



Jan. 20, 1918. Lesson III.

Jesus at Work.—Mark 1: 21-45.

Commentary.—I. Jesus in the synagogue (vs. 21-28). 21. Capernaum—Jesus henceforward made Capernaum, a city on the northwest side of the Sea of Galilee, his home. From its location and importance it was an especially fitting centre for his labors. Sabbath day—The Jewish Sabbath. The synagogue—A place of worship for the Jews. This one was built by the centurion whose servant Jesus healed a little later. Synagogues were built in the various cities where Jews dwelt. Taught—Jesus was careful to observe the Sabbath. It was the custom for the ruler of the synagogue to invite visitors of ability to speak at the service, and thus Jesus was accorded the privilege of opening the scriptures to the people. 22. Doctrine—"Teaching"—R. V. His unfolding of the word of God was so clear, convincing and sublime that his hearers were filled with astonishment. Authority—Christ's authority did not come from his having been trained in the schools of the rabbis, but from his inherent wisdom, power and love, and from the spirit which he manifested. His divinity clothed him with authority. Not as the scribes—They were sometimes called doctors. Their duty was to copy and explain the law and the traditions of the elders. They simply repeated what the rabbis before them had said.

23. A man with an unclean spirit—The man was under the power of a demon, so that he had no proper control of himself. Luke says he "had a spirit of an unclean devil" (4: 33). It is called unclean because the acts inspired in the one thus possessed are unholily and impure. He cried out—The spirit cried out, using the organs of speech of the man whom he controlled. 24. Let us alone—The evil spirit, at once recognized Christ's power. Art thou come to destroy us—There is enmity between Christ and evil spirits. Jesus came to "destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8), and the unclean spirit thought the time to destroy him and his fellows had come. The Holy One of God—Men generally had not recognized Christ's divinity, "but heaven and hell alike bear witness unto him." 25. Hold thy peace—Jesus would not consent to have witness borne to his divinity by unclean spirits, lest the truth uttered by liars should be looked upon with suspicion. 26. He came out—The evil spirit did not loose his hold without a struggle. The man was thrown into strong convulsions, but Luke says of the evil spirit, "He came out of him, and hurt him not" (4:35). 27. Amazed—The people were so thoroughly astonished at what they saw that they at once sought an explanation of the marvellous transaction. With authority—The authority with which he taught found its guaranty in the authority backed by power with which he forced the devils themselves to render obedience.—Gode. 28. Immediately his fame spread abroad—The report of this astounding miracle at once was carried "far and wide. The people were led to believe that the Nazarene was more than a mere man and was "a teacher come from God." The way was open for a favorable reception in the several places which he was soon to visit.

29. Jesus in a home (vs. 29-34). 29. Forthwith—Immediately "after the casting out of the demon, Jesus, with the four disciples whom he had recently called went from the synagogue service to Peter's home (Mark 8:14), where Andrew also dwelt. 30. Sick of a fever—She was prostrated. Fevers were prevalent about Capernaum on account of the marshy region near. According to the physician Luke it was a "great" fever. Intermittent fever and dysentery the latter often fatal, are ordinary Arabian diseases.—Mcleary. Anon—"Straightaway."—R. V. Tell him of her—The mighty cures which Jesus had already wrought prepared the minds of those interested to believe that he could cure this woman. 31. Took her by the hand, and lifted her up.—Matthew says, "He touched her hand." This was a token of the application of power. The fever left her—"He willed, and it was done." The curative virtue is in Christ's will, not in instrument. "Alibis." Ministers unto them—Such fevers naturally leave the patient weak and liable to dangerous relapses, and much time and care are required to recover the usual strength. In this case strength was given immediately. 32. Even—Evening. Jesus had attended the Sabbath service in the synagogue. The sun had set and the Sabbath was over. They brought unto him—Since the Pharisees considered it unlawful to carry a bed on the Sabbath, the friends of the sick refrained from bringing them before the close of the Sabbath. Then also it would be cooler than in the heat of the day. Possessed with demons (R. V.)—A condition in which demons or evil spirits took control of the person to such an extent that he was unable to restrain himself from acts of violence or wickedness. 33. At the door—Attracted by the miracles wrought by Jesus. 34. Divers diseases—Many different diseases—Suffered not to speak, because they knew him—Jesus was not willing to have testimony borne to his Messiahship by demons. The voice from heaven which always spoke the truth had declared him to be the Son of God, and He would not permit his scribes to lying, to testify to his divinity.

