

FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

International S. S. Lesson.

LESSON II.—THE DRAUGHT OF FISHES.—OCT. 14.

Luke v: 1-11.

GOLDEN TEXT:—"Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men."—Mark i: 17.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—Catching Men.

ANALYSIS.—**F**ollowed by **M**ultitudes, 1-3.
Fishing by **M**iracle, 4-7.
Ishers of **M**en, 8-11.

TIME AND PLACE.—April A.D. 28; soon after last lesson. The scene is the Sea of Galilee, called here Gennesaret. It is from 12 to 14 miles long, about 7 broad, and in some places 165 feet deep.

HARMONY.—Matt. iv: 18-22. Mark i: 16-20.

FOLLOWED BY MULTITUDES, v. 1-3.—After being rejected in Nazareth Christ for a time took up His abode in Capernaum, and labored, with much more acceptance, in the neighboring district. Standing one day on the lake shore surrounded by a multitude eager to hear the Word of God, and pressed for space in which to tell forth the Gospel message, He stepped into a fishing boat belonging to Simon, who was near by mending his nets, and asked him to push it out from the shore a little that He might be able to speak to the people. There, in one of the many small inlets at the north end of the lake where the boat could ride in safety a few feet from the land, and where the multitudes could sit on the piles of basalt on either side and before the boat, Christ taught them the Word of God. Let us learn, that the preaching of the Word is the reaching of the masses.

FISHING BY MIRACLE, v. 4-7.—Jesus took an interest in the daily toil of His disciples. He did not ask them to be always hearing sermons; but now, having delivered His discourse He goes with Peter to the accomplishment of his every-day work. Simon had been fishing all the previous night, the time thought to be most favorable, but without success; now the Master tells him to let down the nets in broad daylight, when common sense and experience told him it was folly to attempt to catch anything. This was the test of Peter's faith, and nobly he stood it. "Nevertheless at thy word;" there is a fine ring in this Galilean fisherman's reply, and his implicit confidence in the Master's wisdom is well rewarded. Out in the deep waters the nets were cast, and so great was the catch that the nets were on the point of breaking (v. 6), and they had to summon James and John, their partners, to their help. Two boats laden almost to sinking, such was the result of taking Christ at His word. Let us learn, that success in business is only limited by the place given to Christ in it. That if the Church took Christ at His word and launched out into the deep after souls so great would be the catch the walls of our buildings would not hold it, and denominational differences would be forgotten as we called in our Methodist or Baptist or Episcopal partners to help in the work. This is true Church Union.

FISHERS OF MEN, v. 8-11. This evidence of Christ's power was too much for Peter. Falling at the Master's feet he cries, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Ah, Peter, your very sinfulness was the reason why the Lord drew near you. In your heart you do not wish Him to go; you but feel your utter unworthiness to be in His presence, yet yearn to remain there. It is the cry of a convicted and repentant soul. And James and John were astonished also. But listen to the Master's words of comfort as He turns to the trembling Simon, "Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men." What a sudden promotion, and based simply upon Peter's confession of his unworthiness. Soul, you must feel your uselessness before Christ can fully use you. Now the Master calls these humble fishers to a work that angels cannot do, and bringing their ships to land, they forsake all and follow Him. To-day will you follow their example?

NOTES ON THE TEXT.—v. 2. *Ship*.—deckless fishing boats. *The fishermen*.—James, John, Simon Peter, and Andrew. v. 3. *Sat down*.—the custom when teaching. v. 6. *Net brake*.—was about to brake, see R.V.

Application and Illustration.

What Can I Do?

PREACH THE WORD, v. 1.—The cry of the masses is, "Sirs, we would see Jesus! Not your erudition, nor eloquence, nor fine churches, nor charitable deeds; but Jesus." A well-known Anglican bishop was announced to preach in a certain church. A tradesman in the parish, the leader of a set of Atheists, made up his mind to go and hear him. He listened attentively, and after the sermon he said to someone, "If that bishop had argued, I would have fought with him; but there was no arguing about him; he preached to us simply about the love of God, and that touched me."

LEARN THE SACREDNESS OF THE COMMONPLACE, v. 3.—Peter's little fishing boat, willingly given to the Lord for His service, became sacred as seated in it Christ told God's love to the multitude. So the most common-place things and duties of our life become holy when dedicated to God. A little servant girl, asked how she knew she was converted, said, "Before I knew Jesus I used not to sweep under the tables and mats, but now every corner is swept, because I do it for Him."

LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP, v. 4.—God would not have us shallow, coast-bound Christians. The land squalls of worldly ambition, the treacherous rocks of sensuality and worldly pleasures, the unsuspected sand bars of fraud and dishonesty, are close by the coast. Keep away from the danger of shipwreck! Cut loose from everything. Put out from the shore. When Francis Xavier was

preparing to go on his great mission to the heathen, he was heard uttering in his sleep the words, "Yet more, O my God, yet more!" In his dreams there had come to him a vision of his future career; of his sufferings, weariness, hunger, thirst, the storms to be battled, and the fiercer storms of heathen rage, the continents to be travelled, the rivers and seas to be crossed, dangers and death on every hand. But along with these he saw the nations that he would bring to Christ, islands, continents, empires, that would by his voice hear the gospel of the kingdom, and he exclaimed, "Yet more, O my God, yet more! More toil, more suffering, and more souls brought into eternal life."

BE A FISHER OF MEN, v. 10.—Put a Gospel hook, baited with love, on all your conversation and correspondence, and God will give you good success. A man who had been in the Arctic region, engaged in whaling, landed at Dundee. Wishing to hear the Gospel, he entered one of the churches. Coming out a mate asked him, "Well, Jack; how did you like the sermon?" "Oh," he replied, "It was a good sermon enough but there was no harpoon in it."

FORSAKE ALL AND FOLLOW HIM, v. 11.—Be ready to give up everything for Christ if He should ask it; and "resolving to forsake all, remember to include thyself."—Jerome.

GATHERED GOLD.—The industrious are ever in a position to be blessed, v. 2. If you cannot do what you would, do what you can, v. 3. Nothing is so truly ours as that which we commit to God, v. 11.

"Fisher of men, the blest,
Out of the world's unrest
Out of sin's troubled sea,
Taking us, Lord, to thee."

SELECTED HYMNS.—Children's Hymnal, 144, 103, 223, 174, 175, 173. Moody and Sankey, 477, 590, 280, 199, 133.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

Daily Readings.

First Day—Help of His example—John ix: 1-7.

Second Day—Help of His precepts—Luke xiii: 6-10.

Third Day—Help of His presence—John xxi: 1-14.

Fourth Day—Help of His power—Eph. iii: 14-21.

Fifth Day—Help of His wisdom—Luke xxiv: 13-32.

Sixth Day—Help of His love—2 Cor. v: 14-21.

Seventh Day—How CHRIST HELPS IN OUR DAILY TASKS.—Col. iii: 12-17.

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC, Oct. 14.—"How Christ helps in our daily tasks." Col. iii. 12-17. Strange that the phase of Christianity most lost sight of is the practical one. In how many cases the religion of Jesus has become a matter of Sundays and churches, instead of the motive power, the key-note, of every day life. The Christian life in its truest, deepest sense enters into and makes sacred every department of daily duty. When Christ is made our partner and given free course to investigate, direct, and control our week-day existence things appear in a new light which shed a holy radiance on our humblest duties and avocations. With Jesus in the kitchen and the pantry, our companion at the stove or by the wash-tub, not only will the work be better done, but a joy will enter the doing of it never before experienced. Nothing is too commonplace for Christ to sanctify, and use for His glory.

Christ helps in our daily tasks by *example* (v. 12, 13.) The Master's life of patience, tenderness and long suffering forgiveness is an inspiration to us amid our petty trials and vexations. Then He helps us with His *love*, (v. 14) the golden girdle which over all the Christian qualities mentioned in v. 12 is the bond of perfectness. Again we are helped by His *peace* (v. 15) "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts," if you do there will be no more loss of temper, no more loss of time, no more broken china through over-anxious haste; all will go quietly, calmly, smoothly, but you must let His peace rule. Once more He helps us by His *word* (v. 16.) Have you ever tried the preciousness of taking some of His words to work with you, and just letting them turn over and over in your mind, bringing fresh sweetness and strength to you every moment? A young lady was just telling me the other day how delightful she found it. And lastly He helps us by His *name*, (v. 27.) What a precious name is His. With what marvellous potency it is fraught. At mention of it the soul's enemies flee, and the gates of God's mercy swing widely open. In that name every duty done is holy, every word spoken a God-breathed message. O, Jesus, write thy name upon our hearts, that it may be the note to which our lives will all be tuned!

JUNIOR TOPIC, Oct. 14.—"How does Jesus help you in your work every day?"

Pray the Lord of the Harvest.

The Rev. R. P. McKay, secretary of our Foreign Mission Board, has issued a very neat and interesting little prayer card in connection with the mission work of our Church. On the cover it has printed the following pledge:—

Recognizing that I am called to fellowship with Christ in the work of making known His Gospel to the whole world, I shall endeavor to pray daily for the cause of Foreign Missions, especially for the Missions of my own Church, and as far as lies in my power I shall advance its interests.

Inside a separate field of the Church work is set apart for each day of the week, with particulars as to population, and a scripture promise. The first young people's prayer circle in connection with this card has recently been formed in the Church of the Covenant, Toronto. We urge all others of our young people to follow their example. A quantity of the cards may be had on application to Rev. R. P. McKay, 63 Confederation Life Building, Toronto.