

THE Teachers' Preparation Leaflet

LESSON 3.

OCTOBER 21st, 1894.

4th QUARTER.

A Sabbath in Capernaum. Mark 1: 21-34.

GOLDEN TEXT: "He taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes." Mark 1: 22.

COMMIT TO MEMORY verses 27, 28. CHILDREN'S HYMNAL 23, 38, 32, 85.

PROVE THAT—Jesus was always doing good. Acts 10: 38.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Quest. 98. What is prayer?

DAILY PORTIONS.

(*The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association.*)

MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	SATURDAY.	SABBATH.
Mark 1: 21-34	Mark 1: 35-45	Matt. 15: 21-31	John 7: 40-53	Matt. 7: 24-29	Acts 16: 14-18	John 8: 25-32

NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—The events of our lesson follow immediately after the call of the four fishermen. Jesus had now taken up his residence at Capernaum, or at least made it his headquarters. The city has long since disappeared, and its very site is uncertain. Ruins encumber the shores of that sacred lake, for, like Chorazin and Bethsaida, Capernaum knew not the time of its gracious visitation. (Matt. 11: 23). It lay on the northwestern shore of the sea of Galilee, and was the centre of the most populous district of Palestine. Here was a custom house (Mark 9: 9; Luke 5: 27), and a military station with its detachment of Roman soldiers (Mark 8: 5, 9; Luke 7: 1, 8). There seems to have been but one synagogue, the gift of a devout centurion (Luke 9: 5).

LESSON PLAN. I. In the Synagogue. vs. 21-28. II. In the Home vs. 29-31. III. Among the Afflicted.

I. IN THE SYNAGOGUE. 21. **Capernaum**—Capernaum lies on the northwest side of Lake Gennesaret, and is sunk a thousand feet below the elevated plain which surrounds it. From the western hills adjacent the traveller sees far below him a blue sheet of water, some thirteen miles long, and, in the broadest part, six or seven miles wide; its deep depression is a volcanic basin, giving it something of that strange, unnatural character which belongs in a greater degree to the Dead Sea. The eastern highlands slope abruptly to the water's edge, forming a lofty wall, extending the entire length of the lake. Midway on the west the range of hills trends first westward and then to the northeast, growing constantly more rounded and beautiful, till, as a gentle elevation, it again touches the lake. In the recess formed by these encircling hills, lies the plain or vale of Gennesaret. It has been described by all who have seen it as a natural paradise. Well watered by perennial fountains and rivulets, with a soil of unsurpassed fertility, and a climate that favors the production of tropical fruits as well as those of the temperate zone, it is even now famous for its fruitfulness and beauty. In the time of Christ it was thickly studded with flourishing villages, embowered in palm groves, vineyards and olive orchards." (Dr. Eddy.) The site of Capernaum is disputed. Two localities contend for the honor. *Tell Hum*, about two miles southwest of the entrance of the Jordan into the lake, and *Khan Minyeh*, some two or three miles further to the southwest. At *Tell Hum* there are the ruins of a synagogue which some have supposed might have been that built by the pious centurion (Luke 7: 1-10). In a very literal sense, Capernaum has "gone down into Hades." (Matt. 11: 23.) See the parallel narrative in Luke 4: 31-37. **Straightway**—one of Luke's "catch-

The TEACHER'S PREPARATION LEAFLET is published weekly by the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee, Presbyterian Church in Canada, at 35 cents a year, or 25c. if four or more copies are sent to one person. Address Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, 107 Hazen Street, St John, N. B.