

Capernaum was on the shore of Sea of Galilee on the great highway of trade between Egypt and Syria on the West and Damascus and Mesopotamia on the East. Here was the Custom House and Matthew was Collector.

The Publicans or taxgatherers were hated by the Jews because they collected tribute from Israel for Roman masters.

Questions :

What traders went by this route long before?

Those who bought Joseph.

What is Levi commonly called?

Matthew.

What did Christ command him?

Where did they go?

Matthew's house. Luke 5 : 28.

What was the complaint of Scribes?

Whom did they question?

Give Christ's answer.

What was the sin of the Scribes?

They thought themselves good enough without repentance.

What is Repentance (unto life)?

Can you be saved without it?

Except ye repent &c.

What two great truths in this lesson?

1. Christ has power to forgive sin.

2. Christ is willing to receive repentant sinners.

Jan. 20.—Mark II, 18.—III; 5.

Golden Text—Ex. 20 : 8. Catechism, 46

Parallels—Matt. IX : 14-17; XII : 1-13;
Luke V : 33=VI : 10.

I v. 18-22, Fasting.

II 22-28, Plucking corn on Sabbath.

III 1-5, Healing withered hand on Sabbath.

SECTION FIRST.

V. 18, Pharisees questioning.

19, 20, Parable of Bridegroom.

21, Parable of New Cloth on Old Garments.

22, New wine in old bottles.

Questions :

Scene? Still in Matthew's home.

What is this second complaint?

To whom is it made?

Were Christ's disciples fasting?

Who were fasting at this time?

Why. Probably on account of John's imprisonment.

How does Christ answer?

In three parables, as follows :

1. The marriage feast lasted 7 days, sometimes longer. Young men, friends of

the bridegroom, called companions or children of the bridechamber were there.

Christ here likens Himself to a bridegroom, and His disciples to the children of the bridechamber, and He says : "The disciples of John may mourn and fast now that John is cast into prison, but why should my disciples mourn and fast while I am with them. The time will come when I shall be taken from them, then shall they fast."

2. New unshrunk cloth sewed on an old garment will shrink and tear it. John's disciples regarded the old dispensation as chief and Christ's mission merely to reform it a little. Christ shews that all old things are done away. New cloth on new garments.

3. New wine in old bottles, i. e., skins which became weakened by age and would not hold wine while it was fermenting. Christianity, new, vigorous, no longer confined to the Jews could not be confined by their prejudices or practices. It must burst forth free from their trammels breaking down the middle wall between Jews and Gentiles.

Therefore, as these things are unfitting so is it unfitting that My disciples should be now fasting.

SECTION SECOND.

V. 23, Disciples going across field picking heads of grain, by the pathway.

24, Pharisees murmuring.

25-27, He tells what David did.

28, True end of the Sabbath.

Questions :

Where? What day? Who travelling?

Of what do Pharisees now complain?

Tell the story of what David did.

What was the Sabbath made for?

For man what to do?

Not to find his own pleasure but to glorify God.

Did not the disciples break the Sab.?

No. It was a work of necessity.

SECTION THIRD.

Where was it? What day?

Who present?

What were the Pharisees doing?

What did Jesus ask them?

What kind of hearts had they?

What did He do to the hand?

What did the Pharisees do?

What is Sabbath-keeping?

Obedying Christ's commands.

Why He is Lord of the Sabbath?

What are the commands in His Word?

What is the fourth commandment?

How is the Sabbath to be kept holy (sanctified)?