

Sunday School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. VII. FEBRUARY 18, 1906.

A Day of Miracles in Capernaum—Mark 1:21-28.

Commentary.—I. Christ teaching with authority (vs. 21, 22). 21. They—Jesus and the four disciples just called. Into Capernaum—A city on the northwest coast of the Sea of Galilee. Straightway—In Mark's narrative scene follows scene in quick succession. An early tradition says that Mark wrote this gospel as Peter dictated it, and "this is made probable by its vividness and the rapid sweep of the story." The synagogue—After the return from the captivity synagogues sprang up everywhere among the Jews. The Jews were so arranged that the people, who spat on the floor, faced the temple in Jerusalem. See 1 Kings 8:29, 30; Dan. 9:10. From a pulpit the scriptures were read and then addressed. There was no regular minister, but local officers had charge of the services. The synagogues were the centers of religious and intellectual life, and schools and colleges were often connected with them. Taught in the synagogue—Upon any suitable person to speak in the synagogue services. "It is not unlikely that at this time he repeated what he had said at Nazareth" (Luke 4:16-20). Burns, "It was the truth that produced results, whatever may have been the subject."

22. They were astonished—At the master, manner, spirit and authority of his intellectual gifts. 23. The force of his illustrations. 24. His acquaintance with the human heart. 4. His deep knowledge of the divine law.—Burns. Authority—He spoke as one commissioned by God, and he laid great stress upon himself. He said, "I say unto you," without quoting the teachers. "He was, 1. Dignified. 2. Original. 3. Convincing. 4. Consistent."—Hom. Com. Not as the scribes—The scribes were without spiritual life, their manner was cold, and they had no ambition; they sought their own and not God's glory. "They could only insist upon the observance of petty rules invented by men like themselves. Christ dove down to eternal principles, which bore the impress of the divine approval. Moreover, His teaching was exemplified in His pure life."

11. Power over evil spirits (vs. 23-28). 23. A man with an unclean spirit—Luke says he "had a spirit of an unclean devil" and "cried out with a loud voice" (Luke iv. 33). There has been much discussion regarding this "unclean spirit." Many hold that those who were said to have devils were simply diseased people, and that their strong paroxysms were only "fits." We cannot say, however, and must insist that, difficult as it may be to understand, yet real demons did inhabit this man and those referred to in verse 32. Cried out—"An evil spirit is striving in his depths when in contact with Jesus."

24. Let us alone—The devil always desires to be let alone, and had men do not want to be disturbed with anything good. We hear this cry the moment we undertake to deal with unclean things to-day, such as idleness and the social evil. What have we to do with this—Nothing at all. There is no concord between Christ and Belial. To do away with—To drive us from our abode back to our native place. See Matt. 8:29. "From the time when the demons live in fearful anticipation of the day when they shall be destroyed by being subjected to torment which they do not now endure. The time is coming when they shall be cast into the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:10); and they are now reserved in chains of darkness until the judgment of the great day."—Whedon. I know thee—Imagine some disease. Like the apoplexy, thus addressing Christ! No, Christ is dealing with devils now, and they know him well. The Holy One of God—The Messiah, who has come to destroy the kingdom of the devil (1 John iii. 8). 25. Jesus rebuked him—He does not desire the testimony of devils to prove his Messiahship. "All throughout his ministry Christ never for a moment countenances anything that might be construed into a tribute with Satan."—Burn. Hold thy peace Literally, "be thou muzzled." "It is a word for a beast." Morrison "came out of him—He speaks with authority. He will show who he is by casting out the devil."

26. Torn him—Or, convulsed him. Luke says the devil threw the man, and came out of him, and hurt him not. Never was there a person possessed by an unclean spirit who did not suffer a convulsion, perhaps a total ruin, by the force of life so that but very few of this class live out half their days."—Clarke. Came out—Even the devils obey his word of command. "This is an evidence of the great object of Christ's mission—to destroy the works of the devil. It is also a proof of his love for lost man."

27. What thing is this—What is this? a new teaching?—R. V. Jesus taught by his actions as well as by his words. What he did was as important as what he said. With authority—Christ's authority and power is recognized even by the unclean demons, and they obey him. 28. Fame spread abroad—This miracle was wrought in public and those who saw it published it, and the people throughout all that region were soon discussing him and his work. He did not need devils to publish him, and he did not need to compromise with the world or the devil to-day in order to be able to carry on his work. Throughout Galilee—This phrase would be more correctly rendered, "the surrounding region of Galilee," evidently referring to a Galilee round about Capernaum. The Revised Version suggests this idea.

