

not for the press.... and he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him.

20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

Eph. 2. 8: By grace are ye saved through faith.

21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?

Isa. 43. 25: I, even I, am he that bloteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts?

Heb. 4. 13: All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

23 Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?

24 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go unto thine house.

Acts 5. 31: Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

25 And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to-day.

Acts 19. 17: And fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

power of the Lord. Though power ever dwelt in Christ, yet it was not at all times equally manifested. This was an occasion when, in spite of unsympathetic witnesses, the divine influence was specially exercised. To heal them. Not to heal the Pharisees especially, but all such as needed healing.

18, 19. Brought in a bed. Not on a bedstead, but laid on a matting, or wrapped in a heavy quilt. Because of the multitude. Both the room, the court, and the front of the house being surrounded by a crowd eager to draw near to Jesus. Went upon the housetop. It was probably a dwelling only one story high. Through the tiling. The roof was not difficult to remove, being probably of clay spread upon rushes, or bushes, which were laid upon sticks reaching from beam to beam. 12. How much more trouble people will take for the sake of their bodies than their souls!

20, 21. He saw their faith. The faith of those who bore the paralytic was shown by their energy and determination to bring him to Jesus. The man himself afterward showed trust equal to that of his bearers in his ready obedience to Christ's command. He said unto him. Though neither the sick man nor his company had spoken to Christ, yet he speaks to them. In Matt. 9. 2, the words, "Son, be of good cheer," are added. Thy sins be forgiven thee. This was spoken, not so much for the benefit of the man, as for the instruction of the witnesses; though a troubled conscience may have stood in the way of the man's restoration. Blasphemies. Words like these would seem presumptuous, even from a prophet, and could come with fitness from God alone. 13. There is no other alternative between regarding Jesus as a blasphemer or as the Son of God.

22, 23. Perceived their thoughts. They had not uttered their thoughts, but Christ read them, as he read the inward faith of the palsied man's bearers. 14. He who saw their inmost thoughts can also see ours. Whether is easier. "Which is easier." To say. That is, to say with authority to accomplish it. One sentence could be spoken as easily as the other, but only one who had the right to forgive sin could possess the power to heal diseases.

24, 25, 26. But that ye may know. "By doing that which was capable of being put to the proof, Christ vindicates his right and power to do that which in its very nature is incapable of being proved." The son of man. A name by which Christ showed his complete oneness with our nature, yet at the same time suggested his heavenly origin. Power on earth. While on earth, as a divine Being, he holds in his hand the same power which is his right in heaven. Take up thy couch. A light mattress. Took up that. "The couch had borne the man, now the man bore the couch."—Bengel. Amazed. Astonished at the miracle and the high claim which it proved. Glorified God. For sending so mighty a worker among men. Fear. Reverence and awe. Strange things. Miracles wrought and sins remitted.

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

The power of the Lord was present to heal them. Luke 5. 17.

#### LESSON HYMNS.

No. 328, New Hymn Book.

L. M.

O thou, whom once they flcked to hear,  
Thy words to hear, thy power to feel;  
Suffer the sinners to draw near,  
And graciously receive us still.  
They that be whole, thyself hath said,  
No need of a physician have;  
But I am sick and want thine aid,  
And want thine utmost power to save.

Helpless howe'er my spirit lies,  
And long hath languished at the pool,  
A word of thine shall make me rise,  
And speak me in a moment whole.

No. 238, New Hymn Book.

C. M.

While dead in trespasses I lie,  
Thy quickening Spirit give;  
Call me, thou Son of God, that I  
May hear thy voice, and live.  
While, full of anguish and disease,  
My weak distempered soul  
Thy love compassionately sees,  
O let it make me whole.