

FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

International S. S. Lesson.

LESSON IV.—A PARALYTIC HEALED.—OCT. 28.

Mark ii : 1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"The Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins."—Mark ii : 10.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—A Saviour for body and soul.

ANALYSIS. Jesus the Preacher, 1-2.
Pardoner, 3-10.
Physician, 11-12.

TIME AND PLACE.—SUMMER A.D. 28, after Jesus had returned from His first Galilean tour. The place is Capernaum in a private house, probably Peter's.

HARMONY.—Matt. ix : 2-8. Luke v : 17-26.

JESUS THE PREACHER, v. 1-2.—Jesus had returned to Capernaum from His first missionary tour with His disciples in Galilee, wearied no doubt by the toil and strain of preaching and teaching, yet finding no time for rest. He had not been in the town long, before His return was noised abroad, and the people flocked to the house to hear His gracious words. Luke tells us that there were Pharisees and doctors present, representative of every town in Galilee and Judea, an imposing array of higher critics eager to find fault.

And He preached to them. We are inclined to wish the Holy Spirit had given us His sermon, but we know the text—the Word. Christ had no doubts as to the inspiration of the Scriptures; He used them as the God-given weapon for convicting and converting men, and so must we if we would have success in our Christian work.

JESUS THE PARDONER, 3-10. The Master was in the midst of His sermon. The crowd filled the room and stretched out beyond the street door. Four men, bearing on a litter one sick of the palsy, a disease akin of paralysis, sought entrance that they might obtain healing for their friend; but it was of no avail; the press was too great. Suddenly they bethought themselves of the roof. Up the outside stairway against the wall of the house they slowly carried the palsied one, and breaking through the covering of brushwood and packed earth, lowered him on his bed to the Master's feet. The speaker pauses in His discourse, the audience look with inquiring glance towards Him. Will He be angered at the interruption? Will He heed the sick one? Hush, He speaks: "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." What startling words are these? Surely this man blasphemes: God alone can forgive sins. So reason in their hearts the scribes. But hush, He speaks again. "If I can heal this paralytic's body by a word, can I not heal his soul? Is it not sufficient to prove my Divine authority? And all eyes were fixed upon Him as He turns once more to the sick one.

JESUS THE PHYSICIAN, v. 11-12.—"Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house," the command rings out with startling clearness in the silenced room. And see, the man is getting up, he stands, he lifts his bed, he passes the crowd that opens in awe-struck wonder, and goes rejoicing on his way. The helpless paralytic is now the able-bodied man; and as the crowd find voice again they glorify God, and give utterance to their amazement. But the scribes are dumb.

NOTES ON THE TEXT.—V. 1. *After some days*.—Some days after healing the leper, recorded in the preceding chapter. V. 3. *Palsy*.—A contraction for paralysis. A common disease in the East. V. 4. *The roof*.—Made of beams, overlaid with mortar, brush, and packed earth. *Bed*.—pallet, or rug. V. 5. *Son*.—An address that would still the man's doubts of Christ's readiness to bless.

Application and Illustration.

WHAT CAN I DO?

HAVE CHRIST IN THE HOUSE AND LET THE WORLD KNOW IT, v. 1.—A Christian lady when having her friends in to spend the evening used to begin the social enjoyment by telling them each that the most honored guest in her house was always Jesus Christ, and His wishes must be ever respected and by all. People called her a crank; but what did that matter? Many whom the world calls cranks, Christ will one day acknowledge before the universe to be His friends.

LEARN THE POWER OF CO-OPERATION, v. 3.—What one cannot do, many may do. You cannot see all sides of a question, or seize the four corners of a difficulty alone. You need others to co-operate with. H. C. Trumbull says, "If four men are needed to help one man to the Saviour, let four men take hold and do it. The last thing in the world to scribble on is bringing souls to a hope of salvation. You are less than a fourth of a Christian if you are not willing to be one of four to bring a palsied one to the presence of Jesus.

DESTROY ALL THAT SEPARATES ME FROM CHRIST, v. 4.—Even as they broke up the roof that came between men and the Healer, so should we destroy all prejudice, relinquish all customs, cut loose from all associations that come between us and Him if we would know the fulness of His salvation. A lady in conversation with her pastor about her soul, said "I could become a Christian if I might still play cards but I can't give up my cards." "Then, ma'am," replied the minister, "If you value your cards more than Christ, you must look to them for salvation."

