

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From the International Lessons for 1881, by Edwin W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday-school Union.)

LESSON VIII.

FEB. 20.] [About A.D. 27.]

THE PREACHING OF JESUS.

Luke 4: 14-21.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VS. 16-19.

14. And Jesus returned, in the power of the Spirit into Galilee; and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

15. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

16. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written:

18. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

19. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor.—Luke 4: 18.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Prophecy fulfilled in Jesus

CONNECTED HISTORY.—When John the Baptist was preaching Jesus came to him; then followed the temptation; John testifies of Jesus, and Andrew, Peter, John, Phillip and Nathanael are called; the first miracle at Cana; Jesus visits Jerusalem, cleanses the temple; holds a night interview with Nicodemus; the Baptist is imprisoned; Jesus passes through Samaria; talks with the woman at the well; visits in Galilee; heals the nobleman's son; and comes to Nazareth where he was brought up.

REVIEW QUESTIONS.—Title of last lesson?—Golden Text?—What did John preach?—Whom did he precede?—What three classes of people asked his advice?—How did he describe Jesus?—To what did he liken the good?—The bad?—End of each class?

NOTES.—GALILEE, the northern portion of Palestine, about 50 miles long by 20 to 25 miles wide, bounded on the south by Samaria and on the north by Phenicia, called "Galilee of the Gentiles," where much of Jesus' public life was spent. It was the richest and most beautiful portion of Palestine.—SYNAGOGUE, Jewish places of prayer, or meeting-places, open every day. A low desk was near the centre and some of the seats around were higher than the others.—SABBATH DAY, the seventh day, our Saturday, and a day sacred to the Jews and strictly observed.—ESAIAS, the Greek for Isaiah.—THE BOOK, a roll or scroll.—MINISTER, he who had charge of the synagogue, and the box where the Scriptures were kept.

EXPLANATIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I) THE SYNAGOGUE. (II) THE SCRIPTURES. (III) THE SAVIOUR.

I. THE SYNAGOGUE.—(14-16) RETURNED, from the temptation in the wilderness; POWER, not weakened by the conflict with Satan; INTO GALILEE, see Notes; A FAME, after his miracle at Cana; HE TAUGHT, Luke sums up several months of the public ministry of Jesus in this verse; see "Connected History"; TO NAZARETH, first great visit after he entered on his public ministry; HIS CUSTOM, regular attendance at public worship; our example; TO READ, any devout Jew might be invited to read; Jesus standing up indicated his wish to read.

II. THE SCRIPTURES.—(17-19) BOOK, parchment roll; OPENED, unrolled; FOUND, turned up; THE PLACE, Isa. 61: 1, 2; UPON ME, upon the Messiah; GOSPEL, glad tidings; POOR, Christ is the special friend of the poor and oppressed.

III. THE SAVIOUR.—(20, 21) CLOSED, rolled up; MINISTER, see Notes; SAT, the custom was to stand while reading and sit while teaching; EYES OF ALL, his old neighbors and citizens were greatly amazed; FASTENED, intently fixed; TO SAY, to explain; FILLED, after nearly 800 years; IN YOUR EARS, a bold assertion which they could not believe of their neighbor the carpenter, but "there stood one among them whom they knew not."

POINTS TO NOTICE.—What facts here teach—(1) That regular attendance upon public worship is commendable? (2) That true teachers are sustained by the Holy Spirit? (3) That Jesus is a friend of the poor and oppressed? (4) That the Scriptures should be read in public?

"The passage which He had read was a very remarkable one, and it must have derived additional grandeur and solemnity from the lips of Him in whom it was fulfilled. Every eye was fixed upon Him with a gaze of intense earnestness and we may imagine the thrill of expectation and excitement which passed through the hearts of the listeners. His word were full of a grace, an authority, a power which was at first irresistible, and which commanded the involuntary astonishment of all. But as He proceeded He became conscious of a change. The spell of His wisdom and sweetness was broken. He saw that those eager glittering eyes, which had been fixed upon Him in the first excitement of attention, were beginning to glow with the malignant light of jealousy and hatred."—Farrar's Life of Christ.



ANCIENT ROLL OR BOOK.

LESSON IX.

FEB. 27.] [About 27. A. D.]

CHRIST HEALING THE SICK.

Luke 5: 12-26.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VS 22-26.

12. And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy; who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

13. And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him.

14. And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and show thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

15. But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities.

16. And he withdrew himself into the wilderness and prayed.

17. And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

18. And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with palsy; and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him.

19. And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.

20. And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

21. And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?

22. But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts?

23. Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee: or to say, Rise up and walk?

24. But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.

25. And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

26. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to-day.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The power of the Lord was present to heal them.—Luke 5: 17.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Jesus proved his power to deal with sin and its effects.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—When Jesus had finished speaking in the synagogue at Nazareth, his hearers rose up and thrust him out of the city, and tried to kill him, but he escaped, and came to Capernaum, where he again meets Simon, Andrew and John, and with them James; makes a tour of Galilee with his disciples, teaching and working miracles; again he comes to Capernaum where the events of the lesson take place.

