

## Lesson VII.

## JESUS FORGIVES SINS

February 14, 1904

Mark 2 : 1-12. Compare Luke 5 : 17-26—Memory Verses, 3-5.

**Golden Text**—The Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins.—Mark 2 : 10.

1 And again he entered into Caper'naum after *some* days ; and it was noised that he was in the house.

2 And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive *them*, no, not so much as about the door : and he preached the word unto them.

3 And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.

4 And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was : and when they had broken *it* up, they let down the bed where-in the sick of the palsy lay.

5 When Je'sus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

6 But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,

7 Why doth this *man* thus speak blasphemies ? who can forgive sins but God only ?

8 And immediately when Je'sus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts ?

9 Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, *Thy* sins be forgiven thee ; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk ?

10 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)

11 I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

12 And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all ; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

From Capernaum Jesus went to many other places preaching the gospel. On his return to Capernaum, the whole town, hearing where He was, came jostling and elbowing against one another in their efforts to see Him. Soon the house became so crowded that not one more person could get in, no matter how he shoved and pushed. The doorway, the yard, and even the street, were so packed that the way to Jesus was completely blocked.

There was a poor cripple living in the town, who in some way had missed seeing Jesus on the Sabbath evening when He had cured so many sick folk, and hearing that He was again in Capernaum, the sick man persuaded four of his friends to carry him, bed and all, to Jesus, believing He would cure him. But when they came to the house, they were too late. Push and strug-

gle as they would through the crowd, there was no way of getting near enough to speak to Jesus.

In their disappointment, they thought of a strange plan. "Let us try taking him up by the outside staircase of the house and letting him down by ropes through the roof," said one of the friends. So they got the man upon the roof, where they quickly unfastened enough loose tiles to let him through, over the spot where Jesus sat. What was the surprise of those in the house, when they heard the thumping on the roof, and presently saw a mattress being let down through the ceiling upon their very heads !

At once Jesus stopped preaching, and, pleased with the faith and perseverance of the sick man and his friends, He said, "Son, thy sins are forgiven." But the scribes who were sitting watching to catch Jesus, if pos-