HAVE MY SINS FORGIVEN, v. 5.—The Master healed the man's soul before He healed his body. Sin came into the world, and disease and death followed in its train as natural consequences. When sin is done away, sickness will be unknown. A Hindu who had

bathed much in the Ganges, and taken long journeys to try to get rid of his sins, heard a missionary say one day, "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin." He said "That is what I want." He came to Christ, was forgiven and cleansed.

KNOW THAT JESUS HEALS, v. 11-12.—He who forgave sins, could heal sickness. Jesus has not changed since He cured the paralytic in Capernaum; He is the same to-day as He was yesterday, and, praise be to God, He will be so forever. He can heal disease of body to-day, and does, just as surely as He did then. A lady suffering from terrible internal cancer and severe curvature of the spine, was led after long conflict to put her faith entirely in Christ for healing. Being reminded of the woman who touched the hem of His garment, she cried in faith "Lord, I do touch," and rising from her bed walked into the next room, the cancer healed and her spine perfectly straight, so that the doctor acknowledged a miracle had been worked. Many may say, "We never saw it on this fashion," but so they spoke in Capernaum, yet the deed was done.

GATHERED GOLD.—When Christ is in a house it soon gets noised abroad, v. 1. Faith presses through all difficulties until it reaches Christ, v. 4. They who come to Jesus always get more than they come for, v. 5. Guard well thy thoughts, for thoughts are heard in heaven, v. 8.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

Daily Readings.

First Day—Blindness—John ix : 8-11.

Second Day—Deafness and dumbness—Mark vii : 31-37.

Third Day—Lunacy—Matt. xvii : 14-21.

Fourth Day—Leprosy—Luke xvii : 11-19.

Fifth Day—Dropsy—Luke xiv : 1-6.

Sixth Day—Death—Mark v : 22-43.

Seventh Day—WHAT CHRIST HEALS, AND HOW—Matt. viii : 5-17.

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC, Oct. 28.—"What Christ heals, and how," Matt. viii : 5-17. Christ heals soul and body. Many are they who have suffered from some awful paralysis or leprosy of the soul who have found healing in Jesus. Sin works its appalling results in the souls of men, until they are powerless to do right or resist wrong; then Jesus comes and cleanses from its dread cancer, and fills with His own resurrection life the dying soul; and health and hope take the place of disease and despair.

But Christ also heals the body. His blessing upon the remedies of the physician alone make them effectual, and in many cases, as we can personally bear testimony, where human means have failed utterly, His divine power exerted in answer to the prayer of faith brings restored vigor and health as swiftly and surely to-day as 1,800 years ago. Many of His dear children have been led to give up means altogether and trust Him solely for health and honor their trust and gives them the strength they need in laboring for Him. Reference passages:—Ps. cxlviii. 3; Isa. liii. 5; Jer. iii. 22, 23; xvii. 14; xxx. 17; xxxiii. 8; Hos. xiv. 4; Zech. xiii. 1; Mal. iv. 2; Luke iv. 18.

JUNIOR TOPIC, Oct. 28.—

WONDERFUL CURES.

1—A sick woman—Matt. ix. 21, 22.

2—Blind Bartimeus—Mark x. 48-52.

3—Ten lepers—Luke xvii. 14-17.

4—The Syrophenician's daughter—Matt. xv. 28.

5—The withered hand—Mark iii. 4, 5.

6—Lazarus—John xi. 43, 44.

7—Topic. THE WONDERFUL CURES JESUS WROUGHT; WHAT DO YOU LEARN FROM EACH?—Matt. 5-17.

Toronto's

Good Citizenship.

In the *Golden Rule's* Open Parliament for October, Miss Lottie E. Wiggins won the first prize with an account of what the Toronto Union has done for Good-citizenship. We give her brief paper below.

"Our Toronto Union strives to accomplish the aims of good citizenship by co-operating with every organization that promotes the best interests of citizenship. In the recent fight over Sunday street cars, our young men and young women aided the Anti-Sunday Car Committee in canvassing and general work; and the result of these efforts was no Sunday cars. Also in the plebiscite campaign in Ontario, last January, our young people stood loyally for the temperance cause and total prohibition, and Ontario gave as her verdict the overwhelming majority of 80,000 in favor of total prohibition. In many smaller ways our union exerts its influence to keep improper pictures from our public boards, to provide separate trial for children charged with criminal offences, etc. Above all these methods of advancing good citizenship many of our societies are doing home-missionary work among the poor and degraded, striving to lead them to become citizens of the heavenly kingdom, which we believe, is the only true method of making good citizens even for this world."

A full report of Kingston next week. Brampton will have the Convention in '95.

Men never boast of things they are accustomed to do, but of things which they rarely or never do. That is why the world does not stand uncovered when a man boasts of telling the truth.