

what means a portion of the roof might be removed and a man let down from above.]

What work of power had Jesus done for fishermen? (Verses 4-7.)

How had he shown power on a leper? (Verses 12, 13.)

What visitors were witnesses of this power? (Verse 17.)

What fact is shown by the presence of eminent teachers gathered from such a wide territory to a remote provincial town?

How was God's presence shown?

What sufferer was brought to Jesus?

Describe the bed and the bearers.

How were the bearers kept back from Jesus?

How did they overcome the difficulty?

By what means may they have reached the roof?

Explain "let him down through the tiling."

What condition of soul did Christ perceive in these men and in this invalid?

What did he say to the sick man?

Who took exception to these words?

What two questions did they ask?

2. Grace, v. 22-26.

Who knew the thoughts of these objectors?

What did he ask about their thoughts?

What is the force of the contrast in the twenty-third verse?

What is really the greater work, forgiveness of sin or healing of illness?

How could the greater power be shown by the smaller?

What command did Jesus give the sick man?

Why was this command given? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

What did the man at once do?

How were the people affected by the sight?

What did they do and say?

By whom was Jesus bidden to a feast? (Verses 27-29.)

How did Jesus defend this feasting? (Verses 30-39.)

How did he defend the Sabbath? (Luke 6, 1-10.)

Practical Teachings.

1. Palsied souls need friendly help in coming to the Saviour. We should never be impatient with worldly people because they lack interest in vital Christianity; their souls are palsied, but we may bear them in our arms of faith to the Son of God.

2. No walls built by man need keep the sinner from Jesus.

3. God sees through the outer symptoms of human suffering to the evil disease that lurks at the heart. When Christ forgave the sins of this sufferer he killed the taproot of all his suffering and sorrow; and his miraculous cure of his disease afterward was simply cutting away the branches of a tree already dead. If sin could be removed from the world to-morrow ninety-nine one hundredths of human sorrow would go with it.

Where in this lesson are we shown—

1. Who only can forgive sin?

2. That faith in Christ brings forgiveness?

3. That Jesus is truly divine?

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

1. Verses 17-21.

17. Why were the Pharisees there? How was the power of the Lord present?

18. What kind of disease was palsy? Why could they not go in by the door?

19. How did they reach the roof? Why did they break through the roof?

20. Whose faith did Jesus see? What caused his sickness? Why did Jesus forgive his sins first?

21. What is meant by blasphemy? Can you forgive the wrong you have done to another?

2. Verses 22-26.

22. Does Jesus know our thoughts?

24. What power had Jesus? How was the sick man's faith tested?

25. Was the cure complete? What kind was his bed? Why did he praise God?

26. Did the Pharisees join in giving glory to God? Do we give him glory because he has forgiven us?

Teachings of the Lesson.

Where Christ is there is power to heal. We may bring our friends to Christ by prayer. Difficulties are things to be overcome. Our first and greatest need is forgiveness of sin. When saved we will praise God, lead new lives, and not be a burden to others.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

From what city was Jesus driven out? **Nazareth.**

What became "his own city" then?

Where was Capernaum?

Who lived there?

Where was Jesus teaching one day?

Why did so many come to hear him? **Some wanted help, some to find fault.**

What strange company came?

Whom did they bring? Do you know what palsy is like?

How did they get their friend to Jesus?

What is worse than sickness?

What did Jesus do first for the man?

Who found fault with this?

What did Jesus say?

What did he do?

Which is greater to heal, the soul or the body?

Who only can heal the soul?

Something to Remember.

Sin makes the soul sick and faint.

No human being can cure the soul that is sick.

Jesus has power *to-day* to forgive sins. Has he forgiven yours?