

Sabbath School.

BIBLE LESSONS.

Adapted from Peloubet's Select Notes.

FIRST QUARTER.

Lesson V. Feb. 2. Luke 5: 17-26

THE POWER OF JESUS.

Read Luke 5: 1-39; 6: 1-11. Commit Verses 22-24.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"The Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins."—LUKE 5: 24.

THE SECTION includes the series of miracles which follow our last lesson, recorded in Luke 4: 33 to 6: 11.

SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS.

"Bibles."—Such lessons as they require a Bible in the hands of each scholar. Let it be their own, if possible. Some may have theirs open at the parallels in Matthew and Mark. "A Harmony" is a great help.

EXPLANATORY.

THE POWER OF CHRIST'S MIRACLES.—As we enter upon the study of the group of miracles which forms the lesson for today, we must first gain a clear conception of this peculiar, rich and abundant miraculous accompaniment of the Son of man. A considerable portion of the Gospels is occupied with accounts of miracles. Thirty-six are described in more than one Gospel; so that there are 67 reports of distinct miracles, besides the large number noticed, but not recorded in detail.

WHAT IS A MIRACLE? A miracle is the personal intervention of God by His will into the chain of cause and effect in nature. It is not "breaking of the laws of nature," nor "the suspension of the laws of nature," nor any change in the laws of nature, but simply God's doing with His infinite power the same "quality" of action, though vastly greater in degree, that we do every hour when we exert our personal will amid the forces of nature. I lift up a book. The act is a new personal force, which marks the power of my will. It breaks no law of nature, suspends none. It is the same when God, by His infinite power, lifts up a mountain or raises the dead. It is His personal will touching nature and showing that God himself is there. Just as a friend can grant a favor, or the operator of a factory stop a part of the machinery to rescue a child caught in the wheels.

CHARACTER OF CHRIST'S MIRACLES.

THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST'S MIRACLES.—These are none that are petty, or meaningless, or useless. They are all helpful, comforting, instructive, uplifting. They are the exact reversing and undoing of the works of the devil. His character is to ruin soul and body. Jesus reverses all this. He restores and blesses soul and body.

THE USE OF MIRACLES.

1. They are proofs of the power of Jesus to save. He can miraculously heal the body, he has power to save the soul. If he can destroy the visible part of the devil, he has power over the invisible.

ILLUSTRATION.

The Alpine guide said to the traveller who hesitated to put his foot in the guide's hands over a precipice in order to get around a projecting rock, "If I could not save a man, then the traveller trusted him, and passed on in safety."

THEY ARE EXPRESSIONS OF THE LOVE AND TENDERNES OF GOD TOWARD MEN.

They reveal his care for us in every sorrow and need. They are the pledge that he does not desire to destroy, but to save, and strengthen our faith in his fatherly love.

THEY ILLUSTRATE SPIRITUAL TRUTH; MANY OF THEM ARE PARABLES IN ACTION.

They express in language all men can understand, the truths of salvation.

FOUR NAMES FOR MIRACLES ARE USED IN THE GOSPEL: 1. THE GREAT POWER.

mighty works, deeds that require divine power to do; WONDERS, marvelous deeds, calling attention to God as the Maker; SIGNS, expressing Jesus' divine mission and the truths he taught; and WORKS, the natural acts and products of his God.

A GROUP OF MIRACLES.—Included within the section of the history belonging to this lesson, we find the following groups of miracles:

I. CASTING OUT DEMONS.—4: 35-37, 41.

"There is an incredible disposition in the human soul to think that this one little word is not apart from all the rest." Paul writes to the Ephesians, "You are fighting with principalities and powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against spiritual wickedness in the heavenly regions, in the sky or air." He is thinking of evil spirits. He believes distinctly in a universe full of unseen forces. The sky was full of them.

II. HEALING DISEASES.—Luke 4: 38-40; 5: 15.

Power over all forms of disease, of body and of soul, is shown by Christ's miracles of healing. This power is not lost now.

III. LEPROSY.—Luke 5: 12-15.

These miracles are expressions of God's love, that care for our bodily welfare, that desire our health and comfort; and also of our need of soul-healing, and his readiness to save us from sin and its results.

IV. THE DEAFNESS OF PETER.—Luke 5: 14-15.

The story given in the verses shows Christ's power to heal the deafness of Peter. This miracle was chiefly a sign or illustration of the work of the apostles, that they should be fishers of men, and have great success. Wise means are to be used, but the word of Jesus is the power.

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V. THE PARALYTIC CURED.—"The Preaching Service."—V. 17. The place was a house in Capernaum. The man was of one story with outside stairs and a flat roof. Very probably it was built around a court, as the better houses were. "The audience" crowded the place, and was gathered from all classes and all parts of the country. Some were friends, some were curious; some came to inquire, some to contradict.

VI. THE PARALYTIC LET DOWN THROUGH THE ROOF.—Vs. 18, 19, 25.

"The same given it by Mark shows that it is a thin mattress, held by the four corners. "A man which was taken with the palsy." The word "palsy" is a contraction of "paralysis." The term is used by the ancient physicians in a much wider sense than by our modern men of science. It included not only what we call paralysis, which is rarely very painful, but also cataplexy and tetanus, and other "locking" spasms.