35. Jesus at prayer (vs. 35-37). Early in the morning after the Sabbath Jesus awoke and went to a retired place for prayer. He realized that it was important for Him to hold communion with the Father. Jesus was possessed of a human nature as well as a divine, and he craved the help the Father only could bestow. The burden of a lost world rested upon him and he desired strength to fulfill his earthly ministry. He prayed, not only on his own account, but as an example for his followers in all ages of the world. He did not need

to go far from Capernaum to find "a solitary place," for the Sea of Galilee is surrounded by elevated table-lands, cut through here and there by ravines. Jesus more than once retired for prayer in the region about this sea. Peter, Andrew, James and John followed Jesus to his place of communion with the Father, and when they found him, reported to him that all men were seeking for him. They had seen the cures he had accomplished, and they desired to receive or see other displays of his power. He was the centre of attraction to those who were in bodily distress and to others whose friends were afflicted by being possessed of evil spirits, as well as to those who were curious to see the workings of his great power. Where the Lord displays his power in any marked degree, there the people are drawn and their interest centers in the work which is done.

IV. Jesus healing a leper (vs. 38-45). Jesus started out with his disciples to preach in the many towns of Galilee and completed his great Galilean ministry. He took advantage of the many opportunities that were open before him of entering into the synagogues on the Sabbath and proclaiming the gospel to the people. The record shows that he had frequent occasions to cast out evil spirits. The miracle of cleansing the leper is most impressive. The afflicted man came in faith to Jesus. He believed in his ability to cure him, but he rather doubted his willingness. Jesus quickly assured him that he would do the work. Contact with a leper was defiling to the Jew, but Jesus put forth His hand and touched him and cleansed him. Following the miracle, the people flocked "to him from every quarter." This interest in the work of Jesus was largely due to the testimony of the man who had been cured of the leprosy. Jesus had told him very emphatically that he should not tell any one about the cure, but he apparently was unable to keep it to himself. The coming together of the crowds hindered Jesus in his work in that region.

QUESTIONS.—Give one characteristic of the teaching of Jesus. Describe the cure of the demoniac in the synagogue at Capernaum. Give an account of the healing of Peter's wife's mother. Why did the people wait until sunset to bring their friends to Jesus? What effect did the miracles have upon the people of the community? Where did Jesus retire for prayer? What is the nature of leprosy? In what respect is it an emblem of sin? How did the leper show his faith in Jesus?

PRACTICAL SURVEY. Topic.—Jesus meeting human needs. I. His method proved his divinity. II. His design was man's restoration.

1. His method proved his divinity. We have in this chapter a general summary of Jesus' life extending over a considerable length of time. We get a glimpse of one of his Sabbath days of this early Galilean period. At the outset of his ministry Jesus appeared as one having authority. With authority he summoned fishermen to forsake their nets and follow him. With authority he taught in the synagogues, awakening the amazement of his hearers. With authority he commanded unclean spirits and they obeyed him. With authority he rebuked fevers and healed leprosy. With authority he dispensed blessing upon all who came to him. "Satan confessed Christ's authority. Demons felt it and fled at his rebuke. Nature obeyed his voice. His enemies were conscious of his superiority. His friends rejoiced in his love. His works had the seal of God upon them. Because he was the Son of God he had authority. Upon that he based all his claims. His listeners to his discourses felt the authority of his words. There was a directness and certainty about his utterances that impressed them as something new. His preaching of certainties had its due effect in spiritual power. His hearers instinctively felt his doctrine to be true. An indefinable, yet absolute, difference existed between him and the customary teachers of the people. It was the problem of his authority which presented itself to his critics. That "unknown quantity" in Christ was as unmistakable as it was immeasurable and hitherto unrecorded in this gospel is the disposition of a demon. It was the means of diffusing an interest in Christ's ministry.

