

The Sunday School

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubet's Notes.

First Quarter, 1904.

JANUARY TO MARCH.

Lesson VII.—February 14. Jesus Forgives Sin.—Mark 2: 1-12.

The Lesson includes the three parallels, Matt. 9: 1-8; Mark 2: 1-12; Luke 5: 17-26, together with a glance at the preaching tour throughout Galilee (Mark 1: 35-45).

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins.—Mark 2: 10.

EXPLANATORY.

SCENE I. JESUS PREACHING IN A PRIVATE HOUSE IN THE CITY. EVERY ROOM IS CROWDED TO OVERFLOWING. THE MULTITUDE THROUGHS THE DOORS AND OUT INTO THE STREET TO HEAR HIS WORDS.—VS. 1, 2.

THE GOSPEL PROCLAIMED TO SINFUL MEN.

1. AGAIN HE ENTERED INTO CAPERNAUM. The central point of his work, at the conclusion of his Galilean tour. AFTER SOME DAYS. Some days after the healing of the leper (Mark 1: 40-45), and when the excitement concerning that miracle had quieted down. IT WAS NOISED (rumored, reported) THAT HE WAS IN THE HOUSE. Rather, "at home," there being no article in the Greek. Perhaps, either at Peter's house, as in our last lesson, or that occupied by his mother and brethren (Matt. 4: 13).

2. MANY WERE GATHERED TOGETHER. Thronging the house with Oriental freedom, crowding and pressing around the doors in their eagerness to hear the young teacher and miracle worker, who was creating no little excitement. Among them were leading Pharisees and learned and influential men from all parts of Galilee and as far away as Judea and Jerusalem. AND HE PREACHED. Spoke, was speaking, when the paralytic was brought to the house. THE WORD. The Word God had sent by him; the good news of salvation. "And the power of God was with him to heal" (Luke).

SCENE II. FOUR MEN APPROACH, BEARING A LITTER ON WHICH WAS LAID A MAN SICK AND HELPLESS FROM PARALYSIS, ANXIOUS TO BE CURED.—V. 3.

THE SINNER SEEKING SALVATION.

3. WHILE JESUS WAS PREACHING THEY CAME UNTO HIM, BRINGING ON A LIGHT WOODEN FRAME OF STRETCHER, ON WHICH WAS LAID HIS BED.

ONE SICK OF THE PALSY. Palsy is a contraction of the word "paralysis," a compound of two Greek words signifying beside, and to loosen; hence, disabled on one side; "a disease which deprives the part affected of sensation or the power of motion, or both according as the sensory or the motor nerves or both, are attacked."

SCENE III. THE CROWDS PREVENT THEIR ENTERING THE HOUSE. THE PARALYTIC IS CARRIED UP THE OUTSIDE STAIRS. AN OPENING IS MADE IN THE FLAT ROOF, AND THE SICK MAN IS LET DOWN WITH HIS BED INTO THE ROOM WHERE JESUS IS PREACHING.—V. 4.

DR. FED HIMSELF.

Found the Food that saved His Life.

A good old family physician with a life time experience in saving people finally found himself sick unto death.

Medicines failed and—but let him tell his own story. "For the first time in my life of 61 years I am compelled to publicly testify to the value of a largely advertised article and I certainly would not ren these lines except that, which seems to me a direct act of Providence, saved my life and I am impressed that is a bounden duty to make it known."

"For three years I kept failing with stomach and liver disorders until I was reduced 70 pounds from my normal weight. When I got too low to treat myself, 3 of my associate physicians advised me to 'put my house in order' for I would be quickly going the way of all mankind. Just about that time I was put on a diet of Grape-Nuts predigested food. Curiously enough it quickly began to build me up, appetite returned and in 15 days I gained 6 pounds. That started my return to life."

"A physician is naturally prejudiced against writing such a letter but in this case I am willing to declare it from the house-tops that the multiplied thousands who are now suffering as I did can find relief and health as easily and promptly by Grape-Nuts. If they only knew what to do. Sincerely and fraternally yours." Name of this prominent physician furnished by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Look in each package for a copy of the famous little book, "The Road to Wellville."

EARNEST EFFORTS TO BE SAVED. OBSTACLES OVERCOME.

