

THE OLD YEAR.

NOW the gray Old Year is dying,
Sadly winter winds are sighing
Round him sad and low;
Fast his sands of life are falling,
Voices from the shadows calling,
"Old Year, thou must go."

Old Year, there was cause for grieving
In the life which thou art leaving,
Cause for bitter tears—
Tears for many a promise broken,
Tears for words unkindly spoken
In beloved ears.

Friends have failed us, hopes have perished,
Precious hopes most fondly cherished,
All with thee have gone.
Though the past has thus bereft us,
May the future that is left us
For the past atone.

Oh! the years that have been wasted!
All earth's pleasures have been tasted
Pleasures that beguile—
But with wild, unspoken longing
For the purer visions thronging
Round us all the while.

Friends, when time hath ceased forever,
And from soul the body sever,
In that awful day,
Can we meet the dead year's faces,
Bearing of our lives the traces
Ne'er to pass away?

Carved as if in stone, revealing
Every hidden thought, concealing
Naught of good or ill
Hear the Old Year gently pleading,
"Oh! my solemn teachings heeding,
Time is left ye still!"

For the gray Old Year is dying,
Sadly winter winds are sighing
Round his aged head;
Fast the sands of life are falling,
Voices from the shadows calling,
And the Year is dead!

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK.

A.D. 25.] LESSON I. [Jan. 1.

THE BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL.

Mark 1. 1-13 Commit to memory vers 9-11.

1. The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God;
2. As it is written in the Prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.
3. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
4. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.
5. And there went out unto him all the land of Judea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.
6. And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey.
7. And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.
8. I indeed baptize you with water; but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.
9. And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.
10. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him.
11. And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.
12. And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness.
13. And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me. Mal. 3. 1.

OUTLINE.

1. The Voice of One. v. 1-6.
2. The Mightier One. v. 7-13.

EXPLANATIONS.—Gospel—The word means "good news." Written in the Prophets—By Malachi, four hundred years before. Wilderness—The Judean region north of the Dead Sea. Repentance—A sincere turning away from sin to God. Remission of Sins—The forgiveness of sins in the favor of God. Camel's hair—A rough garment, made of cloth woven from the hair of the camel. Locusts—Such food as was eaten by the poor among the people. Mightier than I—Jesus Christ. Latchet of whose shoes—The thong or string fastening the sandal to the foot. Ba-tisao . . . with the Holy Ghost—Bestow a power from God upon his followers. Jesus . . . baptized—As a sign that he regarded himself one of the people, and to receive acknowledgment from John. He saw—John saw. See John 1. 32. The Spirit—The Holy Ghost from heaven. Voice—The voice of the Father, giving honor to Jesus as his Son. Driveth him—He went by a divine impulse. Forty days—Eating nothing during that time. Angels ministered—Supplied his wants at the close of his fast.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

- Where in this lesson are we taught—
1. That we should repent of our sins?
 2. That we should confess our sins?
 3. That we should believe in Christ?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

(For the entire school.) 1. Who appeared as a messenger before the coming of Christ? John the Baptist. 2. What did he exhort the people to do? To repent of their sins. 3. What did he do to those who showed repentance? He baptised them in Jordan. 4. How did he proclaim Christ? As one mightier than himself. 5. What did he say that Christ would do? Baptize with the Holy Ghost.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION—The baptism of the Holy Ghost.

CATECHISM QUESTION

13. Why was he called the father, that is, the pattern of believers? Abraham was called the father, that is, the pattern, of believers, because he believed certain promises of God, though contrary to the present appearance of things.

A.D. 27.] LESSON II. [Jan. 8.

JESUS IN GALILEE.

Mark 1. 14-23. Commit to memory v. 27-28.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light. Isa. 9. 2.

OUTLINE.

