

III. JESUS AND THE SOLITUDE.—35-39. *In the morning.* It seemed a day of triumph. But Jesus felt the need of something that human gratitude and human fame could not give. Christ lived for the multitude. He could not live on the multitude. Not even is the companionship of the disciples sufficient. *Solitary place*; away from the danger of interruption. *And there prayed.* This is the secret of all. Not rest, not quiet, but communion with the Father is what he needs. *And Simon . . . followed after him*; fearful lest they had lost their new Master, and surprised that Jesus should disappear at this time of triumph. Note that Simon is leading the seeking disciples. *All men seek for thee.* They think he is blind to his great opportunity. But Jesus was not shunning work, but preparing for it. *Let us go into the next towns*; not backward, but forward. Jesus has a larger field than Capernaum. *Preach there also.* Jesus always emphasizes the preaching of the Word, rather than the working of miracles. There was a hindrance in the excitement caused by miracles.

It obscured the truth that Jesus wished to teach. *Preached in their synagogues.* The synagogue was the religious centre of the community. *Throughout all Galilee.* Christ's first tour.

## Lesson Questions

What blessing did Jesus bring to Simon's home?

Why were the sick not brought till the evening?

How do you account for Jesus' disappearance?

What did the disciples think about it?

## For Further Study and Discussion

1. What was the first miracle of Jesus? (John 2: 1-11.)

2. Was Jesus a regular attendee at the synagogue? (Luke 4: 16.)

3. Is church attendance necessary for a Christian?

4. Should we expect God to heal our sicknesses?

PROVE FROM SCRIPTURE—That the gospel brings joy to the home.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Ques. 75.

## THE LESSON IN DAILY LIFE (Daily Readings)

Monday—Jesus in Peter's home, Mark 1: 29-39.

We have four pictures of Jesus here. We see him in the synagogue, in the home, with the crowd. In all three places, he is a centre of help and blessing. The fourth picture shows Jesus in a solitary place praying. All men seek for him, but his soul must seek for God.

Tuesday—Who went about doing good, Luke 4: 38-44.

The synagogue was a very imperfect institution, yet Jesus did not turn from it, but went to it every Sabbath, and helped it with his presence. The challenge of the imperfect is that we help it.

Wednesday—The authority of Jesus, Mark 1: 21-28.

We have the echo and the reflection. We have the original voice and the original light. The rabbis were like the first. Jesus was like the second. Jesus appealed to the authority of no man. He spoke for and from himself. He interpreted himself. Hence the note of authority.

Thursday—In the house of Simon the leper, Mark 14: 1-9.

The anointing was done from love, and therefore Jesus said that it was a beautiful work the woman had wrought on him. She had anointed his body beforehand for his burial. So it was timely as well as beautiful, being done when Jesus could appreciate it. She had done what she could.

Friday—Jesus in Zaccheus' house, Luke 19: 1-10.

Religion is friendship. "Zaccheus . . . I must abide at thy house," means "Zaccheus, I greatly desire that we become friends." Zaccheus was a friendless and despised man. No man had ever spoken thus to him. It was for him the beginning of a new life.

Saturday—In the home at Bethany, John 12: 1-8.

"And Martha served." Martha's talent was a practical one, and she used it in the service of the Master. And her love, manifested in this way, met some need of the Master. Home makers, home keepers, home servers, are much to Jesus. Every disciple has his or her place.

Sunday—Home relationships, Eph. 6: 1-9.

Parents must not demand a blind obedience from their children. They are parents not despots, and therefore they must seek obedience lovingly and reasonably. There are the rights of children, as well as the rights of parents. Paul emphasizes the fact that parents and children alike have duties.

## A PRAYER

We would have thee for a guest in our home, Lord Jesus. We want thee to be a permanent guest. Abide with us. Make us all like thee that home life may be sweetened and that we may glorify thy name, always. Amen.