

A Snow Parable.

Softly falls the snow and slowly, slowly,
O'er the solitude of world and hill;
Winds are breathing desolate and lowly
Where the wearied world is lying still.

Like a cloak of pardon and remission
Falls the snow on city, den and street—
Emblem of the contrite heart's condition,
Earnest of forgiving love complete.

Where the sin and sadness are unsleeping
Lies a purity which is not theirs;
Thro' the night there comes a sound of
weeping,
Thro' the night there comes a voice of
prayers.

All the dismal blackness of the city
Lies enshrouded with a perfect white:
God in wonderful eternal pity
Sends His snowy message through the
night.

Turn, O hungry souls that tire of sinning,
Take the peace which earth can never
give!

Leave the by-gone for a new beginning,
Leave the dreariness of death, and live.

Softly falls the snow and slowly, slowly,
O'er the solitude of street and mart:
Hear, O Father! Thou art holy—
Lap its whiteness on the sinner's heart.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN LUKE.

A.D. 27] LESSON XI. [March 16

THE DRAUGHT OF FISHES.

Luke 5. 1-11. Memory verses, 8-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt
catch men.—Luke 5. 10.

TIME.—A.D. 27.

PLACE.—The Lake of Gennesaret.

CONNECTING LINKS.—This incident occurs
not long after the events in the previous
lesson.

EXPLANATIONS.—*The people pressed upon him*—He stood with his back to the lake, and the constantly increasing crowd pressed him to the water's edge. *The Lake of Gennesaret*—Also called the Sea of Galilee and the Lake of Tiberias—a beautiful sheet of water in the northern part of Palestine. On its waves, and around its margin, many of the most wonderful works and words of Jesus were wrought and spoken. *Two ships*—What we would call boats. *Washing their nets*—Cleaning them of tangled seaweeds. *Prayed him*—Asked him. *Thrust out a little*—Pushed out a short distance, so as to be rid of the crowd of people. *Left speaking*—When his sermon was closed. *Launch out*—Row or sail. *Into the deep*—Far from shore. *A draught*—A catch. *Toiled all the night*—Peter had been discouraged; but what Jesus suggested, he was ready to do. *Depart from me*—Peter does not mean, "I do not desire your company;" he rather means, "I dread to be near One so holy and so powerful." *Thou shalt catch men*—He was no longer to be a mere fisherman; a great future was dawning. *Forsook all*—Left their business and their families, and, without counting the cost, became Christ's followers.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *The Teacher*, vs. 1-3.

For what purpose did the people seek Jesus?

Where did the crowd gather about him? What was near by that belonged to fishermen?

What were the fishermen doing? What request did Jesus make of Simon? What did Jesus then do? What is said about Jesus as a teacher? Matt. 7. 29.

2. *The Miracle*, vs. 4-7.

When through teaching, what did he say to Simon?

Of what failure did Simon tell? What reason did he give for trying again? What happened when the net was lowered?

Upon whom did the fishermen call for help?

What shows that they caught many fish? What did his miracles prove about Jesus? John 3. 2.

3. *The Disciple*, vs. 8-11.

What did Simon at once do and say?

Why did he so speak and act?

What other disciples were also astonished?

What promise did Jesus make to Simon? (Golden Text.)

What did the disciples do when they came ashore?

Have you forsaken all for Christ's sake?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What did Jesus now do? "Out of Peter's boat he preached to the people on the shore." 2. What did he afterward tell Peter to do? "To sail out, and to begin to fish." 3. What did Peter tell him they had done? "Toiled all night, and taken nothing." 4. What did they gather? "An astonishing number of fishes." 5. What was the effect on Peter? "Jesus' power made him feel his own weakness and sin."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The divine call to the ministry.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

15. How was the Redeemer consecrated? The Holy Ghost, who was signified by the anointing oil, descended upon him.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him.—Matt. 3. 16.

A.D. 27] LESSON XII. [March 23

CHRIST FORGIVING SIN.

Luke 5. 17-26. Memory verses, 24-26.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Who can forgive sins, but God alone?—Luke 5. 21.

TIME.—27 A.D.

