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OCTOBER 28th, 1894.

Ath QUARTER.

A Paralytic Healed. MARK 1: 1-12.

. (Commit to memory verses 9-12.)

GOLDEN TEXT.

"The Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins." Mark 2; 10.

PROVE THAT

Unbelief is sinful. Heb. 3: 12.

- SHORTER CATECHISM.

Quest. 99, What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer? A. The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called The Lord's Prayer.

LESSON HYMNS.

CHILDREN'S HYMNAL, Nos. 162, 37, 49,

DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the I. B. R. A.)

MONDAY—A Paralytic Healed.

Mark 2 : 1-12.

TUESDAY-Plenteous Redemption. Psalm 130.

WEDNESDAY—Sins Blotted Out.

Isaiah 43: 14-25. THURSDAY-Trespasses Forgiven.

Col. 2: 6-15.

FRIDAY-Forgiven through Christ. Acts 13: 32-39.

SATURDAY—For His Sake.

I John 2: 1-12.

SUNDAY—Prayer for Pardon.

Psalm 25: 1-11.

NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS.

Jesus labored at his work of healing far on into the night. There need not have remained one sick or infirm person in Capernaum, for he healed all that came to him. His heart was sore and his body was weary, yet he rose long before daylight next morning that he might refresh himself by communion with his Father in prayer. But the eager crowds would give him no time for quiet retirement. He set out at once on a tour throughout Galilee. Great multitudes followed him (Matt. 4: 25) and his fame extended beyond the borders of Palestine. He healed diseases and cast out devils, and, for the first time, that loathsome and incurable disease, leprosy, the type of sin, fled at his touch (Mark 1: 41-45.) Then again we read that "he withdrew himself into the wilderness and prayed." (Luke 5: 16.) If we would do good service for God and our fellow men, communion with our Heavenly Father must be the habit of our daily life. On his return to Capernaum the incident recorded in our lesson took place. Parallel passages, Matt. 9: 2-8; Luke 5: 17-26.

LESSON PLAN. I. Faith Manifested. vs. 1-4. II. Pardon Proclaimed. vs. 5-9. Healing Bestowed. vs. 10-12.

I. FAITH MANIFESTED. After some no home of his own, but this and other pas-The excitement following upon the known abode. cleansing of the leper was so great that Jesus he returned to Capernaum, which was now "his own city" (Matt. 9: 1). This was his headquarters for more than a year and a half.

days From Matthew we learn that he had sages (3: 19-21) shew that there was one been on the eastern side of the lake (Matt. dwelling at Capernaum which was his well-

No longer room for them-They 2, had to avoid the larger towns for some time crowded the central courtyard of the house (Mark 1: 45), but when it had quieted down and doorway leading to the street. The words of Jesus drew them more than his miracles. He preached the word-i. e. the gospel-(Luke 1: 2). The same glad tidings as he It was noised—lit. "heard," rumored, reported. In the house—R. V. marg. "at the mercy and love of God, and illustrated it home." This was probably Peter's house. by miracles of healing (Luke 5; 17). "An From Matt. 8: 20 it is evident that Jesus had Eastern house consists generally of a blank

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wall facing the street, with a natrow doorway in the centre, opening into a courtyard, to which there is no other access. Round three sides of this open square are attached chambers, sometimes wholly or partially enclosed, sometimes with only pillars supporting the bets, sometimes wholly or partially enclosed, sometimes with only pillars supporting the roof, between which curtains may be hung. The principal, or reception, room is on the side facing the entrance. At the farther end of it, against the wall, runs a raised dais, with a few cushions. Besides these, and perhaps a few scraps of carpet, there is rarely any furniture." (Canon Tristram.)

3. Sick of the palsy—Palsy is a contraction of paralysis. The part affected is deprived of all sensation, or power of motion. It may render the victim a helpless cripple as in this case. It takes, especially in Eastern lands, many extremely painful and fatal forms. Borne of four—He was carried by four friends on the thickly padded quilt, or mattress, on which he lay. "The poorer classes use nothing but a sort of mat, or rug, of goat skin, spread on the ground, on which they stretch themselves, covered only by their 'abieh,' or woollen cloak. The bed in this passage was one of these, probably of goat skin, with a loop for a handle at each of the four corners. We have often met travellers or pilgrims with their bed rolled up and slung across their shoulder." (Tristram). steads were, and are still, unknown in the

The press—The crowd around Jesus. Uncovered the roof—"The roof is reached by a flight of steps outside the house. From the roof broad eaves project inwards, six feet or more in depth, supported by light projecting rafters. These are covered with matting, or, in the better class of houses, with shingles, or wooden tiles, lightly tacked together. bearers of the sick man carried their burden np the outer steps on to the roof; and then standing on its edge, just over the chief room, they could easily remove the wooden tiling from the projecting rafters." (Tristram). Eastern rooms have low ceilings, and kindly hands below would help, so that, without any ropes to aid them, the man was gently lowered at the feet of Jesus. Broken it up-lit. "dug through," implying of course, some damage to the house, with dust and confusion. But these were trifling matters when a man's life was concerned. The faith that overcame such obstacles was worthy of, and received, the highest commendation.

