

1. *The first example*, vs. 23-28. Question the class as to the objection brought forward by the critics of the disciples. How could they describe the act of the disciples as "unlawful?" Explain how the scribes had worked out all sorts of deductions from the original Sabbath law. How does Jesus answer the criticism? Be sure that the class sees the point of the illustration from the Old Testament. David did not break the Sabbath law, but he used his common sense in placing human welfare above an institution regarded as sacred. Lay emphasis upon the clear manner in which Jesus sums up the whole situation in v. 27. "The rabbis went so far as to say that God had created man for the sake of his Sabbath law, that is, in order to have some one to obey his Sabbath law." On what principle do the members of the class govern the spending of their Sabbaths?

2. *The second example*, ch. 3 : 1-5. Question the class as to the way in which the unworthy spirit of the Pharisees shows itself in this incident. There is something dramatic in the answer of Jesus to the unspoken criticism of his opponents. Here is a man in need of healing. What is to be done about it? "It is a condition which confronts us—not a theory." Draw attention to the anger of Jesus. How do we reconcile this with his description of himself as "meek and lowly?" It was the placing of an institution above a case of human need which aroused his anger. Is there a lesson here for us?

### For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

By Rev. A. Wylie Mahon, B.D., Toronto

Have a talk with the class about how the Sabbath should be spent. Ask for some Old Testament passage which throws light upon this subject. (See Ex. 20 : 8-11.) Show that we have not outgrown this teaching. Bring out how necessary the Sabbath is to man's physical and moral well being, and remind the scholars how unfortunate it is for a man to get into the company of what Charles Lamb calls "Sabbathless Satan." Refer to Question 60 in the Shorter Catechism, "How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?" What works are permissible on that day? Point out that we have an illustration of these two kinds of work in the lesson :

1. *A Work of Necessity*, vs. 23-28. Question the class about this incident, "where Jesus and his disciples were, where they were going, what the disciples did. Refer to Matt. 12 : 1 and Luke 6 : 1 for additional particulars. What complaint was made against Jesus, and how did he answer the fault-finders? Bring out that this answer teaches that in times of physical distress some things are right which are not lawful under other circumstances. The law of life is superior to the law of the Sabbath. Remind the class that we need to be very sure that the physical necessities of life are very great before we are led to disregard the Sabbath law, which is the great physical and spiritual safeguard of physical and spiritual life.

2. *A Work of Mercy*, ch. 3 : 1-5. What happened that day when they reached the synagogue? Note how tenderly every human life which was impaired in any way appealed to Jesus. With what great loving eyes and sympathetic heart he must look upon our brave soldier boys who have returned from the front crippled and maimed. What question does Jesus put to his enemies who were watching a chance to accuse him? What effect did their cruel lack of human sympathy have upon Jesus? Is it right to be angry? Sometimes it would be a great sin not to be angry. Robertson of Brighton tells of a scene he witnessed one night which made him angry, almost beyond self-control, when he saw a young man luring another on to ruin.

### For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

By Rev. John Mutch, B.D.

Refer to the British troops fighting for Jerusalem. Jerusalem is on a high hill in a rough country, and is thus difficult to conquer. And long ago an Egyptian king, Ptolemy, had a hard fight to take the city, until he discovered that the Jews would not fight on the Sabbath. So he waited for that day, when he attacked and took the city. Ask the scholars whether the Jews did right. Tell them the lesson for to-day helps to decide that question, and get one to read vs. 23-28 and another ch. 3 : 1-5.

Ask whether a doctor has a right to work on Sunday. Get the pupils to tell you that he has because : (1) He is helping men. One