1. The King's Message. v. 14, 15.
2. The King's Messenger, v. 16-20.
3. The King's Ministry. v. 21-28.

EXPLANATIONS.—Put in prison—By Herod, whom he rebuked for taking his brother's wife. Jesus came—From Judea, where he had wrought miracles. Time fulfilled—The time of God's kingdom, foretold by the prophets. Believe the gospel—Believe in Jesus as the Saviour. Fishers of men—As apostles and preachers of the Gospel, they were to save men and draw them after Christ. Straightway—At once, without delay; a word often used in Mark's Gospel. In the ship—A little boat on the shore. Synagogue—The place of worship and reading of the law. Doctrine—His teachings. Authority—He spoke in his own name, without giving any authority higher than his own. Scribes—See Descriptive Index. Unclean Spirit—An evil spirit, under Satan's power, was dwelling in the man and controlling his actions. Let us alone—A prayer to be allowed to stay in the man. I know thee—The evil spirit knew the divine power of Christ better than men. Rebuked him—Jesus would never receive the testimony of evil spirits. Came out—Left the man's body. Doctrine—Teaching. Fame spread—The teaching and the miracle both helped to make him famous.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

- Where in this lesson do we learn—
1. That Christ calls men?
 2. That Christ's call should be obeyed?
 3. That Christ's words have power?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

(For the entire school.) 1. Where did Jesus begin his active ministry? In Galilee. 2. Whom did he call as his first disciples? Four fishermen. 3. How did he teach in the synagogue? As one having authority. What miracle did he work in the synagogue at Capernaum? He cast out an unclean spirit. 4. What was the result of his miracles

and teaching? His fame spread abroad. **DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.**—The divine authority of Jesus.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

14. What were those promises? The promises of God made to Abraham were, 1. That he should have a son when he was a hundred years old. 2. That his children should possess the land of Canaan, wherein he had not a foot of ground. and, 3. That all nations should be blessed by his offspring, that is, Christ.

A.D. 27.] LESSON III. [Jan. 15.

POWER TO HEAL.

Mark 1. 29-45. Commit to memory v. 40-42.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I am the Lord that healeth thee. Exod. 15. 26.

OUTLINE.

1. In the Home, v. 29, 31.
2. In the City, v. 32-34.
3. In the Country, v. 35-45.

EXPLANATIONS.—Aton—At once. Took her by the hand—Giving power by his touch. Ministered—Waited upon them in the duties of the house. Divers—Different. Suffered not the devils to speak—Jesus did not wish to receive testimony from evil spirits. Before day—Early in the morning, while all is quiet and the mind is fresh. Prayed—All talking with God is prayer. Christ needed prayer, and so do we. Came I forth—Christ came from God to work for God. Leprosy—One having a disease called leprosy, which turned the body white like a corpse, and could not be cured. Lepers were compelled to live apart, and not to touch other people. Clean—Free from disease. Touched him—Jesus could touch him without harm to himself, but with healing to the leper. Say nothing—He did not wish to have such crowds coming to be cured of diseases that he would have no time to preach the gospel. Show thyself to the priest—There were some kinds of leprosy from which a man might become well. When a leper had recovered, he went to the temple, where he was carefully examined by the priests, in order to make it certain that he was well. Then he offered certain sacrifices, and afterward might go home and be with other people as a well man. Moses commanded—In Leviticus 14. A testimony—That is, to show that a miracle had been wrought. Began to publish—Told everybody, which was wrong, but not strange. Could no more—The crowd to be healed and to see miracles kept Christ from his work of teaching.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

- Where in this lesson do we find—
1. An example of telling troubles to Christ?
 2. An example of bringing friends to Christ?
 3. An example of Christ's willingness to bless men?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What miracle did Christ work for the mother of Peter's wife? He healed her of a fever. 2. What took place in the evening of the same day? Multitudes came to be healed. 3. What did Jesus do very early the next morning? He went out to pray alone. 4. Where did he then journey, preaching and working miracles? Throughout all Galilee. 5. What is shown in the third lesson? Christ's willingness to do good.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION—The compassion of Christ.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

15. Why was Abraham called the friend of God? Abraham was called the friend of God because God made many visits to him, and he was very obedient to God.
16. Which was the first great instance of Abraham's obedience? The first great instance of Abraham's obedience was, that he left his own country at God's command, not knowing whether he was to go.

A CHRISTIAN, passing two young young men on the sidewalk, heard one of them swear, and remarked, "I suppose it would take a good deal to induce one of you to steal." I guess it would," they responded. "But," he added, "the law which says, 'Thou shalt not steal,' says also, 'Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain,' and to break the one commandment is as wicked as to break the other."

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