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### at The Sunday School at

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubets' Notes.

February 23, 1898.

First Quarter.

JESUS AND THE SABBATH. Lesson X. March. 6.-Matt. 12:1-13.

Read Matt. 12. Compare Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-11, Commit Verses 10-13.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath day, Matt. 12: 8.

EXPLANATORY.

I. THE RISING OPPOSITION TO CHRIST.

—In this chapter Matthew has massed together the acts of opposition to Christ, as he previously had done with his teachings in chaps. 5–7, his miracles in chaps. 8 and 9, and his instructions in chap. 10. Note first the two cases given in the lesson. Because Jesus refused to eat the husks and shells the Pharisees had placed around the corn and meat of Sabbath observance, they held a council against Jesus, whose answer was more miracles of healing and help.

Next they charged him with casting out demons through Beelzebub, the prince of the demons, but Jesus showed the folly of the charge, and warned them against blasphemy. Again they asked a sign, and he pointed to a sign which condemned their conduct. Finally his own relatives, including his mother, thought he was becoming insane (Mark 3: 21) and tried to stop him.

II. A QUESTION AS TO THE WAY TO

their conduct. Finally his own relatives, including his mother, thought he was becoming insane (Mark 3: 21) and tried to stop him.

II. A QUESTION AS TO THE WAY TO KEEP THE SABBATH.—VS. I. 2. I. AT THAT THAME, or period, during that tour or season in Galilee. It must have been during one of the harvest reasons. IRSUS WENT ON THE SABBATH DAY THROUGH THE CORN. Through the grain fields of wheat or barley. The English call all grain corn. They were doubtless on their way to or from the morning service in the synagogue, for HIS DISCIPLES WERE A HUNGERED. The rabbinical law allowed no eating on the Sabbath, except in case of sickness, prior to the morning prayers of the synagogue. A similar canon in the ritualistic churches of today forbids breaking the fast before partaking of the communion. AND BEGAN TO PLUCK THE EARS OF CORN. Luke adds, "rabbing them in their hands," in order to separate the kernel from the chaff. There was no road with fences, but a mere path through the fields of standing grain, so that they did not have to go out of their way.

2. BUT WHEN THE PHARISERS SAW IT. These Pharisees were accompanying Jesus, not to learn the truth, but for the one purpose of finding some fault with him. They hated him because they were wrong and his teaching reproved them; he swept away many of their false rules and customs, and they must either change their lives or prove the teacher to be in some wrong. THAT WHICH IS NOT LAWFUL TO DO UPON THE SABBATH DAY. The act was lawful on any other day, being sanctioned both by custom and the Mosaic law (Deut. 23: 25). But the Fourth Commandment forbade any work on this Sabbath, and the Pharisees had interpreted the law in a most mechanical way, making a great many special prohibitions, the violation of which they insisted was the breaking of the law. They said that resping and threshing were work, and therefore forbidden, and "it was asserted that plucking corn ears was "a kind of' reaping, and rubbing them "a kind of' threshing."

"The reader will find an immense number of ri

serted that plucking corn ears was 'a kind of' reaping, and rubbing them 'a kind of' threshing."

"The reader will find an immense number of ridiculous ways of breaking the Sabbath in Edersheim's 'Life of Christ,' Appendix, xvii."

Jewish Sabbath Prohibitions,—"It was seriously argued that to walk upon the grass with nailed shoes was a violation of the Sabbath, because it was a kind of threshing, and to catch a fee upon one's person was a violation, because it was a kind of threshing, and to catch a fee upon one's person was a violation, because it was a kind of hunting; and it was gravely debated whether one might eat a fresh egg on the first day of the week, since, in the order of nature, it had probably been prepared by the hen on the seventh."

III. LIGHT ON THE QUESTION FROM TWO SCRIPTURE EXAMPLES.—Vs. 3-5. Christ replies to them calmly, without any rough condemnation or sarcasm, but by two examples from the Scriptures which they believe to the letter, and whose Sabbath law they thought they were fulfilling; and of persons whom they revered as peculiarly holy.

