

LESSON V—February 2nd, 1896.

The Power of Jesus. LUKE 5: 17-26.

(Commit to memory verses 22-24).

GOLDEN TEXT: "The Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins." Luke 5: 24.

PROVE THAT—Jesus is all-powerful. Heb. 10: 25.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 43. *What is the preface to the ten commandments?* A.

The preface to the ten commandments is in these words, "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." Quest.

44. *What does the preface to the ten commandments teach us?* A. The preface to the ten commandments teacheth us, That because God is the Lord, and our God, and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal.* Nos. 162, 37, 49, 100.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The Power of Jesus. Luke 5: 17-26. *Tuesday.* The Great Physician. Mark 1: 23-34. *Wednesday.* Power to forgive. Luke 7: 36-50. *Thursday.* Forgiveness through Christ. Acts 13: 26-39. *Friday.* Forgiven for his sake. 1 John 2: 1-12. *Saturday.* Plenteous redemption. Psalm 130. *Sabbath.* Blessing of Forgiveness. Psalm 22. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Rejected at Nazareth, Jesus with his mother and brethren, removed to Capernaum, which henceforth became his place of residence (Matt. 9: 1). Here he soon after formally summoned Peter, Andrew, James and John to be his constant attendants. The miracles of the wonderful draught of fishes, the healing of the demoniac in the synagogue and the curing of Peter's mother-in-law were but instances out of a great number of such works of mercy at this time. He then set out on his first tour through Galilee, Great multitudes followed him (Matt. 4: 25) and his fame extended beyond the borders of Palestine. On his return to Capernaum the incident recorded in our lesson took place. Parallel passages, Matt. 9: 2-8; Mark 2: 1-12.

LESSON PLAN. I. Seeking Jesus. vs. 17-19. II. Sins Forgiven. vs. 20-23. III. Sickness Healed. vs. 24-26.

17. As he was teaching—Not in the synagogue but "at home" (Mark 2: 1, R. V. margin). **Pharisees**—a sect very scrupulous in observing the minutest points of the law. **Doctors**—men learned in the law, great theologians. Called also scribes and lawyers. **The power of the Lord**—The almighty power of God was with Jesus so that he healed the sick. **18. Bed**—A thick quilt or mattress. Bedsteads were unknown at that time. **Palsy**—*Paralysis*. Four friends carried each a corner (Mark 2: 3). **19. Because of the multitude**—Mark tells us that the crowd was so great that they could not get even to the door. **They went upon the housetop**—They probably ascended to the flat roof by an outside stair. **Through the tiling**—Mark says that they "dug through" the roof. It was made of poles on which straw and clay were spread, the whole being covered probably, with wooden tiles, or "clapboards." **20. Their faith**—The faith of all five. They had no doubt that Jesus was both able and willing to heal him. **Man**—Mark has "son," or "child," and Matthew, "Son, be of good cheer." With what gentle and gracious encouragement Jesus receives those who come to him. **Thy sins are forgiven thee**—Jesus read his heart and saw that he felt the burden of his sins far more than the burden of his disease. **21. Who is this**—They did not say anything aloud but "reasoned in their hearts" (Mark 2: 6). **Blasphemies**—It was

quite true that God alone could forgive sin, and the words of Jesus would have been blasphemy if spoken by a mere man (Ps. 32: 5; 103: 3; 130: 4; Isa. 1: 18; 43: 25). **22. Perceived their thoughts**—He knew what they were saying to themselves. This ought to have shewn them that he was himself the "Searcher of hearts" (Ps. 139: 1-10; John 2: 24, 25). **What reason ye**—Matthew has "Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?" They were uncharitable. They should not have hastily misjudged him. **23. Whether is easier**—So far as saying the words went one was as easy as the other, but Jesus proves his right to forgive sin by doing what divine power alone could do. **24. The Son of man**—Our Lord's favorite name for himself. It points him out as our brother man. It was a title of the Messiah (Dan. 7: 13). **Hath power**—He not only declares God's forgiveness of sin, but actually bestows pardon himself, as God. **On earth**—Not merely in heaven, but now, when dwelling as man among men (John 5: 27). The "Son of man" is also the "Son of God." **25. Took up that whereon he lay**—His obedience shewed his faith. His gratitude to God was openly expressed. **26. Filled with fear**—Reverential awe. They felt that they were in the presence of divine power. Still they were glad to know that there was one amongst them who could pardon sin as well as heal disease (Matt. 9: 8).

LESSONS. 1. We should persevere in our efforts to bring our friends to Jesus. 2. Jesus receives very graciously those who come to him. 3. Avoid hasty and uncharitable judgments. 4. Jesus knows all our thoughts. 5. He has power now to save to the uttermost.