

spirit, the two beings were so intermingled that sometimes one, sometimes the other, is said to be in the being associated with it. (See v. 27.) Possession by an unclean spirit was no certain sign that the victim had been especially wicked. Jesus, however, regarded the case of the demonized as a peculiarly malignant manifestation of the spirit of evil whom He came to drive out of this world. *Cried out*; a sudden shriek of anger. The spirit felt that he had met his Master.

Vs. 24, 25. *We*. The human spirit was sometimes a dungeon for a whole brood of demons, Matt. 12: 43-45. *What have we to do?* "What right have You to exercise authority over us?" The man speaks for the demon, and the demon speaks for his companions. *To destroy us*; by not only casting them out of the man, but by also sending them to the place of torment (compare Matt. 8: 29; Luke 8: 31). *I know thee*. Compare Jas. 2: 19. *The Holy One of God*; the Heavenly Being, God's chosen messenger and witness: a true word, John 10: 36. *Hold thy peace*; literally, "be muzzled" (1 Cor. 9: 9; 1 Tim. 5: 18), as though speaking to a ferocious beast. Jesus cannot accept the testimony of devils, Acts 16: 16-18. He cannot give any ground for the accusation made in ch. 3: 22.

Vs. 26-28. *Torn*; rather "convulsed," wreaking its worst possible vengeance on the poor man. *Loud voice*; a cry of despair, for the unclean spirit is only happy in doing mischief, ch. 5: 12, 13. *New teaching* (Rev. Ver.); bringing to light hidden depths of scripture, and laying down marvellous principles of conduct. See especially the Sermon on the Mount. *Region of Galilee round about* (Rev. Ver.); "the outside countries bordering on Galilee," or "Galilee in the neighborhood of Capernaum."

## II. In Peter's House, 29-31.

Vs. 29-31. *The house of Simon and Andrew*; probably the only home Jesus now had. This miracle is for a circle of friends. *Sick of a fever*; called by Luke, who was a physician, a "great," that is, a violent fever (Luke 4: 38), a case of typhus, common enough in unsanitary villages. *Anon* (Rev. Ver., "straightway"); as soon as He re-

turns from the synagogue. They can depend on His sympathy. *Took her by the hand*; a suggestive action, such as often accompanied Jesus' miracles, which would encourage the sick one. *She ministered*; "served," the fever gone. But the woman is not left weak as when fevers go naturally; she is strong enough to do the house work."

## III. At the Door, 32-34.

Vs. 32, 33. *When the sun did set*; when the Jewish Sabbath was over, and the sick might be carried through the streets without breaking the Sabbath law as interpreted by the rabbis. *All that were diseased*; "from every street, and from the thickly sown town and villages around." (Geikie.) *Possessed with devils* (Rev. Ver., "demons"). See v. 23. *All the city*; the curious, and those wishing to hear His word, as well as the diseased and their friends. They regarded Jesus chiefly as a wonder worker. If, however, Jesus were to yield Himself up solely to this, there was danger lest His work should be misunderstood. So we find that, in His later days in Galilee, He has to withdraw from the crowds. *Many that were sick*. This does not necessarily mean that some of the "all" (v. 32) were not healed. It may mean equally well that the all were not few, but many. Matt. 8: 17 sees in all this a fulfilment of the prophecy of the Servant of the Lord. *Suffered not the devils to speak*. See comment, v. 25; besides, the people were not yet ready for the open proclamation of the Messiah.

## Light from the East

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CAPERNAUM—Was a city on the north-west side of the Sea of Galilee, the exact site of which is disputed by scholars. Some favor Tell Hum, two miles and a half from the Jordan, on account of the name, the size of the ruins, their position on the eastward road, and the testimony of certain travellers. Others support Khan Minyeh, two miles and a half to the south-west of Tell Hum, on account of a number of statements in the New Testament, the nearness of a large spring mentioned by Josephus, and especially the junction of the roads from the north and