

down with one hand what he builds up with the other. Christ made men happier and better. He destroyed the works of the devil; surely Satan would not help him to do this. **24, 25**—Nations, families and societies will fall to pieces when they quarrel among themselves. **26**—It would be good news to hear that Satan was casting out Satan, for then his kingdom would soon destroy itself. **27. The strong man**—By the "strong man" Christ means Satan. His house, or palace, is the place where he holds power, either this world generally, or the persons of the "possessed." Christ, by casting out the "strong man," and rescuing men from him, shews that he has conquered and bound Satan, and is therefore not in alliance with him, but his mortal foe. Isa. 49: 24; 61: 1. **28. Verily**—lit. "amen," a Hebrew word meaning "firm" or "sure." "In testimony of our desire and assurance to be heard we say, Amen." (S. Catechism, Quest. 107.) Christ uses it when about to say something specially important. **All sins shall be forgiven**—There is no limit to God's forgiving love except the one which wicked hearts make for themselves. **29. Blaspheme against the Holy Ghost**—(Matt. 12: 31; Luke 12: 10; 1 John, 5: 16.) Slander the Holy Spirit. This is not so much a sinful word or act, as a fixed and determined resistance of the gracious influences of the Spirit of God. **Is guilty of an eternal sin** (R. V.): (John 3: 19). "The punishment is perpetual, because the sin is perpetual. The sin excludes pardon, because it excludes repentance." (Schaff.) These solemn verses warn us that we may "grieve the Holy

Spirit" (Eph. 4: 30) and "quench" (Thess. 5: 19) his influences, and that "he will not always strive" (Gen. 6: 5) with our perverse hearts. Our only safety is yielding *now*, to-morrow may be too late.

**II. CHRIST'S BROTHERN. 31. His brethren**—(Matt. 12: 46; Luke 8: 19).—Their names are given in Matt. 13: 55 and Mark 6: 3. They thought that he had gone out of his mind, and wished to persuade him to come home with them and be taken care of (verse 21). **Standing without**—Probably they could not get into the house for the crowd, and so passed the word in that they wished to see him. **33. Who is my mother?**—He implies that there is a relationship to him as the Son of God which is holier than even that of mother. **34. He looked round about**—Notice how often Mark tells us of the wonderful look of Jesus (ch. 3: 5.) **Them which sat about him**—His disciples. Matthew says that "he stretched forth his hand upon" them. How tender and full of gracious meaning the look, gesture and words. Rom. 8: 29; Heb. 2: 11; 1 John 3: 2. **35.** Those who are "born of God," are the children of God, and Jesus is their elder brother. Painters have shown us Jesus, and Mary, and Joseph, and have called them "The Holy Family," but there is a holier family than this, and every Sunday School scholar may be a member of it. Christ will call you his "brother," his "sister," if you will try always to do the will of his Father from the heart. Matt. 10: 37; John 15: 14; 14: 21; Heb. 2: 11.

- 1.—How did the Scribes account for Christ's power to cast out demons? (4)
- 2.—How did Christ show the foolishness of their slander? (4)
- 3.—Explain what is meant by "binding the strong man" and "spoiling his goods?" (4)
- 4.—What sin, did Christ say, could not be pardoned? (4)
- 5.—What did Jesus say his disciples were to him? (4)
- 6.—How may we be Christ's brothers and sisters? (5)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Teacher,—Please excuse my absence from Sabbath School to-day, I cannot come because

I have read the "Daily Portions" and answered the questions as well as I could. I have committed to memory verses in addition to the Golden Text, and Questions in the Catechism and have recited them to

I send with this my Weekly Offering of

I was at church  
cents.