PLACE.—Capernaum.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The exact order of the miracles performed in the first year of Christ's ministry it is not easy to give; but we are to understand that the miracle here narrated followed closely on the remarkable scenes which we have studied during the last three or four weeks.

EXPLANATIONS.—*As he was teaching*—In a private house, probably in an upper room. Among those present were some learned men and many of the common people. *The power of the Lord was present to heal*—This means that Jesus frequently interrupted his own discourse to heal some of the pitiable persons presented to him. *In a bed*—A pallet, or rug, or mat. In the East there are no beds like ours. *Taken with a Palsy*—Smitten with paralysis. *Went upon the housetop*—This might easily be done. Roofs are flat in that country; some having a stairway from bottom to top of the outside wall. Others are built on sloping hillsides, and one end of the roof is not infrequently on a level with the street above. *Through the tiling*—It is not plain precisely what the friends of this man did. They either opened a connecting trap-door, or removed the awning of the court around which the house was built, or made an opening through the flat-housetop 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. *Speakes blasphemies*—Utters words which are direct profanations of God's holiness. *Take up thy couch*—A "couch" was easily rolled up and carried.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *The Power of the Lord*, vs. 17-21.

What learned men attended Jesus' teaching?

From what places did they come?

What great blessing came to the people?

Who sufferer was brought to Jesus?

What hindrances were in the way of the sick man?

How did his friends get him before Jesus?

What did Jesus say to the sick man?

When did he thus speak?

What did the Pharisees say about Jesus?

What about forgiving sins? (Golden Text.)

2. *The Grace of the Lord*, vs. 22-26.

Who knew the thoughts of the Pharisees?

What did he ask about them?

What did he ask about forgiving sins?

By what title did he refer to himself?

What did he wish the Pharisees to know?

What command did he give to the sick man?

What did the man do?

How were the people affected by the miracle?

What did they say?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who were in the crowd about Jesus? "Pharisees and doctors of the law." 2. What unusual incident occurred? "A palsied man was let down through the roof." 3. What did Christ do for him? "Forgave his sins." 4. What did the Pharisees say? "They complained that this was blasphemy." 5. How did Jesus prove his power? "By curing the sick man." 6. How were the people affected? "They were amazed and glorified God?"

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The forgiveness of sins.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

16. To what offices was our Lord consecrated?

To be a Prophet, a Priest, and a King. Moses indeed said, A Prophet shall the Lord God raise up unto you from among your brethren, like unto me; to him shall ye hearken in all things whatsoever he shall speak unto you.—Acts 3. 22.

Thou art a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.—Hebrews 5. 6.

The Little Sower.

BESSIE had got a present of a new book, and she eagerly opened it to look at the first picture. It was the picture of a boy sitting by the side of a stream, and throwing seeds into the water.

"I wonder what this picture is about," said she. "Why does the boy throw seeds into the water?"

"Oh! I know," said her brother Edward, who had been looking at the book; "he is sowing the seeds of water lilies."

"But how small the seeds look!" said Bessie. "It seems strange that such large plants should grow from such little things."

"You are sowing such tiny seeds every day, Bessie, and they will come up, large, strong plants after a while," said her father.

"Oh, no! father; I have not planted any seeds for a long while."

"I have seen my daughter sow a number of seeds to-day."

Bessie looked puzzled, and her father smiled and said, "Yes, I have watched you planting flowers, and seeds and weeds to day."

"Now I know that you are joking, for I would not plant ugly weeds."

"I will tell you what I mean."

When you laid aside that interesting book, and attended to what your mother wished done, you were sowing seeds of kindness and love.—When you broke the dish that you knew your mother valued, and came instantly and told her, you were sowing seeds of truth.—When you took the cup of water to the poor woman at the gate, you were sowing the seeds of mercy. These are all beautiful flowers, Bessie. But I hope my little girl has been planting the great tree of 'love of God,' and that she will tend and watch it, until its branches reach the skies and meet before His throne."

"And what of the weeds, father?"

"When you were impatient with baby, you were sowing the seeds of ill temper. When you waited some time after your mother called, you sowed disobedience and selfishness. These are all noxious weeds. Pull them up. Do not let them grow in your garden."



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