5. Their PARDON PROCLAIMED. faith—The faith of all five. "And this faith, as in the case of all whom he healed, was not as yet the reception of any certain doctrines, but a deep sense of need, and of Christ as the one who could meet that the hart his misery (Trench). -"Our Lord saw the man's heart, his misery of soul, that he cared most for spiritual bless-

6. Certain of the scribes—Luke calls them pharisees and doctors of the law. They came not only from Galilee but also from Judaea and Jerusalem. (Luke 5: 17). "These scribes formed an exceedingly powerful organ-ization in the time of Jesus. They were called Sopherim, scribes or writers, because they had been the first who wrote out exact copies of the law for the synagogues. The name comprehended all those who made it their profession to study the law and teach their fellows its requirements. This study required a man's whole time, and the scribes had become a special learned class, which charged itself with the care of the law, as the priests and Levites took charge of the temple services. They were allotted the first seats in the synagogue, the upper places at table were reserved for them, and their dress marked their dignity. They fulfilled the Mosaic law by multiplying its precepts, and intensifying its minute ceremonial observances, and therefore were instinctively opposed to a Teacher whose aim was to enforce the moral ideas which lay beneath the Mosaic code." (Lindsay). Reasoning in their hearts—They did not utter their thoughts, but their faces would shew their feelings.

7. Blasphemies—"Why doth this man thus speak? he blasphemes!" They think contemptuously of Christ. The word for "this man" is often translated "this fellow." (Matt. 12: 24; 26: 61, 71; Luke 22: 59; 23: 2; John 9: 29; Acts 18: 13). "The sin of blasphemy is committed when what is unworthy of God is ascribed to him, when what is due to him is witholden, and when what exclusively belongs to God is applied to those who have no right to it." (Bengel). This was the first mutterings of the charge on which Jesus was crucified. God only—Perfectly true. God alone can forgive sins. Therefore we charge Romish priests with blasphemy when they presume to say "I absolve." absolution of the priest is after the manner of a judicial act, whereby sentence is pronounced by the priest as by a judge." (Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent). Job 14: 4; Ps. 130: 4; Isa. 43: 25; Rom. 8: 33. Only the One offended has the right to forgive the offence. But Jesus was God as well as man.

Perceived in his spirit-This was instantly. He read their thoughts like an open book. This ought to have shewn them that he was indeed "The Searcher of hearts." (Ps. 139: 1-10; John 2: 24, 25). "His knowledge was immediate and supernatural, as is most carefully and precisely here signified." (Alford). Why reason ye—Matthew says "Wherefore think ye evil?" "Why do you ing, and that he feared his sins, which [may turn in your minds towards the judgment have] brought his disease, would prevent the which decides me to be a blasphemer, instead

(Dwight).

9. Easier to say—So far as saying the words went, one was as easy as the other, but if Jesus can prove his power to heal, by raising up the man, he proves his right to tell him that his sins are forgiven. If he can exercise one divine prerogative, power to heal, it is a fair inference that he is possessed of another, power to pardon sin. "The argument was unanswerable, for not only did the prevalent belief connect sickness in every instance with actual sin, but also it was generally maintained, even by the rabbis, 'that no sick man is healed from his disease, until all his sins have been forgiven. It was therefore in full accordance with their own notions that he who by his own authority could heal diseases, could also by his own authority pronounce that sins were forgiven." (Farrar).

HEALING BESTOWED. 10. Son of man-(Dan. 7: 13). A name of the Messiah. Our Lord's favorite title of himself, but never, with three exceptions (Acts 7: 56; Rev. 1: 13; 14: 14), applied to him by any one else. points him out as our brother as well as Power on earth—The word the right to announce forgiveness, he can be-"The son of man, as God manifestpower, which in its fountain and essence belongs to God in heaven, and this not by delegation, but 'because He (being God) is the Son of man." (John 5: 27). By displaying this power on earth he proves that he had was "come from God."

Arise—This was a test of the man's gelists use three different words, which have (Trench.)

of considering and fairly estimating the evid- all been translated by the one English word ence which I give of the justice of my claims." bed. Matthew uses the common Greek word; Luke employs a more classical term; Mark tells us that it was merely a pallet or mat (krabbatos)—the commonest or poorest kind of bed, a rug which could be spread out in the evening, and rolled up and put aside during the day." (Lindsay).

