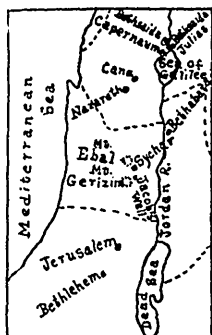


Inquired... the hour... began to amend. The father thinks that the cure would be gradual. Yesterday at the seventh hour; that is, one o'clock in the afternoon. The fever left him. The cure had been instantaneous. The same hour... Jesus said... son liveth. His faith, then, had not been misplaced. Himself believed, and his whole house. His own faith, weak at first, had grown strong; now, through his testimony, it spread also to others: "The first converted family" (Cambridge Bible). Second miracle. The first was the turning of water into wine. That confirmed the faith of the disciples (ch. 2 : 11); this, the faith of the nobleman.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



About eight miles to the northeast of Nazareth, there is to-day a small village on a lonely hill. This is CANA, the home of Nathanael, and the scene of two of our Lord's miracles. The name, meaning "the place of reeds", is most suitable, as the village overlooks a marshy plain, where reeds are still plentiful.

CAPERNAUM--now called Khan Minyeh, was an important city in New Testament times. Situated

on the northwest shore of the Lake of Galilee, on a main road from east to west, it was a station for a body of Roman soldiers (Luke 7 : 2, 8), and had a customs house, where Jesus found Matthew, (Matt. 9 : 9, etc.). The commander of the soldiers, to please the people, built a synagogue, Luke 7 : 5.

AN ORIENTAL SIDELIGHT

The quantity of marshy land in the neighborhood of Capernaum, especially at the entrance of the Jordan into the Lake, has made fever of a very malignant type at times the characteristic of the locality, so that the physicians would not allow Josephus, when hurt by his horse sinking in the neighboring marsh, to sleep even a single night in Capernaum, but hurried him on to Tarichæa.—Geikie.

LESSON QUESTIONS

43-48 How long had Jesus been at Sychar? Whither had it been His purpose to go? Why had He left Judea? Why was He warmly welcomed in Galilee? Why did He go first to Cana? What was the nobleman's request? How had he been led to come with it to Jesus? How did the strength of his faith show itself? How did Jesus expose its weakness?

49, 50 In what words does the father renew his request? What was Jesus' response? How does the man show that his faith had grown stronger? What does Jesus say that even the weakest faith can do? (Luke 17 : 6.)

51-54 What message does the father receive on the way home? At what hour had his son become well? Who, besides the nobleman himself, were led to believe in Jesus? Mention another household who became believers. (Acts 16 : 34.)

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What faith can do.
2. The power of unseen forces.

A LESSON FOR LIFE

We trust a doctor who has proved his skill by curing multitudes of sick people. We trust a captain who has brought his ship safely through many a storm. And, with far better reason, may we trust Jesus. In all the ages He has shown Himself able and willing to help and bless. We may come to Him with perfect confidence. He will never disappoint us.

Prove from Scripture—That the words of Jesus stand.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 87. What is repentance unto life? A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

The Question on Missions—7. What opportunities are there for the work of native preachers? While there is much work which only the missionary can do, he cannot reach the people as readily as can one of themselves: The native preachers can go about at all seasons; and it is only through them that the thousands in Central India can hope to hear the gospel.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What request did the nobleman make of Jesus?
2. In what form did Jesus accede to it?
3. What was the effect of the miracle upon the nobleman? Upon his household?