

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

[For the entire school.]

1. Where did Jesus go on the morning after the Sabbath? **To a solitary place to pray.**
2. Who found him in his solitude? **Simon, Andrew, James, and John.**
3. How did he answer their wish that he would return to Capernaum? **Let us go into the next towns.**
4. What peculiar prayer did a leper make to him on this tour? **If thou wilt thou canst make me clean.**
5. When Jesus answered, "I will," what happened? **"As soon as he had spoken," etc.**

CATECHISM QUESTION.

4. What do you call his religion?
Christianity.
5. Are there any other religions in the world?
There is only one Divine Teacher, and only one true religion: but there have been many false teachers and there are many false religions.

ANALYTICAL AND BIBLICAL OUTLINE.
Traits of Our Saviour.

I. A PRAYING SAVIOUR.

- Into a solitary place....prayed.* v. 35.
"Offered up prayers and supplications," Heb. 5. 7.
"Praying always with all prayer," Eph. 6. 18.

II. AN ATTRACTIVE SAVIOUR.

- All men seek for thee.* v. 37.
"Will draw all men unto me," John 12. 32.
"Out of every kindred," Rev. 5. 9.

III. A LABORIOUS SAVIOUR.

- Let us go... all Galilee.* v. 38. 39.
"Must work the works," John 9. 4.
"About my Father's business," Luke 9. 49.

IV. A MIGHTY SAVIOUR.

- Cast out devils.* v. 39.
"It shall bruise thy head," Gen. 3. 15.
"Bind the strong man," Mark 3. 27.

V. A TENDER SAVIOUR.

- Moved with compassion.* v. 41.
"Jesus wept," John 11. 35.
"Compassion on the multitude," Matt. 15. 32.

VI. A HUMBLE SAVIOUR.

- Say nothing to any man.* v. 44.
"He shall not strive nor cry," Matt. 12. 16-19.
"Will magnify the Law," Isa. 42. 21.

THOUGHTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Christ as our Example.

1. Let us be like Jesus in the habit of prayer. He felt the need of communion with God, and we need it more, for we are conscious of sin in which he did not share. Prayer for the work of the day at the beginning of the day will make the day successful. v. 35.
2. Our prayers should be secret in order to have power. Let us, like Jesus, find a solitary place and a quiet hour for prayer. Our hearts may be alone even in a crowd; and "in the spirit's secret cell" we may have communion with God. v. 35.
3. Let us be like Jesus in a self-denying interest in God's work. Whatever may be our business we should preach the Gospel by our words and our influence, and we should live to do good. v. 38.
4. Let us be like Jesus in compassion and sympathy with the afflicted. Our touch may help people in trouble, as his did. Let us not fail to give them our help. vs. 40-42.
5. Let us, like Jesus, seek to have our good deeds concealed rather than sounded abroad. God will see them, and the world will be the better for them; let us not desire to be praised for them. vs. 43, 44.

English Teacher's Notes.

On the shores of the Hawaiian Islands there is frequently a sad sight to be seen—a boat putting off from the shore, conveying unwilling passengers to the island of Molokai, which they are never again permitted to leave. And this not for any crime that they have committed, but simply because a horrible disease has taken hold of them; they are lepers. There may be no sign of it visible, yet, once attacked, they are sent away from home and friends and society to linger on hopelessly till death claims them. In this way the Hawaiian government hopes in time to stamp out the disease, which, among them, takes a highly infectious form. It is generally believed that the leprosy of which we read in the Bible was of a different character, loathsome, but not infectious. Yet the fate of the leper among the Jews was no less sad than that of the banished ones on the island of Molokai. He might associate with others similarly affected, but from the rest of society he had to stand "afar off." He might not approach his friends, he must make his dwelling away from the usual haunts of men; although a demoniac might be found in the synagogue, no leper might enter there. He was an outcast in his native land, and even in sight of his home, shunned of all, because any contact with him produced not actual sickness, but the much dreaded ceremonial defilement.

Not one afflicted with this disease was to be found among the crowd who gathered round that door in Capernaum where the Healer was to be found. Other sufferers were tenderly and eagerly brought by their friends and laid at Jesus's feet. None brought the leper. The man of whom our passage tells might have witnessed the scene "afar off," but he dared not take his place among the crowd. Probably he watched his opportunity, and when the great Healer left the crowded streets of Capernaum to preach the kingdom of God "in other cities also," he followed, and in strong and simple faith drew near to the only One in the land who would not shrink from him, and cast himself upon his mercy.

Here was the living picture of the sinner, lost, on cast, helpless, and hopeless—the emblem in Scripture of that condition spoken of by Paul in Eph. 2. 12: "Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenant of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."

It may be said lepers recognize and feel their sad condition, and sinners do not until awakened by the Spirit of God. True, but all will realize it some day: "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham and Isaac in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out." And it may be said there are many who would gladly bring sinners to Jesus—who lay themselves out to do so. True, but not until Jesus fills their heart, and constrains them by his love. It is only in company with Jesus that his followers have any business to mingle with spiritual lepers. His presence only can preserve from contamination.

The likeness therefore is true throughout, and