12. Immediately—The cure was instantaneous and complete. There was no hesitancy on the man's part. When Christ told him to rise up, he believed that he would give him strength to do it, although he had not moved hand or foot perhaps for years. His obedience shewed his faith. 'Amazed-" They were at once filled with, a certain fear and awe as they saw the effect of Jesus' authoritative word; and, as they grasped in some measure the idea of such wonderfully beneficent power, they began to praise and glorify God. They did not recognize Jesus as all that he really was; but they saw in him a representative man on whom God had bestowed a most wonderful gift, and in and through whose possession of the power this gift was, in a sense, bestowed upon men. The power was conceived of by the people and spoken of by Jesus as a delegated power. Jesus came to earth in his Messianic office with this authority to forgive sins and to heal phys-"power" is emphatic. He has more than ical maladies. But, as Son of God, he possesses the power in and of himself." (Dwight.) "We need not suppose that they very accued in man's flesh, has on man's earth that rately explained to themselves, or could have explained to others, their feeling of holy exultation; but they felt truly that what was given to one man, to the Man Christ Jesus, was given for the sake of all, and given ultimately to all, that therefore it was indeed 'given unto men. brought it with him from heaven, and that he They dimly understood that he possessed these powers as the true Head and Representative of the race, and therefore that these gifts to faith as well as a proof of Christ's power to Him were a rightful subject of gladness and heal and forgive, Bed—"The three Evan-thanksgiving for every member of that race."

SUMMARY AND REVIEW.

By Mr. Robt. Davidson, St. Enoch's S. S., Toronto, Ont.

ONE SICK OF THE PALSY, that is all, but how much does that include. Helpless, the once strong man weaker than a child. A burden, dependent on others for the supply of every want. Dead to the activities, gains, pleasures, enjoyments of life, a living death. So with the sinner: alienated from God and all that is good, dead to the highest, noblest, purest impulses, subject to selfishness, pride, base and ignoble purposes, under condemnation, with

o hope in himself.

HUMAN FRIENDS, sympathetic and tender. Have heard of the wonderful healer; inspire hope in the hopeless one; given assistance to the helpless one; unselfishly giving their time, strength and faith to him whose needs are great; overcoming difficulties; persevering amidst discouragements, pressing on to the attainment of their worthy object, but limited in their Having pointed the needy one to the Almighty Saviour, and carried him on the arms faith to His feet, they lovingly leave him there, assured they have made no mistake; that, Ithough they can do no more, He in whose presence they have laid him is able and willing. Go thou and do likewise; take your loved ones to Jesus, He knows.

THE DIVINE FRIEND, and such a friend. Although surrounded by a multitude, and agaged in preaching the word of truth, of reconciliation, of salvation, of eternal life, to so many interested and attentive hearers, still He is not too busy or preoccupied to note the silent, appeal, the sick and helpless supplient, to rejoice in the strong faith, and loving help of the human friends, and immediately, Godlike, give more than is asked, and the best blessing first. Son, already adopted, like the father running to meet the prodigal, receive healing for your sin-sick soul, then you will not be so anxious about the body, but even that is granted, to fit for more active service. Then, in answer to false reasoning, manifesting Divine power, proving His oneness with God—that He was what He professed to be, the Son of God. Silencing captious opposition, awakening faith in many, and leading them to glorify God. Jesus is the same today as then, He still sees and knows. He says to us: Arise, walk in the light, in the truth, in the way of life eternal, in loving, faithful service, hand in hand with Him to the glory of God our Father.

SUPPLIANT AND SAVIOUR

begets

FAITH obtains
UNBELIEF

TRUTH IS

DESIRE EFFORT PERSEVERANCE BLESSING

MISUNDERSTANDS MISINTERPRETS CONDEMNS

CONFIDENT ASSURING OMNIPOTENT

Ten Minutes Normal Drill

Based on the text-book, "The Sabbath School Teacher's Handbook; or, the Principles and Practice of Teaching, with special reference to the Sabbath School," and prepared by Principal Kirkland of the Toronto Normal School.

THE ART OF TEACHING. - Continued.

There are two Methods of Teaching a Lesson, viz.: (1) The Analytical, (2) The Synthetical.

Def. of Analysis. "Analysis is the mode of resolving a compound idea into its simple points, in order to consider them more distinctly, and arrive at a more precise knowledge of the whole." We teach analytically when we divide the lesson into its several parts, and present them to the pupils successively and point out the relations by which they are united.

Def. of Synthesis. Synthesis is the opposite of analysis, starting with the parts it build them up into a whole.

In teaching a lesson both methods should, as a general rule, be applied. The following an important law of teaching.

Employ Analysis in gaining knowledge and Synthesis in remembering and applying it.

Teach "Faith in Jesus Christ;" employing both methods in the same lesson. That combine the two methods given in the chapter into one lesson.