

NO. 16. MORE MIRACLES.

To read—*St. Matthew viii.* 18–34.

I. DOUBTFUL FOLLOWERS. (18–22.)

(1) *The Scribes*. Who were they? Writers out (or copiers) of the Law and Prophets. Doctors or teachers of the Law. (Acts v. 17.) Became very exact in knowledge of Scripture. This one wanted to follow Christ. Why? Probably because thought would gain worldly advantage. So Christs put hardships before him—He, the Creator, had no hon.e—His followers must expect similar lot. Son of Man—title prophesied by Daniel. (Dan. vii. 13.) Always used by Christ Himself—never by others to Him.

(2) *The Disciple*—not one of the Apostles, simply a learner. Wanted to attend to earthly duties before coming to Christ. Was told to let those outside Christ's Kingdom—dead to the true life—attend to such things. His disciples must be ready to give up all for Him. *Examples*. Matthew left receipt of custom. (St. Matt. ix. 9.) Four disciples gave up fishing boats. (iv. 21.) Zacchæus gave half goods to the poor. (St. Luke xix. 8.)

II. THE STORM AT SEA. (23, 27.) Christ entered *the* boat, *i.e.*, probably Peter's boat. His twelve disciples are with Him—not all yet formally called, but being prepared for their work.

Great tempest, *i.e.*, sudden squall—common in inland lakes amid mountains. Notice the following points:—1. The disciples' *danger*—was real

and imminent. 2. The disciples' *cry*—to Christ to save—Christ never called on in vain. 3. The disciples' *rescue*. Christ rebuked *them* for little faith. Christ rebuked *winds* and waves—they at once obeyed.

LESSON. 1. Christ's *power* over nature—as Lord of all. 2. Christ's *willingness* to save in trouble. 3. Christ's word brings *peace* after storm.

III. THE DEMONIACS. (28–34.) *Gergesenes* or *Gadarenes*—south of Lake of Galilee, place abounding in rocks and caves.

Two possessed with devils. Not merely diseased, but full of evil spirits. Notice—(1) They knew Christ; (2) they knew their future end; (3) desired to do mischief; (4) recognized Christ as a Master.

Herd of swine. If belonging to Jews, unlawful. (See Lev. xi. 7.) Accounts for Christ's permitting their destruction.

They that kept them fled—in abject fear of some greater evil happening to themselves. Like Israelites fleeing from camp of Dathan and Abiram. (Num. xvi. 34.) News of this wonderful scene quickly spread.

Besought Christ to depart. Why? Because of loss of swine? Perhaps; more likely from guilty conscience—felt themselves in presence of some Mighty One—whom they knew not. Christ departed—never returned.

LESSONS. 1. Evil spirits still possess many—envy, anger, drink, etc. 2. Christ can cast out such. 3. Danger of rejecting Christ—may never return.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS.

THE Summer Session of the School of Expression, Boston, opens on July th.

THE Summer Session of the Potter Institute of Oratory, New York, opens on the first Wednesday in July.

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