"CATAPLEXY" IS CAUSED BY A CONTRACTION OF THE MUSCLES IN THE WHOLE OR PART OF THE BODY, AND IS VERY DANGEROUS.

The effects upon the parts seized are very violent and deadly. For instance, when a person is struck with it, if his hand happens to be extended, he is unable to draw it back.

THE FOUR MEN THAT BROUGHT THE SICK MAN WERE VERY ENTIRE AND HELPFUL.

Some one has called them the first Christian Endeavor Society.

19. "WENT UPON THE HOUSETOP."

The roof in all cases was flat, and projected over the court. Let us let him down through the opening, after they had broken a hole through. The roof was so low that they could let it down so that those below could receive it, without the aid of ropes, but simply by holding the corners.

THE WHOLE AFFAIR WAS THE EXTENSIVE AND COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE.

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THE CONQUEST MEETING.

The reports we present this week are of an encouraging character. We hope that our societies will all be greatly blessed during this year. And while we express this desire, that we know means to do so, let us be sure to do so. Let us then learn our place, our duty and responsibility, and in holy resolve set ourselves to the accomplishment of our part, believing that on earnest and consecrated effort His blessing will surely fall.

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B. Y. P. U.

Our object. The undivided Baptist young people their common spiritual and fraternal life in Christ, we wish their education in spiritual knowledge their instruction in Baptist history and doctrine, and their preparation for missionary activity, through existing denominational institutions.

OUR FELLOWSHIP.

All Young People's Societies of whatever name in Baptist churches and Baptist churches having no organizations are entitled to representation. We depend for our unity not on any young people's name or method. Our common bond is in the New Testament, in the full and free exercise of our Christian liberty.

WE ARE ONE PEOPLE WITH OUR MISSION.

Kindly address all communications for this column to Rev. G. O. Gates, St. John, N. B.

Prayer Meeting Topics for Jan. 30.

B. Y. P. U. Topic.—Conquest Meeting: "Forerunners of Modern Missions." Alternate:—"Responsibility for Unbelief."—Jno. 8: 45; 16: 9.

C. E. Topic.—"How and Why we should testify for Christ."—1 John 4: 2-5.

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Sec'y, E. J. Lucas; Treas., A. F. Webster. The S. L. Course with the pastor, Rev. C. W. Corey, as teacher, is very well attended. Bro. J. K. Ross, President of the Union, is projecting some plans for a mid-winter Rally, which you will in all probability hear about later on.

Fraternally yours, R. H. JACKINS, Prov. Sec'y.

Charlottestown, Jan. 7.

Success, N. B.

The B. Y. P. U. held their semi-annual business meeting, Jan. 3rd, when the following officers were elected: Pres., Chas. Keith; Vice-Pres., Garfield White; Sec'y, Annie Dryden; Treas., Mary A. White. Since last report our active membership has increased fifteen, for which we thank God, and are expecting greater blessings. Our Union is young but we get better acquainted with the work, we hope to be able to accomplish more for Christ and His cause.

The Conquest meetings have been held in their order. As we are taking up the opening of the Union, the work along that line will not be neglected. We unite in wishing the Union a prosperous New Year.

Mrs. A. L. PAICE, Cor. Sec'y.

Jan. 8.

Canning, N. B.

On Christmas Eve at the close of their usual meeting the Canning B. Y. P. U. presented their pastor, Rev. W. N. Hutchins, with a far cap and driving gloves of Persian Lamb. The presentation came as a pleasant surprise to the pastor and was greatly appreciated as an evidence of good will.

The B. Y. P. U. Editor congratulates our good Bro. Hutchins and hopes he may be spared many winters to this world, where ours is a necessity.

St. Stephen.

The St. Croix Local Union of C. E. held its semi-annual meeting in the Union street Baptist church, on Dec. 3rd. Rev. Mr. Hawley led the opening devotional exercises, after which the president, Mr. Case, of Lubec, took the chair. The Societies were welcomed to the church and town by Mr. B. R. DeWolfe; and the president replied to the address. Then followed the reports of the various societies in the Union. Twenty societies were reported in all. The report of the Visitation Committee was also heard. An interesting lecture of the meeting was an open question by Mr. Mr. Lodge Webster. Many very helpful remarks and suggestions were made.

The meeting appointed an Information Committee during the session. The evening session opened with prayer, a short service of praise and prayer was held, under the leadership of the president, followed by a ten minutes address by Dr. Sprague, of St. Stephen, on "Evangelism in Evangeline." It was by Rev. Mr. Ford, of Eastport, Me., was the next speaker. His subject was "The Young Christian at work." The meeting moved the sending of an address of approval to Mr. Clark, concerning his recent attack upon him by John J. Wally. The form of address was read and adopted. A consecration service followed, in which over sixty took part, and a collection was made amounting to \$10.50. The meeting closed by singing "Bless Be the Tie that Binds." Evangelist Gale is holding Union services in the Methodist church here. The Y. M. C. A. extended the evening session open to all. It was led by the Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist churches. Already over a hundred have come out on the Lord's side. Grand things are looked for by all the Christians here during the coming days.

