

The Command of Jesus.
(Matthew 23: 19)

BY REV. H. L. HARDESTY

Friends of Jesus heed the summons
On your ears the message falls.
Till the nations of his coming
For his help the helpless calls

You have heard his invitation
By his grace your souls are free.
Toll it to the whole creation,
Bid them share your jubilee

Hope not for the Master's favour.
While in selfish ease you stand.
Pray not for the coming Saviour,
While neglecting his command

Would you speed the matchless story
That shall hasten Christ's return,
When on mountain-tops his glory
Kindles, flames, and brightly burns

If you know your own salvation,
Through the merits of the Christ,
Hung upon the proclamation
Published by your sacrifice?

Answer yes! and dare no other,
Lest men doubt your truth or love;
He who would not save his brother
Cannot live with Christ above!

Would the claims of worldly pleasure
Lock your hearts with fetters strong,
If by gift of earthly treasure
You could share the glad new song?

Never can you sing in heaven,
Praise to him who loved you so,
Till your sacrifice be given;
Proof of loving others too!
Orlolo, Md.



FLAT-ROOFED MUD HOUSES AT BANIAS.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JESUS.

LESSON X.—MARCH 11.

THE PARALYTIC HEALED.

Mark 2. 1-12. Memory verses, 9-12.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins.—Mark 2. 10.

OUTLINE.

1. The Palsied Sinner Borne of Four, v. 1-4.
 2. His Sins Forgiven, v. 5-7.
 3. His Palsy Healed, v. 8-12.
- Time.—Early in A. D. 28.
Place.—Capernaum.

LESSON HELPS.

1. He came again into "Capernaum," as his headquarters or centre of his operations, to which he constantly returned from his itinerant labours throughout Galilee. "It was noised"—It was reported throughout the city. "In the house"—Either his own house, where he made a home for his mother, or Peter's house.
2. "Many were gathered together"—Among the audience were scribes from all parts (Luke 5. 17), to see if they should unite with the new movement and turn it to their own purposes or take measures against it.
3. Sick of the palsy"—Or smitten with paralysis.
4. "Uncovered the roof"—Either opened a connecting trapdoor, or removed the court awnings, or made an opening through the flat house-top by breaking up the tiles. If Jesus was in the court, the second is the probable way; if in an upper room, either of the others. "Let down the bed"—The couch or pallet, not the common word for bed, here used by Luke (5. 15) and Matthew (9. 2), but one of Macedonian origin, found only in the later Greek, and probably denoting a couch easily carried, perhaps a camp bed. Even the most costly oriental beds consisted of cushions and light coverings spread upon the floor or divan, bedsteads being quite unknown.
7. "Speak blasphemies"—That is, utter words which are direct profanations of God's holiness.
8. "When Jesus perceived"—To know the hearts of men was with the Jews a test of the Messiah's claims.
9. "Take up thy bed"—The Eastern pallet, or rug, or mat, here called a bed because it was that on which he lay, could be easily rolled up and carried.
11. "I say unto thee, Arise"—Christ's argument here affords a fair test of all priestly claims to absolve from sin. If the priest had power to remit the eternal punishment of sin, he should be able, certainly, to remit the physical punishment of sin. This Christ did; this the priest cannot do.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The paralytic healed.—Mark 2. 1-12.
Tu. Glad tidings.—Acts 10. 34-43.
W. Prayer for pardon.—Psa. 25. 1-18.
Th. Forgiveness and healing.—Psa. 103. 1-12.
F. Blotting out.—Isa. 43. 18-25.
S. Perfect cleansing.—1 John 1.
Su. Strange things.—Luke 5. 17-26.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. The Palsied Sinner Borne of Four, v. 1-4.
To what city did Jesus return?
What report at once spread?
What result followed this report?
How did Jesus treat this company?
What sick man was brought to the house?
How was he kept back from Jesus?
What did those carrying him do?
Of what was this act a proof?
2. His Sins Forgiven, v. 5-7.
What did Jesus say to the sick man?
Who objected to what Jesus said?
What questions did the scribes ask?
3. His Palsy Healed, v. 8-12.
How did Jesus know what they said?
What two questions did he ask them?
How can we have the forgiveness of sins? Acts 16. 31.
What did Jesus wish the scribes to know? Golden Text.
Whom did he mean by "the Son of man"?
What did he say to the sick man?
What at once followed this command?
How were the bystanders affected?
What did they do and say?
For what did they praise God? Matt. 9. 8.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where are we taught in this lesson about—
1. Overcoming hindrances?
 2. The forgiveness of sins?
 3. Praising God for mercies?



THE LADDER DREAM.

The English lady was troubled and sick at heart. The ever-jealous nuns and priests with unflagging zeal and poisonous words had influenced parents, however reluctantly, to take their children from her school, and now the Government had issued orders that no Mohammedan child should pass her doors. Day by day there were fewer children. One morning there were none, where only two months before there had been



THE PARALYTIC HEALED.

the hum of one hundred and thirty voices!

Miss ——— says. "I went to my room and fell on my knees. 'O God, my heart is breaking, if thou wilt still have me to work here, give me a sign. I cannot rise until thou dost hear and answer.'" And even as she prayed a peace, unknown for days, stole upon her, and rising she called her Syrian Bible-woman, and together they went into the streets.

At the first house Fatima, the Mohammedan wife, came out, and, too excited for salaams, cried: "I have been waiting for you; come in and hear my dream. Last night I saw a golden ladder leading to a shining place, and a figure descending, more beautiful than any one I have ever seen. He said to me: 'Fatima, who am I?' and I answered, 'Thou art Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.' He smiled and said, 'You are blessed because you have believed;' but when I tried to go to him he said, 'Not now, but some time I will come and take you to myself;' and then I awoke."

And then the English lady went home with joy in her heart, for of all the Mohammedan women of the town Fatima had shown the most hatred of the Christian religion.—*Woman's Work for Woman.*

"If it hurts you, dear," said the surgeon, as he applied the splints and bandages, "cry all you want to. You will feel better." "Thank you, doctor," replied the little Boston girl. "I never weep. It wrinkles the face."

Algernon—"I've a widdle for you, Miss Miwanda. Why are childwen like tooth bwushes?" Miranda—"I don't know. Why are they?" Algernon—"Because ewevybody prefers his own. See?" Miranda (frigidly)—"No, I don't see, not having any children." Algernon (stammering)—"Oh, of course not, but you—you have a tooth bwush, you know."

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