

Lesson XI.

TWO MIGHTY WORKS

March 13, 1910

Between the Lessons—Vs. 18-22 tell of two men who came to Jesus, as he was leaving Capernaum to cross to the other side of the Lake of Galilee, wishing to become His followers and of how Jesus, in each case, treated the request.

GOLDEN TEXT—What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him 1—Matthew 8 : 27. **Memorize vs. 24-26. THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Matthew 8 : 23-34.

23 And when he was entered into a ¹ ship, his disciples followed him.

24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, inasmuch that the ¹ ship was covered with the waves : but he was asleep.

25 And ² his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, ³ Lord, save us : we perish.

26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith ? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea ; and there was a great calm.

27 ⁴ But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him !

28 And when he was come to the other side into the country of the ⁵ Ger'gesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming ⁶ out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man ⁷ might pass by that way.

29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have

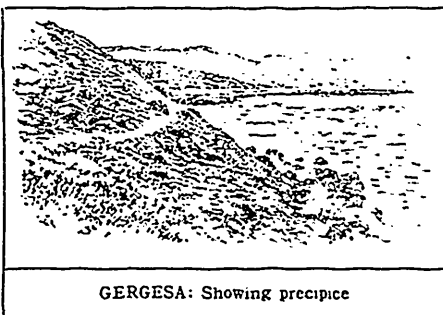
Revised Version—¹ boat ; ² they came ; ³ Save, Lord ; ⁴ And ; ⁵ Gadarenes ; ⁶ forth ; ⁷ could ; ⁸ *Omīl* Jesus ; ⁹ Now there was afar off ; ¹⁰ And the, ¹¹ send us away ; ¹² they came out, and went into the swine ; ¹³ rushed down the steep into ; ¹⁴ fed them ; ¹⁵ away into ; ¹⁶ them that were possessed with devils ; ¹⁷ all the city ; ¹⁸ from their borders.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Two mighty works, Matt. 8 : 23-34. T.—The Deliverer, Ps. 107 : 21-31. W.—A Helper in trouble, Ps. 46. Th.—Go and tell I Luke 8 : 26-39. F.—Evil spirits recognize Jesus, Luke 4 : 31-39. S.—Swine forbidden, Deut. 14 : 1-8. S.—Saved by grace, Eph. 2 : 1-17.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE STORM STILL-ED.—23-25. Entered into a ship ; Rev. Ver., "a boat", one of the fishing boats used on the Lake of Galilee. Behold ; calling attention to something sudden and startling. A great tempest ; literally, "a great earthquake", one of those sudden storms common on the Lake of Galilee, caused by the wind rushing down the funnel-like gien of the mountains that girdle its shores. Boat (Rev. Ver.) was covered ; hidden by the waves, which rose high above the boat, broke in upon it and gradually filled it with water. He was asleep ; worn out by His labors, and soothed by the gliding motion of the boat. Like a general in war time, Jesus snatched His sleep when He could. Disciples . . . awoke him. The storm had not roused Him. Lord, save us : we perish. These men were genuinely terrified, though they were seasoned sailors, used to rough weather.

26, 27. Why . . . fearful . . . of little faith ? Harsh words apparently, but meant in kindness, expressing Jesus' own fearlessness, and intended to restore courage and calmness to the disciples. He arose ; standing up in the fulness of His might. Rebuked the winds and the sea ; as a king might chide his unruly subjects. A great calm ; the obedient were wind and wave to the bidding of their Lord. Men marvelled ; at the power manifestly so much more than human. What manner of



GERGESA: Showing precipice

man ; greater, they could not help but feel, than other men like themselves.

II. DEMONS CONQUERED.—28. The other side ; the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Country of the Gadarenes (Rev. Ver.). The place was Gergesa or Gerasa, probably the place now called Khersa or Gersa, on the borders of a district called Gadara from its chief town. There met him. Mark

says (Mark 5 : 6) "ran and worshiped Him". Two possessed with devils ; literally "demonized", that is, under the mastery of demons sent forth by their master the devil. Mark and Luke mention only one, perhaps the fiercer of the two. He was naked, had been chained but had broken his chains (Luke 8 : 27, 29), and had cut himself with stones until he was doubtless covered with blood, Mark 5 : 5. Coming out of the tombs ; the caves in the steep limestone hills on the seashore, used as burying places. Exceeding fierce. Mark says (Mark 5 : 4) "neither could any man tame him", and Luke, "driven of the devil into the wilderness", Luke 8 : 29.

29-31. Behold, they cried out ; a "sudden, startling, unearthly cry, fitted to shock weak nerves". What have we to do with thee. The demons impel the men to cry out fiercely against any interference from Jesus. Son of God. The evil beings from the world of spirits saw in Jesus the true Ruler