4. COULD NOT COME NIGH UNTO HIM FOR THE PRESS. The crowd which filled the house, and the narrow street on which the door opened. THEY UNCOVERED, literally, dug through, the roof, which was made of branches and twigs covered over with earth, and could be easily dug through, and easily repaired. THEY LET DOWN THE BED, the mattress, by the four corners. The roof was so low that no cords were needed, but those below could receive the man from the hands of the four on the roof.

SCENE IV. JESUS USES THE INTERRUPTION TO ENFORCE HIS TEACHING. HE TELLS THE SICK MAN THAT HIS SINS ARE FORGIVEN.—V. 5.

FAITH AND FORGIVENESS.

5. WHEN JESUS SAW THEIR FAITH. Shown by coming to him, and by their persistence in overcoming obstacles. All five showed faith in this way. But Jesus looked down into the sick man's heart, and saw a true faith beyond all desire to be restored to health. His sickness had led him to see his need and made him receptive of higher longings and hopes. R. Glover lays the most stress on the sick man's faith, as the source and bulwark of the faith of the four. "There are no sufferers whose affliction has been hallowed who are not centres of spiritual influence to some friends or neighbors round them." SON. A word of loving endearment. Matthew adds, "Be of good cheer," take heart. THY SINS BE (ARE) FORGIVEN THEE. He is not imperative, but the old form for "are." Jesus grants him the greater blessing first, not only for his own sake, but because he desired it most, or at least it was the blessing he most needed, but also as an impressive lesson to his hearers on the higher value of spiritual healing.

SCENE V. JESUS PROVES HIS AUTHORITY TO FORGIVE, BY RESTORING THE SICK MAN TO HEALTH, AND SENDS HIM HOME.—VS. 6, 12.

THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION.

6. THERE WERE CERTAIN OF THE SCRIBES, the leaders of the nation, the teachers of the law, the theologians, the legislators, the politicians of Israel. REASONING IN THEIR HEARTS. The Greek word is that from which our "dialogue" is derived. They held a dialogue within themselves.

7. WHY DOTH THIS MAN THUS SPEAK BLASPHEMIES? The R. V. is more vivid: "Why doth this man thus speak? he blasphemeth," by arrogating to himself the power to do what only God can do, thus claiming to be divine. To blaspheme is to speak injuriously, to slander God. Blasphemy is practically uttered treason against God and his kingdom. It was a capital crime, the one for which in his trial Jesus was condemned to die. WHO CAN FORGIVE SINS BUT GOD ONLY? Sins, as distinguished from crimes, are against God, and, therefore, only God can forgive them; for in the nature of things only he against whom the offense has been committed can forgive.

8. JESUS PERCEIVED IN HIS SPIRIT. "Contrasted with knowledge acquired through the senses; without hearing what was said, he knew inwardly, intuitively, what was going on in their minds." WHY REASON YE? Matthew says, "Wherefore think ye evil?" Why do ye misjudge, and put an evil construction on my words? "Man cannot live by snapping turtle alone." The attitude of these scribes was not conducive to the best character or to the discovery of truth.

9. WHETHER IS IT EASIER TO SAY, ETC. "In our Lord's argument it must be carefully noted that he does not ask which is easier, to forgive sins or to raise a sick man; for it could not be affirmed that that of forgiving is easier than this of healing; but which is easier to claim, this power or that; to say, 'Thy sins be forgiven thee,' or to say, 'Arise and walk?' . . . It would be easier for a man equally ignorant of the French and Chinese languages to claim to know the last than the first. Not that the language itself is easier, but that in the one case multitudes could disprove his claim; in the other, hardly a scholar or two in the land."

10. YE MAY KNOW THAT THE SON OF MAN. The Messiah. "the head and representative of the new humanity," the Son of God manifested in the flesh. HATH POWER BOTH right and might, authority and power. The proof lies in the indorsement of God to Jesus' claims to be the Messiah. The miracle was the signature of God to his nature and mission.

11. ARISE. Which would be impossible without a miracle. TAKE UP THY BED. This would show the completeness of the cure on the spot, which would be impossible if the cure were a medical result.

12. HE AROSE, TOOK UP THE BED, AND WENT FORTH BEFORE THEM ALL. A living witness to Jesus, unique, capable, and making the cure a visible illustration of the work which Jesus came to do.

