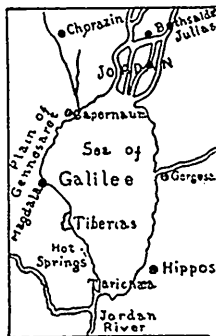


part from across the Lake. **Follow me**; the bidding of a King (compare ch. 4: 19). **He arose, and followed him**; doubtless having known Jesus before, but now brought to the point of deciding to become His disciple.

10-13. Jesus sat at meat; at a "great feast" in Matthew's house, Luke 5: 29. The Greek for "sat" means "reclined", the custom at a feast being for guests to lie on couches surrounding three sides of the table. **Publicans**; tax-gatherers for the Romans, as Matthew himself had been, who were hated and despised by the Jews, not only as collectors of oppressive taxes, but also as traitors to their race and religion, in entering the employment of foreign conquerors. **Sinners**: the vile and degraded, with whom publicans were usually classed. **The Pharisees saw it**. These were present, not as guests, but as onlookers, a custom still common in the East. **Why eateth, etc.** It was an abomination in their eyes to keep company with such people. **Whole**; strong and well spiritually, as the Pharisees reckoned themselves. **Sick**; full of sin's awful disease. **Mercy, and not sacrifice**. A true sacrifice is the expression of a loving spirit. Where this is lacking the sacrifice is worthless, 1 Cor. 13: 3. **Not . . the righteous**; "but sinners", Mark adds, Mark 2: 17.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



In the time of Christ, there were ten or twelve flourishing cities on the shores of the LAKE OF GALILEE. The constant communication from one to another of these cities would require a large number of ships. On one occasion, Josephus the historian tells us, a fleet of 240 ships was got ready in a short time at Tarichæa alone. In this city, at the southern end of the Lake, shipbuilding was a flourishing industry. At a later period, many of the soldiers and citizens of Tarichæa took refuge from the Romans in ships, and from 4,000 to 8,000 of them were slain. The ships, therefore, to hold such a multitude, must have been of a considerable size. We may picture

the Lake, therefore, as dotted, in those days, with crafts of various sorts, engaged in fishing or traffic.

LESSON QUESTIONS

1, 2 Why did Jesus leave Gerasa? Whither did He go? Why likely had He taken up His residence in Capernaum? What sick man was brought to Him? By whom? What did Jesus see in the paralytic and his friends? What did He first say to the sick man? What was the probable cause of the sickness? What did Jesus say about the man's sins? For whom did He speak?

3-8 Of what did the scribes accuse Jesus? On what two points was there difference between Him and them as to the forgiveness of sins? How did He prove His power to forgive sins? Quote from the Psalms an assurance that God forgives sins. (Ps. 103: 3.)

9 Who became a disciple of Jesus? What had been his occupation? How were publicans regarded by the Jews?

10-13 With whom was Jesus sitting at a feast? In whose house? Who found fault? Give Jesus' answer. Where is He called, "a Friend of publicans and sinners"? (Luke 7: 34.)

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Bringing others to Jesus.
2. Love better than sacrifice.

A LESSON FOR LIFE

Mr. Moody used to tell of a man who found that the water in his well was bad. To make it better he painted the pump. But of course the water was still bad. At last the well was cleaned out, and then the water was good. Now when we come to Jesus, He does not only make us right on the outside. He makes our hearts right, and the right life follows. He has power to make the vilest heart pure and good.

Prove from Scripture—That God forgives sin.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 49, 50.

The Question on Missions—12. What is being done in the East for Home Mission work in the West? Contributions are made by many of our congregations for the work in the West. Some of our congregations support a missionary. The Women's Home Missionary Society also makes an appropriation, and Auxiliaries send forward boxes of clothing for poor families and furnishings for hospitals.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. By whom was the paralytic brought to Jesus?
2. How did Jesus prove His power to forgive sins?
3. In what way did He show Himself a Friend of sinners?