

Now, he is on the shore of Galilee, near Capernaum, teaching the people who followed him.

Describe the crowd near the water's edge, Jesus in a fishing boat out a little way in the water, and the people pressing close to the water's edge to hear his wonderful words.

What did Jesus see as he sat in the boat? A great field of waving grain, a path running through it, rich soil, as shown by the abundant grain, and the rocky hill-side further back, while great thorn-bushes grew right in the wheat-field.

That was a picture, and Jesus put it into words to teach a great truth. The word-picture which he made we call a parable.

Show a handful of seed. The wheat did not grow wild. One day a man went out with plenty of seed like this. Some fell close by the path in which the sower walked. The earth was hard and dry there, with the constant use, and the seed did not sink into the soil. No wonder the birds came and picked it up! Some fell on the stony ground, and some among the thorns. These did not grow well, for the thorns grew faster than the wheat, and choked it, while that which fell on stony ground had so little root that it was quickly scorched by the hot sun.

What did the parable mean? The disciples came to Jesus to learn, and he told them.



[Hold up Bible.] Here is the seed God wants all his people to sow. [Make heart on board.] And the heart is the soil in which to sow it. The sowers are all who teach God's word.

Here is Lizzie. She is whispering to Katie. She does not listen and try to

learn. Idle, foolish thoughts come into her head. These are the birds sent by Satan to pick up the good seed, so that it will not grow in Lizzie's heart. Lizzie is a way-side hearer. [Characterize the stony ground hearer, etc. It is always well to make application to an imaginary child.]

Teach what a serious thing it is to be where seed is sown. Give one little seed—"God is love," or "Love one another."

Lesson Word-Pictures.

The great Sower has come into his field, the human heart, to see how fares the seed that has been sown. This first patch is that of the Way-side Hearer. He may

be one whom you see every-where and who hears all things. His heart is open as the market-place to the sky: Did you see him that day when some one cried, "Good news!" down by the city gate? Way-side Hearer was there, and how quickly he caught the gospel seed! But easy-to-catch may be easy-to-lose, and how soon that seed is gone! For look at those black birds of temptations that attend this easy gatherer of all things! One dark happy after another sweeps down, and gone is the truth! "No seed here!" says the master of the field as he looks down at the ground that had been plentifully sprinkled.

Next in this field of the human heart is a plot marked "Stony Ground Hearer." His other name is Shallow. O how gladly he catches up the seed! "Good news, good news!" he shouts in joy. But the seed lodged so near the surface. Underneath the thin soil is the thick rock. How will it be when Monday's hot sun of opposition may burn down on that one inch of soil? "Is Shallow pious?" laughingly asks a lover-of the world. "We will snare him out of it." "Shallow become a Christian!" roars a venomous skeptic. "We will frighten him out of it!" Alas for Shallow! The sun of persecution beats down fiercely. When the master of the field looks at this plot, he sorrowfully says, "No growth here! Stony ground! No root!"

But this plot in the field, whose is it? That is labeled "Old Money-bags." You saw him in church Sunday. He looked up long enough from his greedy plans for to-morrow's hoarding to catch the preacher's eye, and the preacher said, "I will cast a seed that way." He reasoned of righteousness, of temperance, of judgment to come. Old Money-bags trembled, and the seed got into his heart. What a thorn-growth the seed fell among! How duty to God was crowded by the love of self, the desire of gold, the care of houses and lands! "Any seed here!" asks the great Husbandman, pulling away the thorn-bushes when he visits his field. "Alas, alas!" he moans. "All choked and killed by the rank bramble-growth! No results here!" But look, O Master! Not all is bad. Those green thrifty shoots, the stalks even now thickening with buds and soon to be golden with a crop. This is the Good Ground Hearer. His may be a humble life. He may have a place just in a corner of the field. He sits away back in the congregation, but what a royal listener! How intently he looks, how sincerely he receives! Deep, rich soil, the tares cast out, birds of temptation driven away, and what a growth there is! "The blessing of the Master be upon thee!" whispers a voice that has been recognized and obeyed.

A. D. 28.]

LESSON VI. THE FIERCE DEMONIAC.

[Feb. 10.]

Authorized Version.

Mark 5. 1-20. [Commit to memory verses 18-20.]



1 And they came over unto the other side of the sea. Into the country of the Gad'a-reenes.
2 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.

3 Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

4 Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.

5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

Revised Version.

1 And they came to the other side of the sea, into 2 the country of the Ger'a-senes. And when he was come out of the boat, straightway there met him out 3 of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling in the tombs; and no man could any 4 more bind him, no, not with a chain; because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been rent asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces; and no man had strength to tame 5 him. And always, night and day, in the tombs and in the mountains, he was crying out, and cutting him- 6 self with stones. And when he saw Jesus from afar, 7 he ran and worshipped him; and crying out with a loud voice, he saith, What have I to do with thee, Je- 8 sus, thou Son of the Most High God? I adjure thee by

7 And to do with me. I adjure thee by the power of the Most High God. 8 (For) unclean spirits, answer many. 9 And 10 Al- 11 No great he 12 Al- 13 Into the 14 Al- 15 Al- 16 Al- 17 Al- 18 Al- 19 Al- 20 Al- all men

Sec. 2. derco- thus: unclean spirits that is write 9-13 (a). In ver- Gerasa pear; Sec. points vers. In ver- plaint comm an-ve fully (a), (b) facts. Sec. In as 177 led s- enire- Sec. ciden- In ch