



LESSON IX.—MARCH 4.

Jesus Healing in Capernaum.

Mark 1, 21-34. Memory verses 32-34.
Read Luke v., 1-11.

Daily Readings.

M. At Capernaum. Mt. 4: 13-16.
T. Call of Four. Lk. 5: 1-11.
W. Day of Power. Lk. 4: 31-44.
T. All Rejoice. Isa. 35: 1-10.
F. Exhortation. Psa. 103: 1-22.
S. Of a Truth. Acts 10: 34-43.

Golden Text.

'And he healed many that were sick.'—
Mark 1. 34.

Lesson Text.

And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the Sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. (22.) and they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority and not as the scribes. (23.) And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, (24.) Saying, 'Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.' (25.) And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. (26.) And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him. (27.) And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him. (28.) And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee. (29.) And forthwith when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. (30.) But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her. (31.) And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them. (32.) And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. (33.) And all the city was gathered together at the door. (34.) And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

Suggestions.

Not long after the Sabbath at Nazareth about which we learned in our last lesson, Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum and there Jesus was asked to speak on the Sabbaths in the synagogue. As he taught, the people were filled with surprise at his wisdom and graciousness and at his power in revealing to them the meaning of God's word. He spoke with the authority of understanding, and interpreted the law by his own life.

A man possessed by an unclean spirit or demon, came to the synagogue, and when he saw the Saviour he at once cried out in fear and rage. The demon recognized Jesus as the Son of God and knew that he would not allow it to retain possession of the man. So Jesus rebuked the demon and commanded it instantly to depart. So the evil spirit came out, leaving the man exhausted and worn, but cleansed and free. We may pity this poor man under the dominion of the unclean spirit and rejoice that the power of Jesus was great enough to break this awful bond. There are souls to-day in bondage to spirits of uncleanness, demons of intemperance, impurity, theft and evil speaking. The power of Jesus can break every bond. But how do people come to be possessed by such spirits? Well, there is first the suggestion of evil, then the thought—if the thought is once allowed into the mind it soon takes possession. And if the thoughts of the mind are impure the

heart becomes so unclean that God can not dwell there, only the pure in heart shall see God. But, it will be asked, how can we keep evil thoughts out of our hearts? Sometimes we can not help hearing evil language, how can we help remembering it? It is not a sin to hear or see evil if we can not help it, but it is a sin to take delight in it and to let our thoughts dwell upon it. Any evil or unclean thought which comes to us should be at once put away with a prayer to God to cleanse us and to keep our hearts clean that he may dwell with us. You can not cleanse a half-full ink bottle by washing its mouth, you must first empty out all the inky fluid before you can thoroughly cleanse the bottle, so the heart must be thoroughly cleansed (Matt. xv., 18-20.) before the life can be right.

After freeing the man from the unclean spirit, Jesus and his disciples went to the house of Simon Peter and finding that Peter's mother-in-law was very ill with a fever, our Lord touched her hand and healed her. The fever left her and she was entirely healed at once, and rising, took her place in the household ministries. Then the people from far and near gathered around the door, bringing their sick and afflicted ones, and Jesus healed them all, and cleansed those who had been possessed with evil spirits.

Illustration.

When a man declares to me, 'I cannot believe in miracles,' I reply, 'I can, because I have witnessed them.' 'When and where?' 'On a certain street in this city is a man who was a week ago given over to every form of vice and brutality, and who is now a good citizen, an honest workman, a kind husband, a loving father, a pure, upright man. Surely, that is such a miracle as makes me forever believe in the possibility of miracles.'—Professor Drummond.

Lesson Hymn.

At even, when the sun was set,
The sick, O Lord, around thee lay;
Oh, in what divers pains they met,
Oh, with what joy they went away.

Once more 'tis eventide, and we
Oppressed with various ills, draw near:
What if Thy form we cannot see—
We know and feel that Thou art here.

O Saviour Christ, our woes dispel,
For some are sick and some are sad;
And some have never loved Thee well,
And some have lost the love they had.

O Saviour Christ, Thou too art man;
Thou hast been troubled, tempted, tried:
Thy kind, but searching glance can scan
The very wounds that shame would hide.

Thy touch has still its ancient power,
No word from Thee can fruitless fall;
Hear in this solemn evening hour,
And in Thy mercy heal us all.

—Henry Twells, 1868.

