



LESSON,—SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1908.

**Jesus Heals the Nobleman's Son.**

John iv., 43-54. Memory verses 49, 50.

**Golden Text.**

The man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way. John iv., 50.

**Home Readings.**

- Monday, February 10.—John iv., 43-54.
- Tuesday, February 11.—Matt. viii., 1-13.
- Wednesday, February 12.—Mark v., 22-24, 35-43.
- Thursday, February 13.—Luke iv., 38-44.
- Friday, February 14.—Mark ii., 1-12.
- Saturday, February 15.—Mark iii., 1-12.
- Sunday, February 16.—Luke xiii., 11-22.

**FOR THE JUNIOR CLASSES.**

Have any of you ever been very ill? So ill that they thought at home you were going to die? You were Fred, were you not, that time you had croup so badly? I remember how your mother sat up all night long by your bed and would not leave you until at last the doctor said, 'He's all right now. The danger is over.' In our lesson to-day we learn about a little boy who lived long ago in a town named Capernaum when Jesus was here upon earth. His home was on the shores of a beautiful lake and his father was a Roman nobleman. He loved his boy very much, just as your fathers love you, and so when he came home one day and found his son was too ill to go out and play, he was very troubled. The little boy had fever and kept getting worse and worse, while none of the doctors could do anything for him. This nobleman had heard about Jesus and how he had healed and helped people down in the city of Jerusalem, and he heard too that Jesus was back again in Galilee, at the little village where he had performed his first great miracle. It was only about twenty miles away from Capernaum, but there were no trains or telegraphs then, and the country was very wild. However, the father made up his mind that Jesus and only Jesus could help him, and he set out to find him. Ever so many people had heard about the miracles in Jerusalem, and the people were all the time hurrying round to see Jesus and see what he might be doing now. They were very proud of him, because he used to live in Galilee, he was one of their own people, so when the nobleman rode into Cana asking where he could find Jesus, he was soon brought to him. That is where our lesson starts to-day.

**FOR THE SENIORS.**

The lesson is distinctly a study in faith. Christ had paused on his journey for the two days in Samaria, and when he at last entered Galilee he found the whole land in a state of excitement. The people returning to their homes from the Feast of Passover had told of the many wonderful things that had happened there (John ii., 23) and what an impression this carpenter from Nazareth had made. Incredulous faces, expressions of surprise and ridicule would doubtless meet him among the crowds on the way. 'There must be some trick about this. What nonsense!' one man would remark to another, as he hurried along the road to catch sight of Jesus, 'Why, I was in the shop when staying in Nazareth last year with my brother and saw him at work. There was nothing more wonderful about him then you or I may claim.' 'Yes, absurd,' the other might reply. 'I went to school with him, and a quieter, more unobtrusive fellow

you never knew. A general favorite, you know, but if Joseph had told him to hurry home, there was no coaxing him to stay behind for a game. That was the only remarkable thing about him' (Luke ii., 51, 52). It was doubtless the constant hearing of such remarks that caused the words of verse 44 (Matt. xiii., 53-58). The sensation he had created in Jerusalem, however, was sufficient to give him an excited reception on his return to Galilee. The deep eager faith of the Roman nobleman, however, must have touched Christ particularly in its contrast to the idle, incredulous curiosity of the crowds about him. It was almost as though Christ had half bitterly thought 'my thirty years of life here, in undeviating righteousness have been lost on these people, weighing nothing against the surprise of a moment's action. Even the Samaritans, whom I have just left, believed me for my words, for myself, but these people who have had the testimony of my life, count that all as nothing.' The call upon him for material benefits when the higher gift was the real mission drove him to express his disappointment on a later occasion (John vi., 26).

**(SELECTIONS.)**

If we think of faith as a belief in certain propositions we may not see the need of increasing our faith; but if we realize that the object of our faith is a Person, not a fact, and that our faith in God is a personal experience, we shall see that there must be progression in our faith. Faith is that act and habit of the mind by which the truth of God is brought in and made a part of one's very being; the act and habit of the mind, the heart, the soul, by which the facts concerning God are made realities. 'Faith in Christ is first of all this: such as He was I want to be; His is the kind of life I want to live; His is the kind of character I want to possess. A man may believe what creed he will, and if this is not in his heart, he has not faith in Christ.'—Tarbell's 'Guide.'

A miracle is simply God's doing with his infinite power the same quality of action, though vastly greater in degree, that we do every hour when we exert our personal will amid the force of nature. I lift up a book, I turn on the water from the water-works, and make a shower on my parched lawn or garden. I stop a part of the machinery in the factory and rescue a child caught in its wheels.

