

brought to our Lord till after sunset? Are the many spoken of all, or did some fail to reach our Lord because of the crowd? Why was silence imposed on the demons?

Spare no pains to lead the scholars to realize the authority, power, and mercy of Jesus.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

By Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, M.A.

An unexpected beginning may be found in the "they" of the first verse. Who? The scholars will supply the answer from the Lesson of last Sabbath. "They went"; what does the Revised Version give? "They go." The expression has real "go" in it. The call was to work; and they are quick at it, under the leadership of Him who said—John 9:4.

And of what sort was His work? Work for men's souls—He taught; for men's bodies—He healed. His teaching and His healing fill up the lesson; wonderful teaching, which set the whole city amaze, wonderful healing, in which all the sick of the city shared.

Wherein was the wonder of His teaching? It was not in the place, for the synagogue was the ordinary place of worship; nor in the day, for it was the ordinary Sabbath service; nor in the man, for any one was at liberty to teach. It was in what He said, and how He said it—a fresh, clear message from God, spoken with all the authority of

one who was Himself God. (See Lesson IX. Luke 4:16-21).

It was bold teaching. Had He a right to speak "with authority"? Let the scholars give their opinion. Convincing proof is at hand. The class has been giving close attention. Let them relax a moment here, turning their attention to the queer presence at church of the man with the unclean spirit—what he said, and how he should know who Jesus was. Then come back to the proof of Jesus' authority. It comes with startling suddenness, and overwhelming power—vs. 25, 26. There was not a gainsayer (explain the word) left, v. 27.

His fame spread. That is what was wanted, for He came to save men, and how can they be saved by Him, unless they hear of Him? (Rom. 10:14). Isn't this what every one who knows Jesus should do: spread His fame? Isn't this missions in a nutshell?

Enough work for one day, surely! But no; wherever there is need, there is Jesus full of compassion. The prompt, gracious, complete (v. 31) cure of the fever patient in Simon's home, and that evening hour, when healing fairly rained down upon the eager crowds of the sick and devil-possessed, exhibit Jesus as one to whom we may bring all our ills, both of body and soul, with sure hope of help.

The scholars will wish to have Hymn 366, in the Book of Praise, read or sung.

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found, under several headings, further assistance to the teacher in the preparation of his lesson for the class.

Lesson Outline

A SABBATH IN CAPERNAUM

I. The Teaching of Jesus.

1. In the Jewish synagogue.
2. The astonishment of the hearers.
3. The authority of the teaching.
4. The contrast with the scribes.

II. An Unclean Spirit Cast Out.

1. The protest of the spirit.
2. A confession of Messiahship.
3. The rebuke of Jesus.
4. The victim delivered.
5. The wonder and fame thereof.

III. A Fever Allayed.

1. The appeal of friends.
2. The encouraging touch.
3. The completeness of the cure.
4. Practical gratitude.

IV. A Multitude Healed.

1. At the close of the Sabbath.
2. Diseases both of body and spirit.
3. Testimony of evil spirits refused.

Lesson Points

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, B.D.

Men differ, not so much in their opportunities, as in their readiness to seize them. v. 21.

We should put, not only our own, but ourselves, into our work. v. 22.