

## Lesson XI.

## JESUS HEALS A MAN BORN BLIND

March 15, 1908

**BETWEEN THE LESSONS**—About six months intervene between last Lesson and to-day's. The chief events of this period are: Jesus' visit to the regions of Tyre and Sidon, where He healed the daughter of the Syrophenician woman (Matt. 15: 21-28; Mark 7: 24-30); the healing of many, and especially a deaf-mute in Decapolis (Mark 7: 31-37), followed by the feeding of the Four Thousand (Matt. 15: 32-39; Mark 8: 1-9), and the restoring of sight to a blind man at Bethsaida, Mark 8: 22-26. After this, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles, held in October. During the feast, He taught in the temple, until the Jews, in their hatred, attempted to stone Him, John, chs. 7, 8.

**GOLDEN TEXT**—I am the light of the world.—John 9: 5.

Memorize vs. 10, 11.

**THE LESSON PASSAGE**—John 9: 1-12.

Study John, ch. 9.

1 And as <sup>1</sup>Jesus passed by, he saw a man <sup>2</sup>which was blind from his birth.

2 And his disciples asked him, saying, <sup>3</sup>Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he <sup>4</sup>was born blind?

3 Jesus answered, Neither <sup>5</sup>hath this man <sup>6</sup>sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

4 <sup>7</sup>I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

5 <sup>8</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and <sup>9</sup>he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of

**Revised Version**—<sup>1</sup>he; <sup>2</sup>Omī which was; <sup>3</sup>Rabbi; <sup>4</sup>should be; <sup>5</sup>did; <sup>6</sup>sin; <sup>7</sup>We; <sup>8</sup>When; <sup>9</sup>anointed his eyes with; <sup>10</sup>away; <sup>11</sup>saw him aforetime; <sup>12</sup>a beggar; <sup>13</sup>Others; <sup>14</sup>it; <sup>15</sup>No, but he is like him. He said; <sup>16</sup>They said therefore; <sup>17</sup>then; <sup>18</sup>The man; <sup>19</sup>Omī the pool of; <sup>20</sup>so; <sup>21</sup>And they said; <sup>22</sup>saith.

**Daily Readings**—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Jesus heals a man born blind, John 9: 1-12. T.—Jesus heals a man born blind, John 9: 13-25. W.—Jesus heals a man born blind, John 9: 26-41. Th.—Faith and sight, Mk. 10: 46-52. F.—Isaiah's prophecy, Isa. 42: 1-7. S.—Wilful blindness, Matt. 13: 10-17. S.—Darkness and light, 2 Cor. 4: 1-6.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

**I. MISERY.**—1, 3. Jesus passed by; perhaps on His way from the temple, where He had been teaching, ch. 8: 59. He saw; with His quick eye



A BLIND BEGGAR

for the needs and distresses of others, even at the moment when He Himself had just escaped being stoned by the angry Jews. A man... blind; who begged his living, v. 8. Beggars commonly frequented the gates of the temple (Acts 3: 2), as they still do the entrances to European churches, where there are numerous visitors. From his birth; hopeless, therefore, in regard to restoration of sight. Disciples asked... who did sin? It was a common belief among the Jews, in which the disciples shared, that each particular sickness or sorrow was the result of a particular sin. Jesus corrects this wrong notion in Luke 13: 1-5. Neither... this man. It could not be that the man's own sin had

brought on his blindness. He was born blind. Nor his parents. Children do suffer for their parents' sins (Ex. 20: 5; Deut. 5: 9); but this man's blindness was not the fault of his parents, said Jesus. Works of God... made manifest in him. Suffering, however caused, is an opportunity for the power and mercy of God to reveal themselves.

**II. MERCY.**—4, 5. We must work (Rev. Ver.). Jesus takes His disciples into partnership with Himself in the great work of saving the world. Works of him that sent me. God intends to destroy evil of every kind, and calls us to do our part in fighting against it. The night cometh; of death. Jesus knew that soon the hate of His enemies would bring Him to the cross. No man can work; and therefore every flying moment should be improved. As long as I am in the world; making God's love and grace known to men. The light of the world; to scatter the darkness of the world's miseries, by sympathizing with sufferers and relieving them.

6, 7. Spat on the ground. Spittle was believed to be a remedy for diseased eyes. Jesus used it, to help the blind man's faith. Made clay... anointed the eyes. The touch would make real to the man Jesus' love to him and His personal interest in him. Go wash. Obedience would test and strengthen the man's faith. Pool of Siloam. See Geography Lesson. By interpretation, Sent. Siloam is a Hebrew name; John translates it for his Greek readers. Its waters were an image of Him who was "sent" from the Father. Went... washed... came seeing. Simple faith, prompt