

verses 18, 19, of the lesson.] The words belonged to Jesus, and now they had found their owner! He read them so that all could hear, and then he closed the book and sat down. All the people listened to hear what he would say, and he told them that it was he of whom these words were spoken. He came to make broken hearts whole, to let prisoners loose, and to do all these good things.

3. Who sent Jesus to do this great work? See the Lesson Thought. God sent him to do it for each man and woman and child in the world. [Make two hearts on the board,

one whole with word "Jesus" inside; the other in two parts, with the words "Sorrow" and "Sin" in it. The heart that has Jesus in it, has let Jesus do the work for it he wants to do, and which God sent him to do. He came to open blind eyes. Eyes that love to look at sin are blind. Jesus opens them. Tell story of the blind man who washed and came seeing. He came to open prison doors. To whom? To them who see that sin is the prison, and who want to get out. A child may be in this kind of a prison. You are if you love sin, but Jesus wants to let you out.

A. D. 27.

## LESSON IX.—CHRIST HEALING THE SICK; or, The Power of the Lord.

February 27

### GENERAL STATEMENT.

For nearly a year Jesus had stood prominently before the people, teaching the principles of the new kingdom, and he was now at the most popular period of his ministry. The Pharisaic party and the priestly order, though looking upon him with suspicion, had not yet openly declared themselves his enemies; and the unthinking masses thronged after him in a blind expectation that he would speedily draw the sword, shake off the Roman yoke, and establish upon Mount Zion a throne which should compel the homage of the world; an expectation which Jesus well knew was folly, and which, when disappointed, would soon turn the hearts of the people to a bitter hate. But at present vast multitudes were eagerly listening to his words, while crowds of the sick and the suffering sought his healing power. Just at this period two significant miracles were wrought. By touching with healing hand a man whose whole form was polluted with leprosy, Christ silently proclaimed his independence of the entire mass of ceremonial regulations which had grown up around the ancient law. And when, in presence of a company of jealous Pharisees, he said to the paralytic, "Thy sins be forgiven thee," he calmly asserted himself to be invested with an authority above priests or even prophets, as the Son of God.

### Luke 5. 12-26.

[Memory verses, 22-26.]

12 And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who, seeing Jesus, fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

13 And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him.

### Explanatory and Practical.

**Verse 12. A certain city.** The name is not given, but it was evidently in Galilee, and most writers have considered it to have been Capernaum, which was situated on the north-western shore of the Sea of Galilee. **A man full of leprosy.** The disease now known as leprosy is one of the most terrible in the East. It is an hereditary taint of blood, developing in the gradual change and rotting away of the flesh, generally beginning with the fingers and toes, and advancing until all the members are consumed, yet without special pain. The lepers live apart in Oriental cities, and are not permitted to touch other people, from a view (supposed to be mistaken) that the disease is contagious. Yet not all are agreed that this is the leprosy of the Bible. It is probable that there were in ancient times various kinds of skin diseases, more or less severe, included under this term; that although none of them were curable, yet some of the milder forms ran their course, and then left the system free, and that the regulations prescribed in Lev. 14 were meant for such cases. The expression "full of leprosy" might indicate that this was one of the most aggravated type. 1. Leprosy stands as a type of sin in being (1) Hereditary. (2) Defiling. (3) Incurable. (4) Loathsome. **Fell on his face.** Other sufferers might pluck his garment or press forward into his presence, but the poor polluted leper must fall upon his face afar off. **If thou wilt, thou canst.** Here he showed deep insight as well as mighty faith, in recognizing the divine power of Christ and appealing to his mercy. 2. Whatever our Lord wills to do, he can do for the sinner. **Make me clean.** 3. Those who would be cleansed from the leprosy of sin must (1) Seek the only Physician. (2) Come humbly. (3) Come earnestly. (4) Come believing.

13. Put forth his hand. He could have wrought the