Jan. 11, 1896.

Cor. Sec'y.

Berwick, N. S.

Our Baptist young people of this place are banded together as a Y. P. S. C. E. first organized as such in March, 1891, at the annual meeting of the Baptist church united with the church. This winter quite a number are taking the C. C. Courses, meeting at 7 o'clock and holding C. E. prayer meeting from 7 to 8, and class conducted by our pastor, Rev. H. Simpson, from 8 to 9 p. m. At the close of the Christmas Cantata on Christmas eve last, the Endeavorers accompanied by "Santa Claus," delivered a number of baskets to the poor. The officers elected for the coming year are as follows: President, Esie Parker; Vice-President, A. Leloy Chipman; Secretary, Lena Middlemas; Treasurer, Everett Roscoe. January 7, 1896. L. E. Mc.

Upper Queensbury, N. B.

I wish to report progress for our B. Y. P. U. at Upper Queensbury. We have opened the winter campaign with every prospect of an interest and prosperous season. The interest in our meetings is excellent. Since our last report two of our associate members have been baptized and our membership increased by the addition of several more earnest workers, making now an active membership of 34, associate 14, and honorary 8. At our last election of officers the following were appointed: D. Edwin Parent, President; Mrs. Martha Clark, Secretary; Estelle R. Handson, Secretary; Treasurer; Edith Hagerman, Assistant Secretary; Alice L. Parent, Corresponding Secretary. We feel the loss of our pastor, Rev. E. C. Jenkins, who has resigned his charge of this field to labor elsewhere. It was through his earnest effort and untiring zeal that we have a B. Y. P. U. today, and he was ever ready to help by word of advice and suggestion, but regretting to part with him, we hope that our loss may be others gain, and that God may make him a blessing to other young people as he has to us. We are striving not to forget our pledge to "be true to Christ at all times" and our prospect of an interest and prosperous season in the Lord, and that He may bless our labours in the one great object of leading souls to Him. ALICE L. PARENT, Cor. Sec'y.

Weymouth, N. S.

The next annual meeting of the Digby County B. Y. P. U. will meet at Barton, Jan. 25th. These meetings are always interesting and profitable. Make preparations for attending on the 25th. Jan. 8. H. A. GURRY, Pres.

Today may seem all cold and dim—

Trust the Tomorrow unto Him. —E. R. SILL.

I am not bound to make the world go right, But only to discover and to do With cheerfulness the work that God appoints.

I will trust in Him, That he can hold His own; and I will take His will, above the work He sendeth me, To be my chiefest good. Jean Ingelow.

Cast your idol into the furnace, melt your mammon down with him up, make God's money of him, and send him cursing. Make of him cups to carry the gift of God, the water of life, through the world—in lovely justice to the oppressed, in healthful labor to them whom no man hath hired, in rest to the weary who have borne the burden and heat of the day, in joy to the heavy hearted, in laughter to the dull spirited.

What true gifts might not the mammon of unrighteousness, changed back into the money of God, give to men and women, bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh.—George Macdonald.

I beg you, if God sends you grief, to take it largely by letting it first of all show you how short life is, and then prophesy sternly. Such is the grief of which the poet sings so nobly.—"Grief should be Like joy, majestic, equable, sedate; Confirming, cleansing, raising, making free; Strong to consume small troubles; to commend Great thoughts, grave thoughts, thoughts lasting to the end."

But grief, to be all that, must see the end; must bring and forever keep with its pain such a sense of the shortness of life that the pain shall seem but a temporary accident, and that all that is to stay forever after the pain has ceased, the exaltation; the unselfishness, the mystery, the nearness to God; shall seem to be the substance of the sorrow.—Phillips Brooks.

Can be Made New! Your Husband & Children Will Rejoice and be Glad

Have you ever tried to renew and refresh your husband's and children's cast of clothing? Why, this work is done easily by thousands of women, every day of the year. They are successful in the work, because they use the wonderful, strong and never-fading Diamond Dyes. Old and faded dresses, jackets, capes, coats, pants and vests can be made to look like new garments, at a cost of ten cents. When you decide upon doing dyeing work, be particularly careful to use our Diamond Dyes. See that your dealer does not offer you substitutes or imitations. If you are unfortunate enough to be deceived, your time is in vain, and your garments are ruined.

Our other years have slipped away, as slips the flower its sheath. Once more with hands held out we grasp a gift the Father sends. And give Him thanks for length of days, for joy that comes with length of life. For home and books and happy work, for children and for friends.

All in the midnight and the frost we sped the old year out; All in the dawn light and the glow we hid the new year in.

The King is dead!—Long live the King!—He says the clamorous shout; And ever-tis with mirth and hope the new-born reigns begin.

What yet may wait of care or grief today we cannot tell. Another year, another start, another chance to do. What lieth closest to our hand: