

them. **Remission of sins**—the baptism did not take away sins; but it was a promise that they would be forgiven by Christ. Luke 3: 7-18. **5. All the land of Judea**—Great crowds came to him and there was a wonderful revival. As we would say "everybody" went. **In Jordan** (R. V.)—How John performed his baptism we are not told. He could not have immersed such large numbers one by one, and we cannot believe that all were provided with suitable clothes for the purpose. He may have sprinkled them, as Moses did, with a bunch of hyssop, or they may have stood in the brink while he poured a handful of water on the head. The name of the place is given in John 1: 28. **6. Camel's hair**—a kind of coarse cloth made of camel's hair. What Old Testament prophet was clothed in this way? (2 Kings 1: 8). **A leathern girdle** (R. V.)—Rich people wore silk sashes and belts ornamented with gold and jewels. **Locusts**—This was the food of the very poorest of the people. The locust is like a grasshopper, and is prepared for food by roasting or boiling. They are eaten with salt, and bread and butter. The Digger Indians of California eat grasshoppers in the same way. **Wild honey**—The honey of the wild bee. It was very plentiful in Palestine. (Ex. 3: 8; Deut. 32: 13; 1 Sam. 14: 25). **7. One mightier than I**—he pointed away from himself to Jesus. **Latchet**—the lace or thong, with which the sandals were tied. Doors were originally fastened with a thong, and so we still term the fastener a "latch," although

it is made of iron or wood. *Lace* is another form of the same word. **I am not worthy**—To fasten and unfasten the sandals, and carry them was the duty of the lowest servants. Matt. 3: 11; John 1: 7; Acts 13: 25. **8. With water**—See also Christ's words, Acts 11, 16; 1: 5. This is merely the sign, the baptism with the Holy Spirit is the reality of which it speaks.

III. THE SPIRIT DESCENDING. 9. Read Matt. 3: 13-15. Jesus had no sins to repent of, so John hesitated to baptise him. But in order to set his approval upon what John was doing and receive his testimony publicly, Christ submitted to the rite. It was his consecration to his work. **10. Straightway**—or immediately. This is a favorite word with Mark. See how many times he uses it. **Coming up out of the water**—This need not imply more than that he waded a little way into the stream and received baptism by having the water poured upon his head. In Matt. 3: 16, the R. V. reads correctly "went up straightway from the water." He saw—John saw this too (John 1: 32, 33). **Opened**—R. V. "rent asunder." **Like a dove**—Luke says "in bodily shape like a dove" and tells us that Jesus was praying at the time. **11. Thou art my beloved Son**—Pointing him out as the One meant in Ps. 2: 7. Read 2 Pet. 1: 7. Notice that all three persons of the Trinity were present here. Read the other accounts of Christ's baptism and write out a connected narrative of the whole (Matt. 3: 13-17; Luke 3: 21, 22; John 1: 32-34.)

To the Scholar.—Study the lesson carefully, turning up the marginal references and reading the "Daily Portions." Then close your Bible and try to answer in writing the questions following *without accepting aid from any quarter* after you have begun to write. Then bring this leaflet to Sabbath School with you on the day of its date. If you cannot come, fill out the blank and send the leaflet (with the answers written out) to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.

- 1.—By what titles did the prophets point out John the Baptist? (4)
- 2.—What did John preach? (4)
- 3.—What did he say about Jesus as compared with himself? (5)
- 4.—With what would Jesus baptize believers? (4)
- 5.—What was seen at Christ's baptism? (4)
- 6.—What voice was heard? (4)

Name.....

Dear Teacher.—Please excuse my absence from Sabbath School to-day, I cannot come because I have read the "Daily Portions" and answered the questions as well as I could. I have committed to memory verses in addition to the Golden Text, and Questions in the Catechism and have recited them to I was at church

I send with this my Weekly Offering of

cents.