III. Healing in a home (vs. 29-31). 29. They entered, etc.—Peter and his brother Andrew, although natives of Bethsaida (John i. 44), were now living at Capernaum. Jesus, James and John had entered Peter's house. 30. Simon's wife's mother—Thus we see that Peter was a married man. It is strange indeed that the Roman Catholic clergy should lay so much stress on the celibacy of the clergy when Peter, their chief cornerstone, had a wife. Lay sick of a fever—Luke calls it a great fever. See Luke iv. 38. She was prostrated with a burning fever. They tell him—This was really a request for healing. They knew he could restore her.

31. Took her by the hand—Could any thing on this side the unlimited power of God effect such a cure? These proofs should demonstrate His divinity to the intelligence of every man.—Olaro Luke adds that He "rebuked the fever"—commanded it to be gone as though it were an enemy. The fever left her—Christ has power over disease. He can, and frequently does, heal to-day; and yet we cannot test the state of the soul by the health of the body. Some of God's best saints have suffered with bodily infirmities and have been sick. It is the "prayer of faith" that cures the sick, and he who offers that prayer will see immediate results. She ministered—She was perfectly restored and performed the ordinary duties of the household. She was not obliged to wait a long time for best strength to return. IV. Many Miracles (vs. 32-34). 32. When the sun did set—The Sabbath ended with the setting sun, and then they brought their sick to Him. It would not have been a desecration of the day if they had come before the sun went down. Jesus had just performed a cure on that day, but the superstitions of the afflicted ones and their friends kept many from applying to Him on the Sabbath day. Into Him—Christ has a panacea for all our ills, physical and mental. All a suffering world needs to do is to go to Jesus. He is still the same living, mighty One, and is able, willing, and anxious to deliver us from the power of the devil. 33. All the city—Not necessarily every person, but a very large company. 34. Healed many—Matthew says, "all that were sick." Luke says He laid hands on them. Jesus healed all who came, and they were many. Diseases—A distinction is made here that we must not fail to notice. Diseases were "healed" and devils "cast out." Suffered not—See on verse 25. This had been a great day at Capernaum, a day filled with stirring events. PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

Christ in Capernaum. "Straightway," as soon as the hour for worship arrived, Jesus "entered into the synagogue" (v. 21). He was there on time. If you are late you lose a part of the service and disturb the worship of others. Attend services regularly. If you are the "custom" of our Lord to go to the synagogue (Luke iv. 16). When Gladstone lived in his country home, Hawarden Castle, he walked, every morning in the week, to the little country church, where at 8 o'clock there was a service. In the porch of this church is the following notice: "In the way to the Lord's house be thoughtful, be silent, or say but little, and that little, good. Never stay outside, but go in at once. Time spent inside should be precious. In church kneel humbly and pray. Remember the presence into which you have come. Do not look about to see who have come in, nor for any other cause. It matters nothing to you what others are doing. Attend to yourself. After church remain kneeling and pray; speak to no one until you are outside. The church is God's house, even when prayer is over. Be quiet and thoughtful as you go. On your way home be careful of your talk; your way will slip back into your heart. Remember where you have been and what you have done."

II. Rebuking. Jesus "rebuked" the "unclean spirit" (vs. 23-25). Never stop for a moment to argue. With the voice of authority command him to hold his peace. Be prompt, resolute, determined. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth bid him be gone. He is never so dangerous as when he is complimentary. Turn away the shafts of his flattery with the sword of the spirit. If he suggests, "That was a kind act," silence him with "I know that in me dwelleth no good thing" (Rom. vii. 18); but the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works" (John xiv. 10).

Jesus rebuked the fever which had prostrated Peter's mother-in-law (v. xxxi, Luke iv. 39). He rebuked the winds and the sea because their disturbances were caused by the unclean spirits (Matt. viii. 26). He rebuked the demon who tormented a child (Matt. xvii. 18). He rebuked James and John when they, in their mistaken zeal for his honor, asked him to command fire from heaven to consume the Samaritan village because it refused to show hospitality to him (Luke ix. 55).

III. Listening. "They tell him of her" (v. 30). Do not talk over your trouble with earthly friends. Tell Him, and trust all to Him. Do not secretly brood over it and resolve somehow in your own might to bear it. Tell Him, and let Him help and comfort you. A devoted Christian woman had a son who had been persuaded to join a boating expedition. The mother knew there would be drinking and carousing, and exerted every influence to keep the young man at home. When he refused to listen to her she went quietly to Jesus and told Him. The next morning she found her son dying, and not a Christian. Frank took the feverish hand of his comrade and said, "I came because I wanted to pray with you, Stephen. I wanted to pray with the hand of his friend closer, said, "All right, Frank." Then close by the bedside, clasping the hand of the sick friend, he pleaded with tears and tender thought for his friend. His prayer touched the heart; the pastor had failed to reach. If you would have a soul, stretch out a hand of loving sympathy.