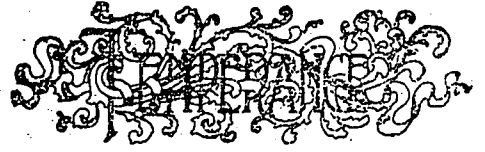
C. E. Topic.

March. 4. How God pays men. Matt. 19: 30; 20: 1-16.

Junior C. E. Topic.**GOD REWARDING US.**

Mon., Feb. 26. With all good. James 1: 17.
Tues., Feb. 27. Promptly. Mal. 3: 10.
Wed., Feb. 28. Freely. Matt. 10: 8 (last chance.)
Thu., Mar. 1. In jhis life. Matt 10: 29.
Fri., Mar. 2. Opens new doors of opportunity. Luke 19: 17.
Sat., Mar. 3. Gives heavenly prizes. 1 Cor. 9: 25.
Sun., Mar. 4. Topic—How does God reward work done for Him? Matt. 20: 1-16.

In some places our Sunday-schools fail utterly in keeping the larger boys and girls. This should occasion earnest search for the cause or causes. In some instances the teachers lack the necessary ability to interest their larger scholars, and so they lose their hold upon them. Parents should co-operate with the superintendent in overcoming this difficulty. Lost to the Sunday-school generally means lost to the Church, and what is still worse, lost to Christ.

**Alcohol Catechism.**

(By Dr. R. H. McDonald, of San Francisco.)

CHAPTER VI.—ADULTERATED LIQUORS

—CONTINUED.

1. Q.—How are these adulterated drinks made to look like the pure ones?
A.—Poisonous dyes are used to give them a correct color.
2. Q.—Name some of these dyes.
A.—Logwood shavings for yellow, Brazil wood for red, and many others.
3. Q.—Do liquors made from drugs appear to have full strength?
A.—Yes, because raw alcohol is employed in making the stronger liquors, and for wines they use cider, and sometimes rum or whiskey, mixed with water.
4. Q.—How are they made to taste like real distilled or fermented liquors?
A.—Prunes, elderberries, orris root, and oils of bergamot, caraway, etc., are used to give what is supposed to be a grape flavor.
5. Q.—Are adulterated liquors common?
A.—Yes, more than three-quarters of all the liquor that is sold is adulterated.
6. Q.—Is it easy to obtain pure liquors?
A.—It is not. It is very difficult, particularly with the best kinds.
7. Q.—What proportion of liquors is probably adulterated?
A.—Probably nine-tenths of all the supposed rare wines, brandies, bottled ales, whiskies, and the like, sold in the United States are more or less adulterated, and have no right to be called pure liquors.
8. Q.—Can adulterated drinks be easily distinguished from the purely alcoholic?
A.—Only a few people can tell the difference.
9. Q.—Are not these adulterated alcoholic drinks very hurtful to use?
A.—Yes, far more so than the ones that contain no poison but alcohol.
10. Q.—What, then, is the only sure way of avoiding adulterated liquors?
A.—To let all alcoholic liquors alone.
11. Q.—Is not the alcohol in them also a sufficient reason for letting them alone?
A.—Yes, alcohol itself is a poison, and all drinks, whether adulterated or not, injure those who use them, and cause men to become drunkards.
12. Q.—What is the final result of using any kind of intoxicating liquors?
A.—It ruins both the body and the soul. Read Galatians, 6th Chapter, 7th and 8th verses.
13. Q.—How do intoxicating drinks ruin the body.
A.—Alcohol injures the stomach, the blood, the brain and nerves, the lungs, the liver, the kidneys, the heart, and every part of the body.
14. Q.—What does alcohol produce?
A.—Dangerous and fatal diseases.

Don't Believe It.

There is no harm in seeking to find out the truth of what we are told; the child who reads to learn, and seeks to find out the truth, is acting rightly, and will get good by so doing.

Now, there are three reasons given for the drinking of intoxicating drinks, about which I want you to be very doubtful.

I. Don't believe that intoxicating drinks will make you strong.

The strongest animals in the world do not need intoxicating drinks; the lion, the tiger, and the elephant are all teetotalers.

There are millions of people in the world who live long lives and do much hard work without the use of intoxicating drinks.

The chemist cannot find any food substances in intoxicating drinks such as he can in milk upon which the body can grow.

II. Don't believe that intoxicating drinks can make the body warm.

The body is kept warm by the burning of carbon in the body, this carbon being burnt up by the oxygen of the air.

Fatty foods contain much of this carbon;