II. His design was man's restoration. "The humanity is the embodiment of the wisdom of the Physician, the power of the Creator and the compassion of God." Christ's work embraced teaching, the conquest of evil spirits, the healing of human infirmities. The names by which he is known are a monument of his compassion, the Redeemer and Saviour of mankind. Clothing men in their right mind, enabling them to think and act for themselves, and to resist the subtle temptations to sin formed the great object of his work. His great and high purpose was one which was far removed from the superficial and worldly hopes of the people. Wherever he went, he had a heart sensitive to the appeal of human need, suffering and sin. His hand was outstretched to help and deliver. The healing of Peter's wife's mother followed the cure of the demoniac in the synagogue. Crowds of supplicants gathered around him and none were to be disappointed. Among the many miracles wrought by the divine Physician upon the minds and bodies of suffering humanity, the gospel writers have recorded certain ones as types of the Saviour's spiritual work as well as his beneficent ministrations of bodily healing. Every class of sufferers seems to represent some special aspect of sin and need, and every recorded miracle seems to convey some special lesson concerning the Healer's grace and power. His object was to show himself as the Redeemer and Restorer of human nature as a whole. At the unfeigned tone of Christ's voice all diseases fled.

Mrs. Dixie—John, what is an absolute vacuum? Dixie—An absolute vacuum, my dear, is something that exists only in your mind.—Boston Transcript.



THE 1914 STAR AND RIBAND—FIRST PHOTOGRAPH.

This star will be issued to officers and men of the British and Indian forces, doctors, nurses and others who served under Field Marshal Sir John French during the first phase of the war up to midnight, Nov. 23, 1914. The Riband is red, white and blue, shaded and watered.



A SONG OF CHEER.

A singer sang a song of tears,
And the great world heard and wept
For the song of the sorrows of fleeting years,
And the hopes which the dead past kept;
And souls in anguish their burdens bore,
And the world were sadder than ever before.

A singer sang a song of cheer,
And the great world listened and smiled,
For he sang of the love of a father dear
And the trust of a little child;
And souls that before had forgotten to pray,
Looked up and went singing along the way.

—Emma C. Dowd.

A TENDER FATHER.

Like as a father pitieth his children,
So the Lord pitieth them that fear him.
—The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, he will ever be mindful of His covenant.
He that keepeth thee will not slumber,
Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.—As an eagle stretcheth out her nest, flutterseth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings; so the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange God with him.

His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.

Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.
The very hairs of your head are all numbered. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. Fear ye not therefore.

PERFUME.

(By the late Rev. H. T. Miller.)
There is the perfume of the flower, of the dressing case, of the character, of the perfume of the home, of the cause, of the world. The cultivated rose has no smell, its essence has been strained away; man's improvement of God's work has stopped half way. A girl tried her hand at home-made perfume; she got essential oil and spiritus of wine, but when the perfume had done its work, its residuum became acrid and stinging.

"Only the actions of the just smell sweet and blossom in the dust."
There is the perfume of character, and just as in the art of the perfumer there is a nice adjustment of parts and principles, so in the finished touches of character you get the sweetest and most enduring savors. Some men wear the white flower of a blameless life, some the red flower of a generous life, some adorn the doctrine of benevolence by eccentricity. We once called on a medical man, some thirty years our senior; he responded generously to our appeal, led us to the door, carried for a while, then took our hat from our hand and put it on

LESSONS FROM LIVE STOCK PRICES IN 1917

Cattle Weights On Chicago Market Steadily Decreasing—Hogs Lighter Also—Alarming Shortage of Beef Animals—Cattle Will Go Above \$20 Probably—Immediate Need for Wool Increase.

Stay in the game. This sentence, contracted to the one word which means "don't give up," take the fat and the lean," and "light it out on the same ground," this word STICK, carries the greatest lesson taught in the unprecedented floodings of prosperity for North American agriculture.

In 1917 every record for high prices for live stock has been broken. In 1916 every record which had stood until that time went by the boards. In 1915 records were upset. And the lesson that runs along through all this is that those who have raised live stock during the past three years when their neighbors sold off their stock in the fear that the extreme prices could not last, have been the ones who profited by the steady increase in values.

When hogs sold at the \$12 mark, many men who had been in the breeding business for years, believed that their fondest dreams had been realized, and immediately rushed off all available young stock to the slaughter. When prices mounted to \$15 a hundred pounds, hogs were gone over again and marketed even closer. At last, when \$20—a price not dreamed of a few years ago—was reached, it found farms throughout the United States and Canada stripping themselves of valuable (very, very valuable in view of subsequent events) brood sows.

MANY UNFINISHED CATTLE SOLD
Live stock raisers absolutely refused to believe that it was possible for prices to remain on these high levels, and in their anxiety to take home some of the run of gold, which had been discovered at the marketing places for live stock, they shut off the flow at its source.

There are thousands of farmers scattered over the great west producing belt of North America who are now joining the ever-increasing pilgrimage to the markets in the hope of being able to pick up hogs of possible breeding quality; hogs far below the quality of those which they sold at prices they now are forced to pay for breeding and feeding stock.

Cattle also have come into the markets in numbers all unwarranted by a more or less close study of world conditions. Producers generally have formed the habit of selling anything approaching killing condition. The large runs, as the receipts are called in live stock marketing circles, are all too deceiving of true conditions in the country. During October, 1917, the average weight of cattle at the Chicago market was the lowest for seven years, and stood at 933 pounds. In 1915 producers fed their cattle to an average of 1,024 pounds, and from 1914 to 1911 the average weight of cattle at Chicago was not below the 955 pound mark. So it easily can be seen that while the receipts at the markets have been increasing, the actual number of pounds of meat have been decreasing. Hogs also have been lighter in weight than in former years, due to the fact that producers refused to take chances with markets and wanted profits while they saw them available.

Another great lesson that has been taught by 1917 prices for livestock is that economic feeding systems must play an even bigger part in war-time production. Substitutes for the higher priced feeds must be used in increased volume. Where in former years producers of the corn belt of the United States gave corn to their hogs without a thought of cost, now they must give these hogs cheaper substitutes which will put the gains on them.

Agricultural colleges have been striving, since corn mounted to unprecedented levels, to find effective feeds to take the place of it, and they have succeeded to a wonderful degree. Oats, barley, hay and roughages to a great extent have taken a prominent place in feeding plans.

Silage, an experimental feed of a few years ago, has come into general use and has proven one of the greatest blessings to accrue to the benefit of farmers during the last two decades. Corn stalks form a big percentage of the silage, and this food formerly went to waste.

Every available particle of food must be saved for the production of

live stock on the farms if this production is to be profitable. No longer can farmers put in a certain number of hogs, cattle or sheep and feed them as formerly without giving a thought to the cost, certain in the thought that a profit is assured.

In the United States recently the Government gave its pledge that so far as it is able it will not allow the minimum average price of hogs to fall below \$15.50 per hundred pounds. This frank statement of the purposes of the food administrator has done more to set the country at rest and assured increased production of pork than any other thing during the war.

Producers have been willing to take their chances with the law of supply and demand, but for two months, or even three months, have held off from increasing their herds in the fear that the government would set a price for hogs which they did not believe would allow them to emerge from a feeding season with a profit.

To win this war we need more and more meat and to increase meat production quickly, hog breeding must be increased materially. The United States Department of Agriculture has recommended that the various states increase their hogs from 15 to 40 per cent.