If Jesus was divine they were as natural to him as any other act of his will. They were object-lessons in the spirit and the work of the Gospel, the principles of which he had been teaching. Every miracle is a visible picture before men of the character of God, of the nature of the gospel, of the loving-kindness of our Saviour, of his power to help, of the wonders of grace he can work in our hearts, of his power to deliver from the diseases of sin.—Peloubet's 'Notes.'

Professor Green in an article on miracles, thinks 'that miracles have been wrought only to authenticate the bearers of supernatural revelation, so when a revelation from heaven is really being given, the dull minds of men should be compelled to discern and attend to it by works so evidently due to divine power as to demonstrate that the speaker thus authenticated must bring a message directly from God himself!'

God's promises of answer to prayer never fail of their fulfilling; but man's hope of answers to his prayer beyond the promises of God are always liable to disappointment.—H. Clay Trumbull.

I have lived to thank God that all my prayers have not been answered.—Jean Inge-low.

Help us to reach out past the things we cannot understand to the God we trust.—Maltbie D. Babcock.

**BIBLE REFERENCES.**

- Mark ix., 23, 24; Phil. iv., 6; John v., 36;
- Psa. l., 15; II. Cor. v., 1; I. John v., 14;
- John xx., 29.

**Junior C. E. Topic.**

Sunday, February 16.—Topic—Ministering to the prisoners and the poor. Matt. xxv., 31-46.

**C. E. Topic.**

Monday, February 10.—The beginning of the talk. John iv., 7.

Tuesday, February 11.—A question and answer. John iv., 10-14.

Wednesday, February 12.—What Jesus said about God. John iv., 19-26.

Thursday, February 13.—A talk with his disciples. John iv., 31-38.

Friday, February 14.—Jesus and the Samaritans. John iv., 40-42.

Saturday, February 15.—Christ's work. John x., 25.

Sunday, February 16.—Topic—A talk by Jacob's well. John iv., 5-10.

**A Saving of Time.**

The Rev. Wm. N. Brewster, writing in the 'Chinese Recorder,' gives some interesting illustrations of the success of what is called the Romanized form of the Chinese language, in marked contrast with the long delay under the old system. 'A year of careful study is scarcely sufficient to enable the ordinary convert to read with ease and pleasure a single page of the sermon on the mount in the classical language; a boy in ten days was able to do more reading on the Romanized plan than he would have in as many years on the other.'

**Milly's Review.**

The older ones were getting ready for review Sunday. Milly, playing about the room, heard the word many times.

'What is a review?' she asked. The others laughed, and Aunt Annie explained.

'It is looking back, dear, over what you have done, or learned, to see how much of it you can remember.'

'I want to make a review.'

'Very well, review all this day. Look back over it and see what you have said and done. You can print the words on this sheet of paper. Look, I will mark the hours for you. Your day began at seven o'clock. Here are the figures, eight, nine, ten, down to five this evening. See if you can think of something for each hour.'

So Milly began. She worked hard for some time, Aunt Annie spelling all the words that were called for. At last the little girl dropped her pencil with a discouraged cry.

'Can't you do it, dear?' Aunt Annie asked.

'I don't want to!' she wailed; 'it is all full of uglies!'

Her aunt took the paper, and read like this:

- 7. I was cross being dressed.
- 8. I broked my dolly.
- 9. It rained and I cried.
- 10. I slapped my other dolly.

The children laughed over Milly's review, but after a minute Aunt Annie wore a sober face and said with a little sigh, 'Poor darling, if we were reviewing our day as honestly as she tried to, I wonder how our papers would read?'—'Sunday School Messenger.'

**Every Boy Wants**

**A WATCH and CHAIN.**

**FREE**

For selling 25 copies of that popular illustrated monthly, the 'Canadian Pictorial' at 10 cents each. Send us the \$2.50 and you get at once a guaranteed Ingorsoll Watch, stem wind, stem set, and a neat, serviceable Chain. Watch alone for selling 20. Other premiums—all good. Everyone likes the 'Pictorial.' It sells at sight. Beautiful glossy paper. Over 1,000 square inches of exquisite pictures in each issue. Many worth framing. Orders for current issue rushing in. Don't be among the last. Orders promptly filled. Send no money, but drop us a postcard, and we will forward supply of 'Pictorials' also premium list and full instructions. Address JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Agents for the 'Canadian Pictorial,' 'Witness' Block, Montreal. N.B.—Besides earning premiums, your sales will all count in our splendid prize competition. Write for particulars.

