

Lesson XII.

A PARALYTIC FORGIVEN AND HEALED

March 20, 1910

Between the Lessons—The Lesson follows immediately on that for last Sabbath.

GOLDEN TEXT—The Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins.—Matthew 9 : 6.

Memorize v. 2.

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Matthew 9 : 1-13.

1 And he entered into a ¹ ship, and ² passed over, and came into his own city.2 And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed; and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins ³ be forgiven thee.

3 And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth.

4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

5 For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins ⁴ be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, ⁵ take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

7 And he arose, and departed to his house.

8 But when the multitudes saw it, they ⁶ marvelled,Revised Version—¹ boat; ² crossed over; ³ are forgiven. And; ⁴ are forgiven; or; ⁵ and; ⁶ were afraid; ⁷ by from; ⁸ called; ⁹ place of toll; ¹⁰ he sat; ¹¹ Jesus; ¹² the; ¹³ he heard it; he said, They that are whole have no need of; ¹⁴ this; ¹⁵ desire; ¹⁶ come not; ¹⁷ Omī to repentance.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—A paralytic forgiven and healed, Matt. 9 : 1-13. T.—Whosoever believeth, Acts 10 : 34-43. W.—Many sins; but forgiven, Luke 7 : 36-50. Th.—Mercy and forgiveness, Ps. 130. F.—Another publican called, Luke 19 : 1-10. S.—A faithful saying, 1 Tim. 1 : 12-17. S.—He receiveth sinners, Luke 15 : 1-10.

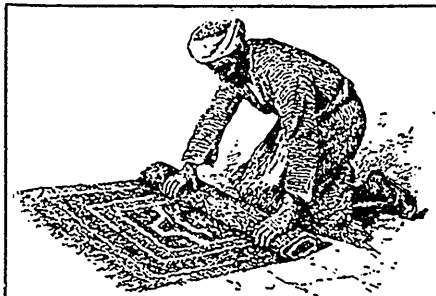
THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE PALSIED MAN.—1. Entered into a boat (Rev. Ver.). Since the people of Gerasa had shown so plainly that they wanted no more of Jesus' company (ch. 8 : 34, last Lesson), He left them. Passed over; the seven or eight miles across the Lake of Galilee. His own city; Capernaum. Ch. 4 : 13 tells of Jesus' removal from Nazareth, where He spent the first thirty years of His life, to Capernaum, probably because from this place He could more easily reach all parts of Galilee, and also, by means of the Lake, the country on the other side.

2. Behold; a finger-post word, pointing to an important happening. They brought to him. "They" were "four men", Mark 2 : 3. Palsy; paralysis, which made its victim helpless to move his limbs. Lying on a bed; literally, "struck down" to a bed, by the blow of the terrible disease. Mark and Luke tell of the difficulties in getting the sick man into Jesus' presence, and of how these were overcome, Mark 2 : 4; Luke 5 : 19. Jesus seeing their faith; the trust in Himself of the paralytic and his friends. Son, be of good cheer; literally, "Cheer up, child"—as if to put heart and hope into the sick one. Thy sins. Likely the man's sins had been the cause of his sickness. Are forgiven (Rev. Ver.); of God, for whom Jesus could speak, as none other could.

3-8. Scribes; Jewish teachers of Moses' law. Blasphemeth; speaks wickedly and irreverently. Jesus knowing their thoughts; reading, with His divine insight, their hearts like an open book. Whether is easier, etc. To say, Thy sins be forgiven thee, and to say, Arise, and walk, are equally easy. But, in the second case, it can be seen whether there is real power in the words, while, in the first case, this cannot be seen. That ye may know; by clear proof. Son of man; Jesus' common name for

and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

9 And as Jesus passed ⁷ forth from thence, he saw a man, ⁸ named Matth'ew, sitting at the ⁹ receipt of custom; and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.10 And it came to pass, as ¹⁰ Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with ¹¹ him and his disciples.11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with ¹² publicans and sinners?12 But when ¹³ Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.13 But go ye and learn what ¹⁴ that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I ¹⁵ am not come to call the righteous, but sinners ¹⁶ to repentance.

AN ORIENTAL ROLLING UP HIS MAT BED

Himself. The scribes' first point was that only God can forgive (Mark 2 : 7); Jesus claims that He can speak for God. On earth. The second point of the scribes was that pardon must come from heaven; Jesus says it can be given on earth. Arise; with limbs no longer helpless. Take up thy bed; roll up the mat, which was the common Oriental bed (see Illustration). Go; with strength so long a stranger. The man's instant and complete cure and its effect on the multitudes is related in v. 7.

II. THE PUBLICAN'S FEAST.—9. A man, named Matthew. Mark says (Mark 2 : 14) "Levi the son of Alphaeus", and Luke, "a publican, named Levi", Luke 5 : 27. "Matthew" means "Gift of God", and may be the second name taken by him when he became a follower of Jesus. At the receipt of custom; at the Customs House, as we would say, the place in Capernaum where Roman taxes were levied on all goods entering that