

LESSON IV—January 26th, 1896.

The Early Ministry of Jesus. LUKE 4: 14-22.

(Commit to memory verses 18 and 19).

GOLDEN TEXT: "His word was with power." Luke 4: 32.

PROVE THAT—We should go to church regularly. Heb. 10: 25.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 42. *What is the sum of the ten commandments?* A. The sum of the ten commandments is, To love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal.* Nos. 83, 69, 87, 38.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Early Ministry of Jesus. Luke 4: 14-22. *Tuesday.* The ministry rejected. Luke 4: 23-32. *Wednesday.* Ministry of mercy. Luke 4: 33-44. *Thursday.* Isaiah's prophecy. Isaiah 61. *Friday.* Hindered by unbelief. Mark 6: 1-6. *Saturday.* A Deliverer. Isaiah 42: 1-8. *Sabbath.* Made free. Rom. 6: 15-23. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Immediately after his baptism Jesus was tempted in the wilderness (4: 1-13), after which he returned to Jordan and chose his first five disciples (John 1: 35-55). With these he went to Galilee where he changed water into wine at the marriage in Cana. Visiting Jerusalem shortly after, at the Passover, he expelled the traders who profaned the temple by their presence (John 2: 12-25), and was visited by Nicodemus (John 3: 1-21). He returned to Galilee through Samaria, and his interview with the woman at Jacob's well took place on this journey (John 4: 1-26). His fame had preceded him and he was cordially welcomed. At Cana he healed the son of a nobleman who lived at Capernaum, and in his progress through the cities of Galilee comes once more to the town in which he had spent his childhood. He is now entering upon the second year of his ministry, the year of his greatest popularity. About this time, John the Baptist was thrown into prison, and his work as Christ's forerunner came to a close.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Fame of Jesus. vs. 14-16. II. A Prophecy of Jesus. vs. 17-19. III. The Preaching of Jesus. vs. 20-22.

14. In the power of the spirit—See verse 1. He was guided by the Holy Spirit in all his actions and enabled to work miracles. **A fame of him—**His wonderful and gracious words touched men's hearts, and his miracles astonished them (Matt. 4: 23-25). **15. Synagogues—**corresponding to our churches. **16. Nazareth—**Compare a similar incident in Matt. 13: 53ff; Mark 6: 1ff. Jesus must have longed to tell those whom he had known from boyhood the glad news of salvation. **As his custom was—**He had attended that synagogue ever since he could walk. We never love another church quite so well as the one we went to in our youth. Church going habits ought to be kept up. **Stood up to read—**There was no regular preacher in the synagogues, but the elders could invite any one who was competent to explain the portion of Scripture appointed for the day. **17. The book—**this was a roll of manuscript containing the prophecy of Isaiah. **He found the place—**Isa. 6: 1, 2. We would most naturally think that Jesus took this text purposely. **18. The prophet was preaching good tidings to the people of his time, and foretelling that God would restore them from their captivity, but the words had a fuller meaning when applied to Christ, who adopted them and proclaimed deliverance from sin's bondage. The poor—not only the literally poor, but all who need our compassion. Matt. 5: 3. The brokenhearted—**Matt. 5: 4; Rom. 8: 28. **Captives—**The gospel is like the sound of the jubilee trumpets (Lev. 25: 10). Compare John 8: 32-36; Rom. 6: 16-18. **Blind—**We perceive the real evil of sin and our danger from it only when the gospel of Christ has touched our hearts. Ps. 119: 18; Prov. 4: 19; Acts 26: 18; Eph. 4: 18. **Bruised—**(Isa. 58: 6). Matt. 11: 28-30; Isa. 55: 1-4. Those who are crushed under the sad burdens which sin imposes. **19. The acceptable year—**The year of jubilee which was a type of the gospel dispensation. A time in which God will shew his willingness to accept those who come to him through Christ (2 Cor. 6: 2; Isa. 49: 8; Eph. 1: 6, 20). **20. The minister—**R. V. "the attendant." He rolled up the scroll and handed it to the officer whose duty it was to take care of the sacred volumes. **Sat down—**all stood while the Scriptures were being read, but teachers sat while addressing their audience. Every eye was fixed on Jesus with the greatest interest. **21. Fulfilled—**His words shewed that he was indeed anointed by the Holy Spirit to proclaim this gracious message in its true and deeper meaning. **22. Words of grace (R. V.)—**He spoke with wonderful sweetness and majesty. Ps. 45: 2. **Wondered—**They wondered where he could have learned to speak like that (Matt. 13: 54; Mark 6: 2; Luke 2: 47; John 6: 42).

LESSONS. 1. We should try to bring our friends to Jesus. 2. We should attend God's house on the Sabbath day. 3. The prophets foretold about Jesus. 4. Jesus brings all blessings with him. 5. One may admire an eloquent sermon and yet have no heart for the gospel that is preached. (7)