

26 August.

First Miracle of Jesus.

Les. John 2 : 1-11.  
Mem. vs. 1-5

Gol. Text, John 2 :  
Catechism Q. 90.

HOME READINGS.

M. John 2 : 1-11. ... First Miracle of Jesus.  
T. Gen. 1 : 26-31. ... The First Marriage.  
W. Rev. 19 : 1-13 ... The Marriage of the Lamb.  
Th. Isa. 25 : 1-12. ... A Feast of Fat Things.  
P. Isa. 55 : 1-13. ... Without Money and Without Price.  
S. 1 Cor. 10 : 21-33. Do All to the Glory of God.  
S. Matt. 6 : 24-34. ... The Life More than Meat.

Time.—A. D. 27, February or March, three days after the last lesson; Tiberius Cæsar, Emperor of Rome; Pontius Pilate, Governor of Judea; Herod Antipas, Governor of Galilee and Perea.

Opening Words.—This lesson records the beginning of the fulfilment of the promise made to Nathanael. John 1 : 50, 51. Cana of Galilee was the native place of Nathanael. John 21 : 2. It was about four miles north-east from Nazareth, where the modern village of Kefr-Kenua now stands.

Helps in Studying.—1. "The third day"—after the calling of Philip and Nathanael. 2. "His disciples"—those mentioned in ch. 1, viz.: Andrew, Simon, Peter, Philip, Nathanael, John himself, and probably James. 3. "When they wanted wine"—Revised Version, "When the wine failed." 2. "What have I to do with thee?"—a gentle reproof, and an intimation that she was not to direct him in regard to divine work. 6. "Six waterpots"—large earthen jars. "Two or three firkins"—probably the Jewish bath is the measure intended—about eight gallons, or at least one hundred gallons in all. 8. "The governor"—the person who presided at the feast. Without knowing whence it came he pronounced it the best wine. 11. "This beginning of miracles"—"this beginning of his signs." It was the first of all his miracles, not merely the first at Cana. "Manifested forth his glory"—revealed his divine power. "Believed on him"—they had already believed, but now their faith was confirmed and strengthened.

Introductory.—What was the subject of the last lesson? Who were these first disciples? Title? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *The Miracle Needed.* vs. 1-4.—What took place the third day after the call of Nathanael? Where was Cana? Who was there? Who were among the invited guests? What did his mother say to Jesus? What was his reply?

II. *The Miracle Wrought.* vs. 5-8.—What did his mother say to the servants? What vessels were there? How much did the vessels hold? What directions did Jesus give the servants? What did the servants do? What did Jesus then say to them?

III. *The Miracle Proved.* vs. 9-11.—Into what had the water been changed? What did the governor of the feast say? What is a *miracle*? How was this miracle proved? How did it manifest forth Christ's glory? How did it affect his disciples?

LESSONS.

1. Jesus, by his presence, sanctifies the joys and duties of daily life.
2. We should seek to have him with us in our social meetings.
3. We should go to Jesus with all our needs, temporal as well as spiritual.
4. His miracles were manifestations of his divine glory.
5. Believe on him as the Christ of God, your only Saviour.

2 September.

Jesus Cleansing the Temple.

Les. John 2 : 13-25.  
Mem. vs. 13-15.

Gol. Text, John 2 : 16.  
Catechism Q. 91.

M. John 2 : 12-25. Jesus Cleansing the Temple.  
T. Mark 11 : 15-19. The Second Cleansing.  
W. 1 Kings 8 : 22-24. The Prayer of Dedication.  
Th. Isa. 56 : 1-12. ... A House of Prayer for All People."  
E. Jer. 7 : 1-10. ... A Den of Robbers."  
S. Psalm 26 : 1-12. Love for God's House.  
S. 1 Cor. 3 : 11-23. "Ye are the Temple of God."

Time.—A. D. 27, Passover, April 11-17, five or six weeks after the last lesson; Tiberius Cæsar, Emperor of Rome; Pontius Pilate, Governor of Judea; Herod Antipas, Governor of Galilee and Perea.

Opening Words.—After the miracle of Cana Jesus spent a few days at Capernaum. Then he went to Jerusalem to attend the passover. This cleansing of the temple is plainly a different one from that mentioned in the other evangelists. Matt. 21 : 12-16; Mark, 11 : 15-19; Luke, 18 : 45-48. This occurred at the beginning, that at the end of his ministry.

Helps in Studying.—14. "In the temple"—in the court of the Gentiles. "Sold oxen and sheep and doves"—for sacrifices to those who came from a distance. "Changers of money"—to change foreign money into Jewish, payments to the temple being made necessarily in Jewish coin. 16. "My father's house"—a distant claim to Messiahship. "An house of merchandise"—two years later, when he cleansed the temple the second time, the temple had become a "den of thieves." Matt. 21 : 13. 17. "It was written"—Psalm 69 : 9. "Hath eaten me up"—Revised Version, "Shall eat me up." His zeal for the honor of his father's house will devour his very life. 18. "What sign showest thou"—what miracle dost thou work in proof of thine authority to do these things? 19. "Destroy this temple"—meaning his body. His body was Jehovah's temple, and here he spoke of his death and resurrection which he so fully foreknew. His death and resurrection were to be a sign to them, just as elsewhere he terms his resurrection "the sign of the prophet Jonas." Matt. 12 : 39-40. 20. "Forty and six years"—since Herod the Great had begun repairing, or rather building, the temple. To this they wrongly applied the words of Jesus. "Did not commit himself"—did not trust himself to them.

I. *Jesus and the Temple.* vs. 13-17.—When did Jesus go to Jerusalem? What did Jesus find in the temple? How came these persons and animals there? What did Jesus do to them? What did he say? Of what did this remind the disciples? Where was this written? What does it mean as applied to Christ?

II. *Jesus and his Resurrection.* vs. 18-22.—What did the Jews say to Jesus? What did they wish to have? Why did they require of him a sign? What did he reply? Of what temple did he speak? Why did he call his body a temple? How was this given to them as a sign? When was it so given? How was this saying afterwards perverted? What event reminded his disciples of it? What effect had it then upon them?

III. *Jesus and Men.* vs. 23-25.—What effect did the miracles of Jesus have at the passover? What is here said of him? v. 24.

1. We should reverence the house of God.
2. Our hearts are God's temples, where the Holy Spirit desires to dwell.
3. We profane God's temple when we have anything in our hearts that grieves the Spirit.
4. Jesus knows the hearts of all men—the plans of enemies and the wants of friends.