

# SUNDAY SCHOOLS LESSON

LESSON VII.—FEBRUARY 12.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**—The same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.—John 5:36.

I. Jesus Continues His Journey to Galilee.—Vs. 43-46.

The Messiah.—The Witness of His Past Miracles of Mercy.

The Nobleman.—A Foundation for Faith.

The narrative now returns to v. 3, where Jesus set out on his journey from Judea for Galilee. The journey had been interrupted by his work at Sychar, in Samaria, where he spent "two days" (v. 43) at the urgent request of the people. Continuing his journey he "went into Galilee," and entered upon his great Galilean ministry, which lasted the larger part of two years.

Why Jesus Went to Galilee for His Long Work.—The first reason is given in vs. 1-3; the opposition of the Jewish leaders in Judea. They were less open to the gospel truth than the Galileans.

The next reason is given in v. 44. "A prophet hath no honor in his own country." This is a strange reason for going to Galilee if that country is meant as his own country, and several explanations are given. Prof. Gould thinks that "it may mean that he came there fresh from the scene of his miracles in Jerusalem, to receive the honor which had before been denied him, but which the miracles alone would bring him." (v. 45). He thus first gained honor outside of his own country, because he would naturally not be received as a great prophet by the people who had known him all their lives. But now, having gained recognition away from home, he will have access to the hearts of his countrymen.

45. "Then \* \* \* the Galileans received him." Here he was welcomed. Why? Because they had "seen all the things that he did at Jerusalem," the report of which was brought home by those Galileans who "went unto the feast." Referring to John 2: 14-17, 23; 3: 2.

The Foundation of Faith. Faith as distinguished from credulity, has a sure foundation on which to build. The Christian has a good reason for what he believes. It may be the character of the one in whom he believes, or the things he has done. We trust a doctor because we know his skill from what he has done for others. We trust the judgment of a business man because we have seen in many cases how good his judgment is. These Galileans were right in making the teachings and the works of Jesus a reason for their faith in him when he came among them.

46. "Come again into Cana," etc. The miracle there would make it more easy to believe the reports from Jerusalem. Jesus would be welcomed there, not only on account of the favor he had done before, but also because it was the home of his disciple, Nathanael.

II. The Sick Young Man at Capernaum.—V. 46.

The Messiah.—The need of his help.

The Nobleman.—A call for faith.

"A certain nobleman." A person of royal blood, or rank, or office.—Lampe. "Whose son was sick," and very low, at the point of death with a fever (v. 52). "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.—Geike.

III. A Capernaum Nobleman Seeks Help from Jesus at Cana.—Vs. 47-49.

The Messiah.—An opportunity to bear witness by another miracle of love.

The Nobleman.—The faith that does all it can.

47. "When he heard that Jesus was come." Knowing what Jesus had done, he had faith enough in his extremity to believe that Jesus had both the power and goodness to help him. The faith was so strong that "he went unto him," from Capernaum to Cana. Jesus must help or there was no hope. "Besought him that he would come down." Thinking that Jesus must go and see the boy in order to cure him. "At the point of death." Showing the difficulty of the cure, and the urgency of haste.

48. "Then said Jesus unto him." Jesus neither refused nor granted the request at once, but he uttered a truth which tended to awake in him a fuller and more spiritual faith. "Except ye see signs." Miracles from the point of view of symbols or object lessons revealing deep spiritual truths; "marks of the doer's power, grace and divine character;" "and wonders," miracles in the aspect of marvels arresting attention and calling attention to the power of the doer.

Here Jesus would lead this nobleman to look beyond the miracle he was beseeching Jesus to work, and find a spiritual experience of salvation from sin, and love and trust toward God.

49. "Sir, come down ere my child die." The nobleman practically said, "I do believe, I am not looking for wonders, but my child is dying, let us save him first." In this very petition he was climbing to a higher faith.

IV. The Young Man Restored to Health.—Vs. 50-54.

The Nobleman.—Faith triumphant,—restored health; stronger faith.

50. "Go thy way; thy son liveth." Here is the reward of his faith, and the means to larger faith, as we soon see. "And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken." Here was a step higher in his faith. He not only believed in general in the power of Jesus to heal, but he believed for himself and acted upon his belief. He believed the word of Jesus. He had come nearer the true faith, which is a personal trust in the Lord Jesus. "And he went his way." He left Jesus.

52. "At the seventh hour." Either one o'clock, p. m., according to the Jewish reckoning, or seven o'clock, according to one Roman reckoning.

53. "Himself believed, and his whole house." Household, family. He believed what? Believed on Jesus as his Savior. Before he had believed about him, now he believed on him. They all became disciples. This new increase of his faith was the result of this miracle. It confirmed and enlarged his faith, so that he received the teaching and love of Christ deep in his heart.

54. "Second miracle." Sign. Not the second miracle Jesus had wrought (v. 45), but the second in Galilee.

Light on Present Day Problems.

Sickness and trouble often lead us to Christ. Like Jacob, from a pillow of stone, in the night of sorrow, many have seen visions of their heavenly Father, and his son Jesus, the Savior.

The love and devotion of the family centers in that one who is sick, or feeble, or in trouble. So we know that God loves and cares for us in our weakness and lost condition; and our very needs, instead of discouraging us from going to God, should be an argument for believing he will help us.

A Study of Miracles. In connection with Lessons VII. and VIII.