SCENE VI. THE EFFECT ON THE MULTITUDE.—(V. 12.) INASMUCH THAT THEY WERE ALL AMAZED. Luke adds, "They were filled with fear." The miracle awakened a religious awe in their minds, such as men ever feel in the presence of a great and mysterious

power. AND GLORIFIED GOD. Luke adds, "Saying, We have seen strange things to-day." They ascribed the honor and glory to God, as the source of this beneficent power. The good deeds of God's children honor God, and lead the souls of men toward him (Matt. 5: 16).

So when Bunyan's Pilgrim reaches the cross, and his burden of sin falls from him, he leaps for joy; and three shining ones come to him, one saying, "Thy sins are forgiven thee." Another strips him of his rags, and clothes him with a new robe. The third sets a mark on his forehead, and gives him a book with a seal upon it.

Bishop Simpson preached some years ago in the Memorial Hall, London. For half an hour he spoke quietly, without gesticulating or uplifting of his voice. Then, picturing the Son of God bearing our sins in His own body on the tree, stooped as if laden with an immeasurable burden, and rising to his full height he seemed to throw it from him, crying, "How far?" "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." The whole assembly as if moved by irresistible impulse, rose, remained standing for a second or two, then sank back into their seats. A professor of elocution was there. A friend who observed him and knew he had come to criticize, asked him, when the service was over, "what do you think of the Bishop's elocution?" "Elocution?" said he. "He's got the Holy Ghost!"—Youth's Companion.

HER COMMENT.

To the late Herbert Spencer the minds of lunatics have an odd fascination. Mr. Spencer was a frequent visitor to a number of asylums, and he recounts some unconscious witticism of a lunatic. Sometimes he would tell of the criticism a lunatic woman made on a sermon that was preached in her asylum. This criticism was brief, but it was telling. "To think," said the woman, pointing toward the clergyman, "to think of him out and me in."

WHAT SULPHUR DOES

For the Human Body in Health and Disease.

The mention of sulphur will recall to many of us the early days when our mothers and grandmothers gave us our daily dose of sulphur and molasses every spring and fall.

It was the universal spring and fall "blood purifier," tonic, and cure-all, and mind you, this old-fashioned remedy was not without merit.

The idea was good, but the remedy was crude and unpalatable, and a large quantity had to be taken to get any effect.

Nowadays we get all the beneficial effects of sulphur in a palatable, concentrated form, so that a single grain is far more effective than the crude sulphur.

In recent years research and experiment have proven that the best sulphur for medicinal use is that obtained from Calcium (Calcium Sulphide) and sold in drug stores under the name of Stuart's Calcium Waters. They are small chocolate coated pellets and contain the active medicinal principle of sulphur in a highly concentrated effective form.

Few people are aware of the value of this form of sulphur in restoring and maintaining bodily vigor and health; sulphur acts directly on the liver, the excretory organs and purifies and enriches the blood by the prompt elimination of waste material.

Our grandmothers knew this when they dosed us with sulphur and molasses every spring and fall. But the crudity and impurity of ordinary forms of sulphur were often worse than the disease, and cannot compare with the modern concentrated preparations of sulphur, of which Stuart's Calcium Waters is undoubtedly the best and most widely used.

They are the natural antidote for liver and kidney troubles and cure constipation and purify the blood in a way that often surprises patient and physician alike.

Dr. R. M. Wilkins while experimenting with sulphur remedies soon found that the sulphur from Calcium was superior to any other form. He says: "For liver, kidney and blood troubles, especially when resulting from constipation or malaria, I have been surprised at the results obtained from Stuart's Calcium Waters. In patients suffering from boils and pimples and even deep-seated carbuncles, I have repeatedly seen them dry up and disappear in four or five days, leaving the skin clear and smooth. Although Stuart's Calcium Waters is a proprietary article, and sold by druggists, and for that reason tabooed by many physicians, yet I know of nothing so safe and reliable for constipation, liver and kidney troubles and especially in all forms of skin disease as this remedy."

At any rate people who are tired of pills, cathartics and so-called blood "purifiers," will find in Stuart's Calcium Waters a far safer, more palatable and effective preparation.

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Mrs. A. Lethaqua, of Ballyduff, Ont., writes: "I believe I would have been in my grave long ago had it not been for Burdock Blood Bitters. I was run down to such an extent that I could scarcely move about the house. I was subject to severe headaches, backaches and dizziness; my appetite was gone and I was unable to do my housework. After using two bottles of B. B. B. I found my health fully restored. I warmly recommend it to all tired and worn out women."

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