V. Healing the sick (vs. 31-34). Matthew tells us, "He healed all that were sick, it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses" (Matt. viii. 16, 17). Jesus took our place as our substitute for sin and sorrow and sickness. VI. Administered unto. "She administered unto them" (v. 31). A Christian worker was asked to call at the home of a most valued helper. There she was presented with a beautiful gift. In answer to her surprise, the donor said, "The first time my husband and I entered the little chapel you came and shook hands with us. In agony of soul, in despair of my husband's wild ways, I had determined to end my misery. The thought of the God I had served in my youth drove me to the little chapel for that of there might be a ray of hope. To my surprise my husband agreed to go with me. Your handshake saved me from suicide, and this gift expresses my gratitude to Him who saved my life."

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THE IDEAL WIFE Shapes the Destiny of Men—The Influence of a Healthy Woman Cannot Be Overestimated.

Seven-eighths of the men in this world marry a woman because she is beautiful in their eyes—because she has the qualities which inspire admiration, respect and love. There is a beauty in health which is more attractive to men than mere regularity of feature. The influence of women glorious in the possession of perfect physical health upon men and upon the civilization of the world could never be measured. Because of them men have attained the very heights of ambition; because of them great empires have been established and destroyed. What a disappointment then, to see the fair young wife's beauty fading away before a year passes over her head! A sickly, half-dead-and-alive woman, especially when she is the mother of a family, is a damper to all joyousness in the home, and a drag upon her husband. The cost of a wife's constant illness is a serious drain upon the funds of a household, and too often all the doctoring does no good. If a woman finds her energies are flagging, and that everything tires her, dark shadows appear under her eyes, her sleep is disturbed by nervous dreams, if she has headache, nervousness, bearing-down pains, horribleness, whites, irregularities, or despondency, she should take means to build her system up to once with a tonic with specific powers, such as Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

THE IDEAL WIFE



"Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound made me a well woman, and I feel so grateful that I am glad to write and tell you of my marvelous recovery. It brought me health, new life and vitality." "What a disappointment then, to see the fair young wife's beauty fading away before a year passes over her head! A sickly, half-dead-and-alive woman, especially when she is the mother of a family, is a damper to all joyousness in the home, and a drag upon her husband. The cost of a wife's constant illness is a serious drain upon the funds of a household, and too often all the doctoring does no good. If a woman finds her energies are flagging, and that everything tires her, dark shadows appear under her eyes, her sleep is disturbed by nervous dreams, if she has headache, nervousness, bearing-down pains, horribleness, whites, irregularities, or despondency, she should take means to build her system up to once with a tonic with specific powers, such as Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. This great remedy for women has done more in the way of restoring health to the women of America than all other medicines put together. It is the safeguard of woman's health. Following we publish, by request, a letter from a young wife. Mrs. Bessie Ainsley of 611 South 10th Street, Tacoma, Wash., writes: Dear Mrs. Pinkham:— Ever since my child was born I have suffered, as I hope few women ever have, with inflammation, female weakness, bearing-down pains, backache and wretched headaches. I was affected in my stomach so that I could not eat my meals, and half my time was spent in bed. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Succeeded Where Others Fail.

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FIRED ON IN DARK.

Leith, Scotland, Feb. 5.—The German steamer Gemma, which arrived here today in ballast, reports that she was fired on by the crew of a schooner of unknown nationality in the Categat (a large arm of the North Sea), at 9 o'clock on the night of Jan. 27. Rifle shots were fired at a distance of a ship's length and the first mate of the Gemma, who was on the bridge, was wounded. The mate says that he could distinctly hear the crew of the schooner shouting and that he believes the language used was Finnish, Swedish or Russian. Altogether, half a dozen shots were fired, after which the schooner sailed to the southward. The steamer made an attempt to stop her. The wounded mate received surgical attendance here, and the bullet was extracted.

A FORGOTTEN SUBJECT.

SENATOR McMULLIN MEETS ROOSEVELT UPON RECIPROcity. Canada Has No Desire to Change Relations With Great Britain—The Country is Too Prosperous to Mention Subject of Reciprocity. Washington, D.C., Feb. 5.—A discussion on commercial conditions between the United States and Canada was held at the White House to-day between President Roosevelt and Senator James McMullin, a member of the Canadian Committee, who was presented by Senator Miller (Missouri). "A few years ago," said Senator McMullin, "a strong movement was started for reciprocity between the United States and Canada, but with us the subject now is scarcely mentioned. Our people are becoming convinced that they must look abroad for an outlet for their surplus products. Our producers are able now to lay down in Great Britain fruit, fresh meat and other perishable stuff in as good condition as we can put them into the United States. They are building up a fine export business, and are very prosperous. If we should enter into a reciprocity agreement with the United States we should be obliged to change our relations with Great Britain. Our people have no desire to do that. In Great Britain and in some other foreign countries Canada is a competitor of the United States."

