

(Matt. 1 : 2). The same glad tidings as he had preached at Nazareth. He told them of the mercy and love of God, and illustrated it by miracles of healing (Luke 5 : 17).

3. Sick of the palsy—*Palsy* is a contraction of *Paralysis*. The man was utterly helpless, and four of his friends carried him on the thick quilt, or mattress, which was his bed. Bedsteads were, and are still, unknown in the East.

4. The press—the crowd around Jesus. Uncovered the roof—It is added that they "broke it up," or "dug through it," and let him down "through the tiles" (Luke 5 : 19). The men ascended to the flat roof by means of a ladder; they removed the tiles and other material forming the roof directly over the spot in front of Jesus. Eastern rooms have low ceilings, and kindly hands below would help, so that, without any ropes to aid them, the man was gently lowered at the feet of Jesus. We should try to bring our friends to Him who alone can forgive sins.

II. PARDON PROCLAIMED. 5. Their faith—the faith of all five. They had no doubt that Jesus was both able and willing to heal him. Son—lit. "child." Matthew tells us that he added "be of good cheer." With what freeness, and gentle, gracious encouragement, Jesus forgives those who are really sorry for sin, and come to Him for pardon. Thy sins be forgiven thee—Jesus read his heart and saw that he felt the burden of his sins far more than the burden of his disease.

6. Certain of the scribes—Luke calls them pharisees and doctors of the law. They

were not friendly to Jesus, and not long after this determined to put him to death as soon as they could (John 5 : 16, 18.)

7. Blasphemies—It was quite true that God alone could forgive sin, and the words of Jesus would have been blasphemy if spoken by mere man. Romish priests, who pretend to have power to absolve from sin, do blaspheme.

8 Perceived in his spirit—He knew what they were saying to themselves. Ought not this to have shown them that he was himself the "Searcher of hearts?" (Ps: 139 : 1-10 ; John 2 : 24, 25.)

9. Easy to say—So far as saying the words went one was as easy as the other, but if Jesus can prove his power to heal, by raising up the man, he proves his right to tell him that his sins are forgiven.

III. HEALING BESTOWED. 10. Son of man—(Dan. 7 : 13), a name of the Messiah. Our Lord's favorite title for himself. It points him out as our brother as well as Saviour. Power on earth—By displaying this power on earth he proves that he had brought it with him from heaven, and that he was "come from God."

12. Took up the bed—rolled up the quilt on which he had been carried. When Jesus told him to rise up, he believed that He would give him strength to do it, although he had not moved hand or foot perhaps for years. His obedience shewed his faith. Many who saw it were glad to know that God was as ready to pardon sin as to heal disease.

To the Scholar.—Study the lesson carefully, turning up the marginal references and reading the "Daily Portions." Then close your Bible and try to answer in writing the questions following *without accepting aid from any quarter* after you have begun to write. Then bring this leaflet to Sabbath School with you on the day of its date. If you cannot come, fill out the blank and send the leaflet (with the answers written out) to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.

- 1.—Who was brought to Jesus? (2)
- 2.—How did they lay him before Jesus? (5)
- 3.—What did Jesus say to him? (3)
- 4.—What did the scribes "reason in their hearts"? (5)
- 5.—How did Jesus prove that he had a right to say what he did? (6)
- 6.—What was the effect on the people? (4)

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 was at church _____

I send with this my Weekly Offering of _____ cents.