As a matter of fact the American hog has assumed a place of more importance than wheat and almost as important as American soldiers. The government of the United States has asked that the hog population be increased 20,000,000 in the shortest possible time. The reason for this is obvious. Pork is the most easily shipped of all foods. Its quality is improved by curing, and bacon and ham are more relished in soldiers' rations than fresh pork. It furnishes more fat than any other meat.

If it is for the lack of animal fats that Germans are starving, and this is due to the mistake of slaughtering hogs by wholesale in Germany during the first years of the war. This mistake is considered in Germany as having dealt that country one of the greatest blows that it has suffered.

HOME CONSUMPTION INCREASED
The shipping problem is so serious that carcasses have been limited to materials having the greatest concentrated value in the smallest bulk. Pork, having the greatest specific gravity of any meat, therefore is best for shipment and, being cured, does not require refrigeration or special packing.

Since the war began there has been a decrease of 32,450,000 hogs in the herds of European countries. In the United States, in the year 1916-17, the hog population was 67,450,000, a slight increase over the three-year average, but 26.1 per cent were slaughtered during the year, as against an average of 85.3 for three years.

At the same time exports of pork increased from an average of 992,885,000 pounds to 1,501,270,000 pounds, and consumption of pork products at home increased from 72 to 75 pounds per capita.

The results have been to deplete droves, while at the same time prices have advanced enormously, without, however, having reduced the consumption at home. Experts are puzzled to account for the increase in home consumption in the face of over-riding prices.

In the United States this year there will be 1,000,000 bushels more of stock feed than last year. With this fact before the farmers, together with the assurance from the government that a high average price will be maintained, it appears to be up to them to "do their bit."

Since Europe has been in the war live stock of every description has been slaughtered in increasing numbers. Trouble has been encountered in bringing in feed for the stock and, as a consequence, live stock producers of other years have slaughtered their herds rather than take a chance of not having feed to "make meat."

Then, men who never before ate meat at three meals per day now have the privilege. "An army advances on its stomach," and wise governments know that meat should form a big portion of the ration of fighting men.

AMERICAN HOGS FOR CANADA.
If the war was to stop to-day there

would be years and years of small live stock production in Europe, because breeding stock will have to be imported to take the place of the animals which have gone to the shambles for war food.

At the principal marketing places in the United States, particularly at Chicago, a trade of a quarter of a century has been revived because of Canadian demands for a certain kind of hog which is called—in trade terms—singers.

These "singing" hogs are a long, rangy hog, weighing from 170 to 230 pounds. Buyers are rather insistent that the hogs weigh right around 200 pounds. These hogs, because of their length, are solely bacon hogs. They are shipped to Canada after they have been singed and their heads and feet cut off.

A quarter of a century ago there was considerable trade in hogs of this type, but the demand gradually slumped off until ten years ago it was very small. The larger packing plants of the United States made a specialty of preparing bacon sides for shipment abroad. With the advent of the war, Canadian buyers revived this demand, and now are taking enormous numbers of hogs of this type. The price paid for them is generally near the top of the market, because of the bacon value of the animal.

During the last three months in the United States, the price of hogs has been, on an average, more than twice as much as the average price for the five years from 1911 to 1915. Figuring on this basis there would not seem to be a cloud on the horizon for the hog producer.

Showing the condition of the cattle industry in the United States, Canadian steers established a record top price of \$16 a hundred pounds on the Chicago market. These steers were no better than thousands and tens of thousands of steels which have come from Canada in former years and sold for half the money and even less. There is no secret made in live stock circles of an alarming shortage of beef animals. Stock has been coming to the market which by all means should have been kept back for more pounds in some cases, and for breeding in others.

Last winter the West experienced the most severe weather in its history, so far as live stock is concerned, and this year saw herds already depleted by winter kill, sold closer as feed became scarcer and scarcer. Hay is selling at well above the \$20 mark, and those of the Western men who stayed in the game, sold off all surplus stock that they might go through the winter with the smallest possible number of animals to feed, because of the enormous feed bills they were certain to encounter. Previous to this \$16 mark established for Canadian cattle, \$12 a hundred had been the top price, and this price had attracted much cattle. The top price for native beef cattle for all time was established this year at \$17.90. With the corn belt stripped of feeding stock, because of the better-than-\$2-price for corn, and with the western ranges short of normal quota of cattle, it appears that this winter and next spring will uncover a shortage which will send prices to levels above the \$20 mark.

