

God Only Can Forgive Sins.

WHEREVER the Lord Jesus went, crowds of people were sure to come. One day, as soon as he had gone into a house at Capernaum, multitudes flocked to it. Even the outside, round the door, was crowded, for all the people were anxious to hear His holy and heavenly words, as He taught them.

Four men came outside that house—they were carrying a sick man on his bed. But they could not enter by the door, the crowd was too great. So they went up the stairs outside, to the top of the house, and they moved the covering from the inner room where Jesus was, and let down the sick man and his bed among the people.

This strange conduct stopped Jesus from teaching for a little while; and He, and all the people, looked at the poor palsied man as he lay on his bed before Him. Jesus spoke to the sick man, not to scold him nor to scold the people who had brought him—for Jesus was pleased to see in the trouble they had taken to get at Him, a sign that they believed in His power to heal. Jesus then said, "*Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.*"

Some of the people who were there found fault with Jesus' words, and they said among themselves, "*No-body but God can forgive sins.* That was true; but Jesus was God.

The Sleep of Death

"DO you think the little girl was really dead?" asked the teacher of a class of neglected-looking boys gathered in from the lanes, to whom she had been reading through the story of Jesus' daughter.

"Please 'm, I think she was," answered a ragged little fellow at the end of the form.

"Why, then, do you think, did the Lord Jesus say she was sleeping?"

"Please 'm, it was *only sleep to Him*, He could wake her so easy."

"Only sleep to Him,"—how sweet the thought, that, terrible as death is to us, with its icy chill, its gloomy pallor, its dust, and ashes, and corruption; it is "only sleep to Him" who has the keys of hell and

of death, and can wake the slumberer with His slightest word.

"Only sleep to Him." Our voices cannot break that slumber, nor can any human acts disturb it. Above the grave, thunders may roar and cannon boom, storms may beat, and armies wheel and charge, but no such sounds disquiet the tenants of the grave.

But when Jesus calls, the dead arise. His voice pierces the tombs, enters the dull ear of death, and awakes the slumberers from their graves.

The Very Reason.

"YOU need not be afraid," said some boys who were coaxing one of their number to rob a cherry-tree which his father had forbidden him to touch. "You need not be afraid, for if your father should find out that you had taken them, he is so kind that he will not hurt you."

"That is the very reason," replied the boy, "why I should not touch them. It is true my father may not hurt me, yet my disobedience, I know, would hurt my father, and that would be worse to me than anything else."

And is not this a good reason why the saved children of the Lord should do no evil? To "continue in sin that grace may

abound," shows that we know little of sin and less of grace. Let us see to it that we "grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, and if in anything we have grieved it, let us pray with Cowper,

"Return, oh, Holy Dove return,
Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
And drove thee from my breast."

Self Control.

A YOUNG Karen girl, who was a trouble to others by her bad temper and language, suddenly changed, and from being hated became quite a favourite with her companions.

Being asked how this came about, she said: "When bad words rise I pray to God, then shut my teeth tight, and choke them as they come up."

Might not some of our little readers learn a lesson in this from this poor half-taught heathen girl?