For Thin Babies

Fat is of great account to a baby; that is why babies are fat. If your baby is scrawny, Scott's Emulsion is what he wants. The healthy baby stores as fat what it does not need immediately for bone and muscle. Fat babies are happy; they do not cry; they are rich; their fat is laid up for time of need. They are happy because they are comfortable. The fat surrounds their little nerves and cushions them. When they are scrawny those nerves are hurt at every ungentle touch. They delight in Scott's Emulsion. It is as sweet as wholesome to them.

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Market Reports The Week.

Table with columns for various commodities like Wheat, Barley, Hay, and their prices. Includes sub-sections for Toronto Farmers' Market and Winnipeg Options.



When the bread or cake or pastry comes from the oven light, crisp and appetizing, you are wont to say you have had good luck with your baking. The "good luck" idea is a relic of the time when housekeepers pitted their competency against poor flour. To-day good baking isn't a matter of good luck in any home where Royal Household Flour is intelligently used. In the hands of competent housewives it never fails because it is the whitest, lightest, purest and best baking flour to be had. If the goodness of your baking is due to chance, your grocer is giving you the wrong kind of flour. Ask for Ogilvie's Royal Household. Ogilvie Flour Mills Co., Ltd. Montreal. "Ogilvie's Book for a Cook," contains 150 pages of excellent recipes, some never published before. Your grocer can tell you how to get it FREE.

LAST MINUTE TICKS

An Indianapolis despatch says the joint state committee of the miners' central district has agreed and adjourned. The United States Comptroller of the Currency to-day issued a call for the condition of national banks at the close of business on Monday, Jan. 29. Four more anarchists, making sixteen during the past fortnight, were shot without trial in the citadel at Warsaw, Russian Poland, to-day. Of the total fifteen were Jews. The Clyde line steamer Cherokee, that went aground at Brigantine shoals, N. J., on Jan. 12, was floated at midnight. Tugs started north with her and were signalled off Sandy Hook at 2 o'clock this morning.

The Sultan of Morocco's warship Sidi El Turki is cruising off the Marchica factory, awaiting a favorable opportunity to land troops. The forces of the pretender, Bu Hamara, occupy the factory. Private advices received from Cartagena are to the effect that General Gonzales Valencia, former Vice-President of Colombia, and General Sotomayor have started a revolution in the Province of Antioquia against President Reyes. Claude A. Swintson, of Chatham, who began public life as a member of the 53rd Congress, and has been re-elected to every Congress since, was inaugurated Governor of Virginia, and J. E. Ellison, former Mayor of Richmond, inaugurated as Lieutenant-Governor, at noon to-day. The ceremonies were held in the hall of the House of Delegates before a joint session of the two Houses, at Richmond, Va.

WORKMAN WAS BLOWN TO PIECES

Two Tons of Powder Exploded With Disastrous Results. Wilmington, Del., Feb. 5.—About two tons of powder in the grinding mill at the Hagley yard of the Dupont Powder Co., exploded to-day. Samuel Buchanan, aged 42 years, the only workman in the mill at the time, was blown to pieces. The roof, which rested on the walls without fastening, as is the rule in all powder buildings in order to give vent to the explosive force, was blown across the Brandywine Creek, a distance of 300 yards. Houses in the city were severely shaken, and the force of the explosion was felt for several miles from the mill.

SAVED THE CHILDREN.

A THREE-STORY SCHOOL BUILDING BURNED DOWN. Berlin, N.H., Feb. 5.—Fifteen minutes after 500 school children had marched into the Marston Intermediate School on Willard street to-day they were quietly assembled and marched out into the street again by a corps of school teachers, a dangerous fire having been discovered in the building. The school house was a wooden structure three stories high, and a short time after the exit of the pupils and teachers the flames burst out and in half an hour the entire building was in ruins. Burning brands, carried by a strong wind started small fires in nearby residences, but the firemen quickly extinguished them. The loss on the school house is about \$20,000.

DODDS' KIDNEY PILLS. FOR ALL KIDNEY DISEASES. CURES RHEUMATISM, BRUISES, DIABETES, BRONCHITIS, NEURALGIA, GRAVEL, AND ALL KIDNEY AFFECTIONS. Sold only in bottles.

Vertical text on the right margin: T H I S O R I G I N A L D O C U M E N T I S I N V E R Y P O O R C O N D I T I O N