

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

Lesson Points

The man with a message will not long lack listeners. v. 1.

In giving men God's word, we give them the best gift in our power. v. 2.

If there is faith in the heart, it will get out into the hands. v. 3.

Difficulties are a grindstone to put a sharper edge on our determination. v. 4.

Sinners we all are in God's sight, but we never cease to be His sons. v. 5.

Our own work faithfully done will leave us little time—and less inclination—to criticize others. vs. 6, 7.

From the piercing yet pitiful gaze of Christ no secret is hid. v. 8.

Religion makes its appeal to reason. v. 9.

The age of physical miracles is past, but spiritual miracles are ever with us. vs. 10, 11.

God's might is not more wonderful than God's mercy. v. 12.

From the Library

How many in every age can testify that this palsied man's experience has been their own ! Bereavements have proved mercies. .Sicknesses have led them to the great Physician of souls.—Ryle.

The whole affair was the extemporaneous device of plain peasants, accustomed to open their roofs, and let down grain, straw, and other articles, as they still do in this country. I have often seen it done, and done it myself to houses in Palestine.—Dr. W. M. Thomson.

I make me cords to hold from wrong,
And bind my will by purpose strong ;
But my resolves, as cords of tow,
Before the strength of passion go,
Like hempen bands, when flames o'errun,
Or icy streams before the sun.
Lord, who has ta'en me by the hand,
'Tis only by Thy strength I stand.

—Quoted in Expository Times.

Hereupon, another touch of nature discovers itself in the narrative, for it is now easy to pass through the crowd. Men who would not in their selfishness give place for palsied misery, readily make room for the distinguish-

ished person who has received a miraculous blessing.—Chadwick.

Isaiah . . . cried, "Make you clean," but he immediately went on to point to One who could make clean, could turn scarlet into snowy white, crimson into the lustrous purity of the unstained fleeces of sheep in green pastures. The assurances of God's forgiveness which deals with guilt, and of God's cleansing which deals with inclination and habit, must be the foundation of our cleansing ourselves from filthiness of the flesh and spirit. The call to repentance needs the promise of pardon and divine help to purifying in order to become a gospel.—Alexander Maclaren.

Fix, by God's help, not only to root out this sin, but to set thyself to gain, by that same help, the opposite grace. If thou art tempted to be angry, try hard, by God's grace, to be *very* meek ; if to be proud, seek to be *very* humble.—E. B. Pusey.

On rising from the dead our Saviour commissioned the apostles to proclaim in His name repentance and remission of sin to all nations, Luke 24 : 47. It was thus that He proposed to save the world. This proclamation is the "good news" of the gospel. The announcement meets the first need of the serious and awakened human spirit. .We cannot wonder that St. Paul (Eph. 1 : 7) sets the remission of sins first among the bestowments of God's grace, and makes it the foundation of all the rest.—G. G. Findlay.

Prove from Scripture

That we should be forgiving.

Lesson Questions

[FROM THE HOME STUDY QUARTERLY]

Juniors—To what place had Jesus returned ? Where had He been ? What had He been doing ?

1-5 Around what were Eastern houses built ? Where was Jesus sitting ? What sort of roof was over Him ? Who was brought to Him ? By whom ? Why could they not get in through the door ? How was the sick man got on the roof ? How into the presence of Jesus ?

6, 7 Who were the scribes ? Who did they