11. "See how he seeketh a quarrel against me." The accusing scourge of a guilty conscience. "He was perplexed, because that it was said of some, that John was risen from the dead." Luke 9. 7; Gen. 42. 21; 1 Sam. 24. 5; Matt. 27. 3; 2 Cor. 1. 12.

12. "Am I God to kill, and to make alive." A statement averring the utterly incurable nature of leprosy. "And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole." Luke 17. 12-19; Lev. 13. 14; 2 Kings 7. 8; Mark 1. 41.

13. "He shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." God does not ask us to believe in anything less than demonstration. "My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever." Psa. 73. 26; Luke 4. 18, 19; 2 Cor. 4. 8-10, 16-18; Isa. 12. 2.

14. "Let him come now to me." From God sufferers must seek relief in person. "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." John 5. 40; 7. 37; Matt. 11. 28, 29; Ezek. 18. 20, 30; 1 Cor. 3. 13-15.

15. "Go and wash in Jordan seven times." There is from heaven no unconditional salvation. "Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord." Matt. 9. 28, 29; John 9. 7; Zech. 13. 1; Acts 16. 30, 31; Mark 16. 16.

16. "And Naaman was wroth, and went away." He, wanted to be healed in his own way. "Who hath saved us, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose." 2 Tim. 1. 9; Rom. 11. 6; Tit. 3. 5; Prov. 21. 4; Matt. 23. 29, 30.

17. "He will surely come out to me." How thoroughly and practically God ignores human pride. "For that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." Luke 16. 15; Prov. 6. 16, 17; 1 Tim. 3. 6; 2 Kings 20. 13, 16, 17.

18. "So he turned and went away in a rage." Man

may "rage," but God in perfect composure holds to his original conditions. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16. 31; 17. 30; 2 Cor. 6. 2; Rom. 1. 16; 10. 9, 10; Matt. 10. 22.

19. "Seven times." Number of perfection. "And the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times." Josh. 6. 4; Lev. 4. 6; Dan. 9. 25; Gen. 29. 18; 1 Kings 18. 43.

20. "And he was clean." Obedience always secures healing, if not as we desire as we need. "Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice." Deut. 13. 4; Exod. 23. 22; 1 Sam. 12. 14; Isa. 1. 19; Jas. 1. 25.

Berean Methods.

Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

In this story we cannot help tracing the analogies between the physical and spiritual worlds. I. Take *Naaman's condition* as a type of the sinner's: 1.) Hereditary; 2.) Defiling; 3.) Deceptive; 4.) Deadly.... A leading lawyer in the Sandwich Islands once overturned a lighted lamp on his hand, and was surprised to find no pain in the burned member. From that fact he learned, what no one else had suspected, that he was a leper. He gave information, but at first it could not be believed; yet after a time he was sent to "the leper's island," where he died six years after.... II. Show in the *captive's word* how "faith cometh by hearing," and how a child may point others to salvation.... III. Show the *captain's pride*, how nearly it lost him his cure, and how the same spirit keeps souls from salvation.... IV. Show the *cure*, and its conditions: 1.) Obedience; 2.) Perseverance.... V. Show the *captain's gratitude*. What shall we render to God for our salvation?

References. FREEMAN. Ver. 5: 64, 93. Ver. 5-7: Letters, 381.

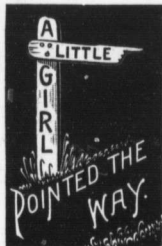
Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



Draw a heart with white chalk. Make it all white except the blotches, which represent the foulness of sin. Speak of the incurable leprosy. God alone could make the leper clean, and he alone can cleanse the heart from leprosy sin.

Here is a simple design of a guide-post. On it is written, "A little girl." She pointed the way. A little girl, a little word, a little act of obedience, saved a great man from a loathsome death. What am I doing to save a soul?



A WORD IN SEASON.
WHEN DID I SPEAK IT TO CURE A SIN-SICK SOUL?