REVIEW QUESTIONS.—In what place did the events of the last lesson occur?—Where was Nazareth?—Whose home?—Day mentioned?—The custom of Jesus?—What did Jesus do in the synagogue?—What Scriptures read?—Officers of synagogue mentioned?—Effect of Jesus' words?

NOTES.—LEPROSY, the foulest and most loathsome of human ailments. Lepers were excluded from all society, dwelling outside the city or vil-

lage in a quarter of their own. It was looked upon by the Jews as a mark of God's displeasure, see the cases of Miriam, Gehazi, Naaman and Uzziah. Farrar says, "Corrupting the very fountains of the life blood of man, it distorted his countenance, rendered loathsome his touch, slowly encrusted and infested him with a plague spot of disease far more horrible than death itself."—MOSES, the law-giver and leader of ancient Israel.—PHARISEES, a popular religious sect which in the time of Christ included a large part of the Jews. They were outwardly and formally very pious, but many were wicked at heart. They were the enemies of Christ.—DOCTORS, teachers.—GALILEE, see Lesson 8.—JUDAEA, the southern part of Palestine, with Samaria on the north and Idumaea on the south.—JERUSALEM, see "Notes" on Lesson 5.—PALSY, a contraction of the word paralysis.—TILING, the stone slabs, or clay tiles of which the slight roof is composed.

EXPLANATIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I) HEALING THE LEPER (II) HEALING THE PARALYTIC.

I. HEALING THE LEPER.—(12-16) CERTAIN CITY, literally "one of the cities," Capernaum; LEPROSY, see "Notes"; BESOUGHT, earnestly entreated; I WILL, immediate response to the leper's faith; LEPROSY DEPARTED, instantly cured; OFFER, see Lev. ch. 14; TESTIMONY, "the appointed test of the reality and completeness of the cleansing work."—Ellicott; THE MORE, "thankful joy makes silence impossible for him."—Lange.

II. HEALING THE PARALYTIC.—(17-26) CERTAIN DAY, not the same day, some time had elapsed; POWER OF THE LORD, manifested in Jesus; SOUGHT MEANS, tried to get to the door; HOUSETOP, flat, reached by outside stairs; BEFORE JESUS, determined and successful perseverance; THEIR FAITH, it had surmounted every difficulty; THY SINS, not a proof that the man was suffering for sins; FORGIVEN, only divinity can thus speak; TO REASON, they could not account for it; BLASPHEMIES, by assuming divine power; IN YOUR HEARTS, even the secrets of our hearts are known to him; THAT YE MAY KNOW, he that heals the body has power also to heal the soul; SON OF MAN, only so called by Christ himself; TAKE UP, others brought him and the bed; STRANGE THINGS, every saved soul to-day equally a miracle of grace!

POINTS TO NOTICE.—Where are we taught in this lesson?—(1) That Jesus has sympathy for the sick? (2) That he hears and answers prayer? (3) That our faith is known to God?

ILLUSTRATIONS.—Duty of Praise. God does not like to bestow His blessings where they will be hoarded or absorbed. He loves to give His very best gifts unto those who will not store them away in barns, but will scatter them abroad. He puts songs into the hearts of those who will sing them out again.

Faith. "It is not the quantity of faith that shall save thee." A drop of water is as true water as the whole ocean, so a little faith is as true faith as the greatest; a spark of fire is as true fire as a great flame; a sickly man is as truly living as a well man. So it is not the measure of thy faith that saves thee; it is the blood that it grips to that saves thee.—Winslow, D.D.

THE PROMPT CLERK.

A young man was commencing life as a clerk. One day his employer said to him: "Now to-morrow that cargo of cotton must be got out and weighed, and we must have a regular account of it."

He was a young man of energy. This was the first time he had been entrusted to superintend the execution of this work; he made his arrangements over night, spoke to the men about their carts and horses, and resolving to begin very early in the morning he instructed the laborers to be there at half-past four o'clock. So they set to work and the thing was done; and about ten or eleven o'clock his master came in, and seeing him sitting in the counting-house, looked very black, supposing that his command had not been executed.

"I thought," said the master, "you were requested to get out that cargo this morning?"

"It is all done," said the young man, "and here is the account of it."

He never looked behind him from that moment—never! His character was fixed, confidence was established. He was found to be the man to do the thing with promptness. He very soon came to be one that could not be spared; he was as necessary to the firm as any one of the partners. He was a religious man, and went through a life of great benevolence, and at his death was able to leave his children an ample fortune. Exchange.

TORTOISE.—It is a disputed point whether animals are fond of music or not. A lady writes from her country house in France—"I have a little tortoise always inhabiting the garden. When I call 'Tortue, tortue,' he answers to his name, otherwise he never shows himself—he might be a hundred miles off, for all we ever see of him; excepting sometimes when my sister comes down from Paris to pay me a visit. When she plays on the piano, he at once responds, and finds his way up to her, traversing the lawn and the outer room; he then puts out his small head and appears to be intent on listening and to enjoy the harmony of sweet sounds. When she accompanies the air with her voice, it seems to afford the mysterious little hard-

coated creature still more pleasure. The music ended, he retires again to the garden."

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