3. HAVE VE NOT READ, so as to remember and apply. What DAVID DID, WHEN HE WAS A HUNGERED. Note the emphasis on 'hungered."

4. HOW HE ENTERED INTO THE HOUSE OF GOD. The Tabernacle then at Nob, a hill near Jerusalem. AND DID EAT THE SIEWERRAD. The 'shewbread' was the 'bread' that was kept on the golden table in the Holy Place. It consisted of twelve loaves, corresponding to the number of the tribes of Israel (Ex. 25; 23-30; 39 136).

"It was a significant and sublime a meleciam, denoting that Jehovah was the

Provider of his people's food. WHICH WAS NOT LAWFUL FOR HIM TO RAT. BUT ONLY FOR THE PRIESTS. 'Lev. 24:5-9. The argument was that if David, to keep himself and his followers from suffering hunger, could, without blame, break a ceremonial law in its form, while keeping it in spirit, it must be right so to interpret the Sabbath law as to allow his disciples to do so much work on the Sabbath as was necessary to satisfy their hunger. The Pharisees adhered to the letter, but not to the spirit of the law.

5. OR HAVE VE NOT READ IN THE LAW. The Sabbath was the priests' busiest day of labor. How THAT ON THE ABBATH DAVS THE PRIESTS IN THE TEMPLE PROFAME THE SABBATH. By performing the who e temple service. 'Not merely does the sacred 'history' relate exceptional instances of 'necessity,' but the 'Law' itself ordains labor on the Sabbath day as a duty.'' AND ARE BLAMKLESS. 'Because the greater duty of temple service set aside the law of Sabbath rest, (Compare John 7:22, 23).'' Because this labor on the part of a few was essential to the true Sabbath keeping by the many; and, moreover, such labor really fulfilled the spirit of the Sabbath, even to the workers.

The argument here is "that a literal cessation of manual labor without any exception whatever was never intended by the Lord when he gave the law respecting the Sabbath.'' So that the Pharisees' interpretation of the Sabbath law was contrary to their own principles and actions in other things. They had been looking at separate acts, and did not see the underlying principle.

IV. The Great Principles of Sabbath-Rekeping StateD.—Vs. 6-8. 6. in THE TEMPLE. Jesus Christ himself.

8. For the Son of Man is Lorde Run.

things. They had been looking at separate acts, and did not see the underlying principle.

IV. THE GREAT PRINCIPLES OF SABBATH-KREPING STATED.—VS. 6-8. 6. IN THIS PLACE IS ONE GREATER THAN THE TEMPLE. Jesus Christ himself.

8. FOR THE SON OF MAN IS LORD EVEN OF THE SABBATH. Therefore he knew its full meaning, and could give the right interpretation of its law. He was Lord of the Sabbath; not, surely, to abolish it.—that, surely, were a strange Lordship, especially just after saying that it was made or instituted for man.—but to "own" it, to interpret it, to preside over it, and to ennoble it by merging it in the "Lord's day" (Rev. 1:10), breathing into it an air of liberty and love necessarily unknown before.

7. If ye had known what This Meanerth. If you had understood the principle which underlies my defense of my disciples' conduct on the Sabbath. I will. Have mercy, and blesses men, rather than any forms of worship. All forms of worship are to help men, and any use of them to prevent good coming to man is contrary to their spirit and purpose.

V. Sabbath Keeping Illustrated by The example of Jesus.—Vs. 9-13. 9. He went into their spirit and purpose.

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V. Sabbath Keeping Into the sabbath. This shows one way in which Jesus was accustomed to keep the Sabbath.

10. A MAN wHICH HAD HIS HAND WITHERED; i. e., dried up from a deficient absorption of nutriment. Luke says his "right band." This would hinder him in earning a living. They asked him, say-ling, is It Lawful, To Heal ON THE Sabath keeping. But the object of the Jesus was accustomed to keep the Sabbath.

10. A MAN wHICH HAD HIS HAND WITHERED; i. e., dried up from a deficient absorption of nutriment, Luke says his "right band." This woul

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