

LESSON V—February 2nd, 1896.

The Power of Jesus. LUKE 5: 17-26.

(Commit to memory verses 22-24).

GOLDEN TEXT: "The Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins." Luke 5: 24.

PROVE THAT—Jesus is all-powerful. Heb. 10: 25.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 43. *What is the preface to the ten commandments?* A.

The preface to the ten commandments is in these words, "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." Quest.

44. *What does the preface to the ten commandments teach us?* A. The preface to the ten commandments teacheth us, That because God is the Lord, and our God, and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal.* Nos. 162, 37, 49, 100.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The Power of Jesus. Luke 5: 17-26. *Tuesday.* The Great Physician. Mark 1: 23-34. *Wednesday.* Power to forgive. Luke 7: 36-50. *Thursday.* Forgiveness through Christ. Acts 13: 26-39. *Friday.* Forgiven for his sake. 1 John 2: 1-12. *Saturday.* Plenteous redemption. Psalm 130. *Sabbath.* Blessing of Forgiveness. Psalm 22. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Rejected at Nazareth, Jesus with his mother and brethren, removed to Capernaum, which henceforth became his place of residence (Matt. 9: 1). Here he soon after formally summoned Peter, Andrew, James and John to be his constant attendants. The miracles of the wonderful draught of fishes, the healing of the demoniac in the synagogue and the curing of Peter's mother-in-law were but instances out of a great number of such works of mercy at this time. He then set-out on his first tour through Galilee. Great multitudes followed him (Matt. 4: 25) and his fame extended beyond the borders of Palestine. On his return to Capernaum the incident recorded in our lesson took place. Parallel passages, Matt. 9: 2-8; Mark 2: 1-12.

LESSON PLAN. I. Seeking Jesus. vs. 17-19. II. Sins Forgiven. vs. 20-23. III. Sickness Healed. vs. 24-26.

I. Whenever it was known that Jesus was in a house, it was sure to be thronged with those who wished to hear his teaching or to receive healing for themselves or their friends. So that as soon as he had returned home to Capernaum¹ a great multitude assembled filling the courtyard of the house where he was and crowding around the doorway. Amongst the number were pharisees and learned doctors of the law some of whom had come all the way from Jerusalem to hear and see for themselves this famous Teacher and his miracles. So dense was the crowd that four² men who arrived a little late, carrying a palsied friend on a bed, or thick quilt, could not even get in at the door to lay him before Jesus that he might heal him. But they were in earnest and would not mind taking any trouble if they could only get their helpless friend cured, so they went up on the roof by a stairway at the end of the house, and broke through the roof of the room where Jesus stood and let him down through the opening right at his feet.

II. Some of the people, no doubt, were very angry with them for making so much noise and dust, and interrupting the discourse of Jesus, but he saw only their love for their friend and faith in his power and willingness to heal. He could read their hearts and knew that the man was more anxious to know that

his sins were pardoned than even to have his health restored, so he said to him first of all "Son, be of good cheer, thy sins have been forgiven thee." The pharisees and doctors were dreadfully shocked to hear him say that. They thought it was blasphemy for a man to pretend to pardon sin.³ And so it would have been, but Jesus was more than a man, he was God as well, and they should not have been so hasty in calling him a blasphemer before they knew whether he really had the power he claimed, or not.

III. Jesus knew what they were thinking⁴ and to prove to them that he could say and do what none but God could, he told the palsied man to rise up, roll up the mat on which he was lying and walk home. It was easy to say "Thy sins are forgiven thee," and no one could tell whether they were or not, but when the man who had not been able to move hand or foot for years, perhaps, at once did what Jesus told him, no one could doubt that he had power which only God possessed. If he could heal he could pardon. No wonder all were astonished, and felt awed, but many rejoiced, as well as the happy man, that there was one on earth who could pardon sin.⁵ We too rejoice because that same Jesus is now exalted a Prince and a Saviour to give us forgiveness too.

¹ Mark 2: 1, R. V. margin. ² Mark 2: 3. ³ Ps. 32: 5; 103: 3; 130: 4; Isa. 1: 18; 43: 25. ⁴ Ps. 139: 1-10; John 2: 24, 25. ⁵ Dan. 7: 13; John 5: 27; Mark 9: 8.

LESSONS. 1. We should persevere in our efforts to bring our friends to Jesus. 2. Jesus receives very graciously those who come to him. 3. Avoid hasty and uncharitable judgments. 4. Jesus knows all our thoughts. 5. He has power now to save to the uttermost.