

How did he now prove his right to assume power over spiritual disease?  
 What power over human hearts did Jesus also display?  
 With whom did Jesus claim equality by proving his power to forgive sins?  
 What is forgiveness?  
 How deep and lasting was the effect on the multitude?

#### Practical Teachings.

Christ in Capernaum could not be hid; Christ in the heart cannot be hid. A heart filled with Christ always is a center of holy influence.

Four brought one. They knew no discouragement. They had a definite purpose. They accomplished it. They were not responsible for their friend's cure. They left him with Jesus. What an example for us to follow! Christ gave more than they expected. He always does.

#### Hints for Home Study.

1. Learn what you can of a Jewish house, and how all this could have happened.
2. Find in the second chapter of John a reason that accounts for the statement in ver. 8.
3. Tell the story of this scene to some young child as vividly as you can.
4. Find other instances of the caviling attitude of the scribes.
5. Give three characteristics of the four friends.
6. Was this man both healed and forgiven? Prove it.

#### QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

1. **Forgiving Iniquities**, vs. 1-5.  
 Where was Jesus at this time?  
 What did he do to the crowds of people?  
 Who was brought, and how?  
 How were they hindered?  
 How did they reach Jesus?  
 What did Jesus see in their act?  
 What is it to have faith in Jesus?  
 What did he say to the man?  
 How may we have our sins forgiven? Acts 16, 31.
2. **Healing Diseases**, vs. 6-12.  
 What did some of those think who heard Jesus?  
 Had Jesus the power and right to forgive sins?  
 How did he show that he had the power?  
 What followed his words?  
 What did the people then say?  
 Has Jesus still the power to forgive sins?  
 How does the lesson illustrate the Golden Text?

#### Teachings of the Lesson.

Where does this lesson show us—

1. How we should seek Jesus?
2. That Jesus knows the thoughts of men?
3. That Jesus can and will forgive sins?

#### Home Work for Young Bereans.

See how many miracles were wrought by Jesus in Capernaum.

Learn what Paul tells us in Rom. 5 about the way we have forgiveness of sins.

Find another instance when Jesus knew the thoughts of men.

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

To what city did Jesus come again? To Capernaum.  
 Who came to see and hear him? Great crowds of people.

What did Jesus preach to them? The word of God.

Who was brought to him? A man sick of palsy.  
 How did his friends bring him? They carried him lying on his bed, or mat.

Why could they not get to Jesus? Because of the great crowd.

What did they do? They carried the sick man to the roof.

What did they then do? They opened the roof, and let down the sick man.

Why was Jesus pleased with this? Because it showed strong faith.

What did Jesus first do for the sick man? He forgave his sins.

Why did this offend the priests? They did not think Jesus was the Son of God.

What did Jesus then do? He cured the man's body.

What did he command the sick man to do? To take up his bed and go home.  
 What did this prove? That Jesus had the right to forgive sins.  
 Why had he the right to do this? Because he was the Son of God.

#### Words with Little People.

Real faith makes us—

Go to Jesus for ourselves.

Take our friends to him.

Refuse to be discouraged in trying to get to him.

#### THE LESSON CATECHISM.

[For the entire school.]

1. To what place did Jesus return? To Capernaum.
2. What happened as soon as his presence was known? A crowd surrounded his house.
3. What interrupted his preaching? A man let down through the roof.
4. What did Christ do for him? Forgave him and healed him.
5. In what character did Christ thus become known? As the forgiver of sins.
6. In what relation may each of us claim that Christ stands to his soul? As he "who forgiveth all," etc.

#### CATECHISM QUESTION.

6. How did Jesus Christ show that he was a teacher sent from God?

By performing signs and wonders such as could be performed only by the power of God.

Joh. iii. 2. *Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these signs that thou doest, except God be with him.*

#### ANALYTICAL AND BIBLICAL OUTLINE.

##### A Picture of Salvation.

#### I. THE SINNER.

1. **Helpless.** "Sick of the palsy," v. 3.  
 "Whole head is sick... heart faint." Isa. 1. 5.
2. **Helped.** "Borne of four," v. 3.  
 "Bear ye one another's burdens," Gal. 6. 2.

#### II. THE SEEKER.

1. **Earnest.** "Uncovered the roof," v. 4.  
 "Strive to enter in," Luke 13. 24.
2. **Believing.** "Save their faith," v. 5.  
 "Be lieve on the Lord Jesus Christ," Acts 16. 31.

#### III. THE SAVED.

1. **Forgiven.** "Sins be forgiven," v. 5.  
 "Bloteth out thy transgressions," Isa. 43. 25.
2. **Renewed.** "Arise... went forth," v. 12.  
 "A new creature," 2 Cor. 5. 17.

#### THOUGHTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

##### Christ in the House.

1. The house where Christ dwells soon attracts attention. You cannot keep in seclusion the place where Jesus is, for men will soon find it out. v. 1.

2. Christ in the house finds an opportunity of doing good and of preaching the Gospel at the same time. He blesses men's bodies that through them he may reach men's souls. v. 2.

3. Christ in the house is sought out by man, in spite of obstacles. So will it be with Christ in the heart. Men will seek him for the blessing which he brings. vs. 3, 4.

4. Christ in the house is watched by jealous and unfriendly eyes. Our religion in the home is very sharply noticed. Men take knowledge of us, if we have been with Jesus. vs. 6, 7.

5. Christ in the house brings newness and joy and peace. How happy that home wherein Jesus dwells! vs. 10-12.