

help. He is a guest in the house of "a man that is a sinner," and a woman to whom the same terms were applied, heard his words of pardon spoken when all around were regarding her with scorn. He is the same gracious Saviour still. None need fear his frown who seek him with real sorrow for sin in their hearts.

3. *Avoid hasty and uncharitable judgments.* The pharisees and doctors of the law were ready to accuse Jesus of blasphemy, although his whole life was an evidence that he was incapable of such a dreadful sin. They should have waited a little before coming to such a hasty conclusion. Perhaps they did not understand him, or it might be that he had a right to speak in this way. If their minds had been free from prejudice they would have been convinced by his miracles. We are too ready to put the worst construction upon the words and acts of others. In most cases the more kindly view is the correct one. We shall never lose by being slow to impute sinister meanings and motives, but we are sure to suffer if we hastily misjudge.

4. *Jesus knows all our thoughts.* This divine knowledge of the most secret things is often attributed to Christ. In the next chapter, when the pharisees were watching him to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath day, it is said "he knew their thoughts." In ch. 9: 47, when strife for precedence arose among his disciples, we are told that he perceived "the thought of their heart." He looked into the heart of Nathaniel when he was under the fig tree, and saw no guile in it. The secret life of the Samaritan woman was all known to him. He knew from the beginning who it was should betray him and spoke to the thoughts of Judas when he bade him go and do his deed of infamy quickly. He needed not that any should testify of man "for he knew what was in man." There is

comfort here for us—Jesus knows what we want to do even if we fail to accomplish it. There is warning—we cannot play the hypocrite with him.

5. *He has power now to save to the uttermost.* We perhaps sometimes think that we would have liked to live in Galilee when Jesus preached those wonderful sermons and did so many miracles, but we might not have found it so easy to believe upon him as now. We have lost, really very little by being born in the nineteenth century and we have gained a great deal by being brought up among those who believe in Christ and with the Bible in our hands ever since we could read. Jesus is not any less able to forgive sins, and he is now very near everyone who comes to him, no matter where they live, or how bad they have been. Have you come to him for pardon and healing?

ADDED POINTS.

1. Those who "sit by" to criticise will get very little good from the lesson or sermon.
2. Wherever Christ is preached the power that saves is present.
3. Many sicknesses are the result of our imprudence, or sin.
4. We can be one of four to try and bring some one to Christ.
5. Those who will not come to Christ themselves should not stand in the way of others.
6. Not arguing about religion but trusting Jesus saves.
7. Our bodily diseases are not our worst infirmities.
8. We should go direct to God, in the name of Jesus, for pardon of sin.
9. If we are trusting Christ for forgiveness we will do what he commands.
10. Cultivate a thankful spirit.

BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

By his removal from Nazareth to Capernaum what prophecy was fulfilled (Matt. 4: 14)? What was the theme of our Saviour's preaching at first? Under what circumstances were Peter and Andrew called to discipleship (Mark 1: 16-20)? Had they met Jesus before? Under what circumstances did James and John become disciples (Luke 4: 1-11)? What surprised the people most in regard to Jesus' teaching (Mark 1: 22, 27)? What prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus' miracles of healing (Matt. 8: 17)? How is the popularity of Jesus in his first tour through Galilee described (Matt. 4: 23-25)? What imprudence on the part of one whom he had healed greatly hindered our Saviour's work (Mark 1: 45)? Note Christ's devotional habits (Luke 4: 31; Mark 1: 21, 35; Matt. 4: 23; Luke 5: 16).

THE BLACKBOARD.

SICK MAN.
SINCERE FRIENDS.
SEEKING JESUS.

POWER
PRESENT to
PARDON SIN and cure
ALSU.

**"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities: who
healeth all thy diseases.**