Cattle feeders of the corn belt, who in former years have depended entirely upon the West for feeding steers, found the supply shut off before they were prepared to sock their farms last fall, and made greater purchases proportionately, at Canadian steers, than ever before. Anything wearing a hide has been in demand for almost a year now at the markets, and this winter and next spring it would seem that the demand will be even greater.

The top price paid for native cows was \$16, while western lambs sold for \$29.00 on the open market and spring lambs sold for \$21. The extreme range of prices which wise farmers have been getting for their sheep, has forced many farmers into the game, who in former years never had a sheep on the place. Thousands of farms in the United States which never had a "golden hoof" on them, now have their flocks and are showing big profits on them.

—The Canadian Countryman.

our head, the first and only time we ever had the service of such a valet.
There is the perfume of the pen. If the pen is dipped in gall it will produce bitterness, and the essence of the bitterness will return to the writer. We are to speak and write the truth in love, but not all the truth. A man

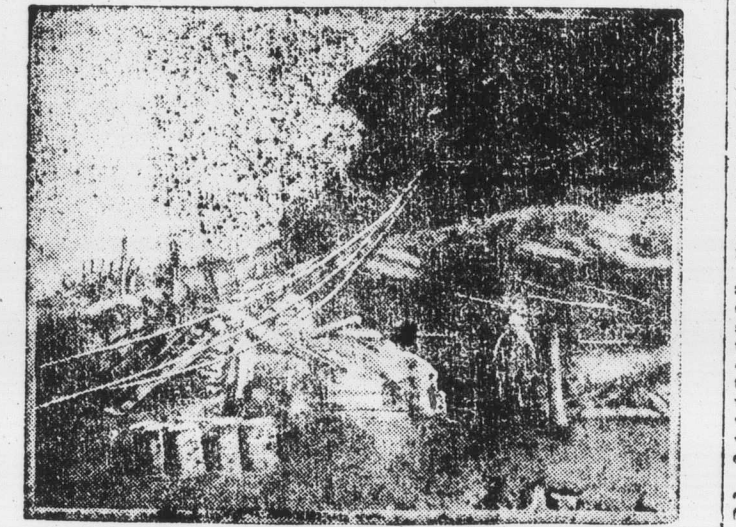
once said if ministers and doctors told all they knew they would set the town on fire!

There is the perfume of repression, keeping under hatches foul portions of the cargo, which is only fit to be unloaded at the end of the voyage. There is the perfume of a studied and cultured silence. Hearts, like ships, sail out on the waves of doubt, and are ordered: "I look on many a woman's beautiful mouth and delight in the things she never utters. How eloquent, remedial and glorious such silent music."

There is the perfume of charm, which, to our thinking, is a grace from heaven. How many men we meet are three-cornered, top-sided, top-heavy, out of trim, pockets full of money, hearts full of confusion; they starve in the midst of plenty, and go bankrupt to the great account.

There is the fragrant finish of small actions, which add to the beauty and charm of the giver. John Howard, the great philanthropist, had surplus milk to give to the poor. A naughty man or woman would have said: "Some of us have had a glass and there will be milk" but Howard said to his wife: "We have more time than they; we will send it to their door by one of our servants."

Oh! the embroidered cloth that encloses many a gift of little worth in the world's esteem!
"The gift without the giver is bare."
The perfume that never leaves and belongs to hearts that give out the sweet-scented incense of compassion.
—W. T. Shaw.



GROTON IN THE BERKSHIRE MOUNTAINS WHICH IS USED AS A CENTRAL ELECTRIC SUPPLY STATION TO PROVIDE THE TRENCHES WITH POWER FOR THE VARIOUS PURPOSES OF MODERN WARFARE.