What Miracles Are Not. Nearly all the difficulties and objections with regard to miracles arise from a false view of their nature. They do not involve the breaking, or suspension, or change of any law of nature. Prof. Lyndall in his famous lecture on prayer speaks as if a miraculous answer to prayer, as for rain, would require the reversal of the laws of nature, and says that for God to answer a prayer for rain would require as great a change in the laws of nature as it would to roll the St. Lawrence back up over the falls of Niagara, which reversal we have no reason to believe ever took place.

Nor are miracles merely a prodigy, a marvelous act of power. Matthew Arnold used as an illustration of a miracle, the change of his pen into a pen-wiper, and Huxley asks if any testimony would suffice to make it credible that a centaur had been seen trotting down Regent Street in London. Such mere wonders bear almost no resemblance to the miracles which Christ wrought. And it is no wonder that with such views they hesitated to believe in miracles.

What Is a Miracle? It may be defined in the words of Prof. Dods, and an American theologian quoted by him, as the direct action of the divine will which causes "an event compelling attention and awakening wonder, indicating superhuman power, accomplishing some practical work and furnishing a sign of a divine message."

It is simply God's doing with his infinite power, the same quality of action, though vastly greater in degree, that we do every hour when we exert our personal will amid the forces of nature. I lift up a book, I turn on the water from the water-works and make a shower on my parched lawn or garden. I stop a part of the machinery in the factory and rescue a child caught in its wheels. These acts break no law of nature, they suspend none, they change none. They are simply the intervention of my personal will into the laws. "A brief study of Christ's miracles shows that natural means, laws and powers go just as far as possible for them, and then the supernatural comes in and does what they cannot do. It is probable that evolution proceeds in the same way, thus explaining the ordinary slow process and the sudden jumps and sports which occur."—C. Waring, in *Bibliotheca Sacra*, 1903.

Spiritual Miracles. The work of God in Christ in bestowing spiritual life, in renewing the soul through the Holy Spirit, in guiding his people in divinely, and as the representatives of the kingdom of God, partakes of the nature of a miracle, for it is the personal will of God working upon men through the laws of their spiritual nature.

Christ Himself in his nature is the supreme miracle. "The achievement of Christ in founding by his single will and power a structure so durable and so universal (as Christianity and all it has done for the world) is like no other achievement which history records."—Prof. Seeley, in *Ecce Homo*. Only a divine man could have done it, and to such a being miracles are the natural outcome.

The value of Miracles to Christian Experience.

They give us a more exalted view of Christ as our Savior.

They help us to realize that God is our Father, with both the power and will to help, a character full of loving kindness and tender mercies. "They are a prominent and legible part of the revelation of the Father made by Christ."

They show us our heavenly Father as a living power in history and providence.

They teach us about the answers to prayer.

They strengthen our faith in the life-giving, regenerating power of the Holy Spirit.

Men who are carrying to-morrow's burdens are not counting to-day's blessings.

NO SLEEP FOR MOTHER

Baby Covered With Sores and Scales—Could Not Tell What She Looked Like—Marvelous Cure by Cuticura.

"At four months old my baby's face and body were so covered with sores and large scales you could not tell what she looked like. No child ever had a worse case. Her face was being eaten away, and even her finger nails fell off. It itched so she could not sleep, and for many weary nights we could get no rest. At last we got Cuticura Soap and Ointment. The sores began to heal at once, and she could sleep at night, and in one month she had not one sore on her face or body.—Mrs. Mary Sanders, 709 Spring St., Camden, N. J."

On Pay Day.

A man has plenty of friends when he doesn't need them.—New York Press.

A Well Deserved Tribute.

The awarding of the Grand Prize to the Winchester Repeating Arms Co., New Haven, Conn., at the St. Louis Exposition, confers upon this company the highest mark of distinction attained by any manufacturer of guns or ammunition in the world. Although a great number of medals were given to this class of manufacturers, the only award of a Grand Prize was to the Winchester Repeating Arms Co.; and given as it was in competition with the leading manufacturers of all countries, it testifies in a most decided way to the superiority of Winchester rifles, shotguns and ammunition over all other makes. The success attained by the Winchester Repeating Arms Co. at this exposition is simply in line with the honors received in the past. At the Paris Exposition, Winchester arms and ammunition received the Grand Prix; and wherever they have been exhibited they have always been given the highest possible prizes. This latest recognition of superiority is the natural result of thirty years of careful and successful endeavor in maintaining the high quality of Winchester rifles, shotguns and ammunition.

Resentment is the safeguard of justice and the security of innocence.—Adam Smith.

\$100 Reward, \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by all Druggists, 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

That which is stolen by the tongue cannot be restored by taffy.

In Winter Use Allen's Foot-Ease.

A powder. Your feet feel uncomfortable, nervous and often cold and damp. If you have sweating, sore feet or tight shoes, try Allen's Foot-Ease. Sold by all druggists and shoe stores, 25 cents. Sample sent free. Address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

The string that is not stretched gives forth no strains.

A GUARANTEED CURE FOR PILES. Itching, Blunt, Bleeding or Protruding Piles. Your druggist will refund money if PAZO OINTMENT fails to cure you in 6 to 14 days. 50c.

Picking flaws in the church will not patch your own conscience.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

By taking revenge, a man is but even with his enemy, but passing it over, he is superior.—Bacon.

Every housekeeper should know that if they will buy Defiance Cold Water Starch for laundry use they will save not only time, because it never sticks to the iron, but because each package contains 16 oz.—one full pound—while all other Cold Water Starches are put up in ¼-pound packages, and the price is the same, 10 cents. Then again because Defiance Starch is free from all injurious chemicals. If your grocer tries to sell you a 12-oz. package it is because he has a stock on hand which he wishes to dispose of before he puts in Defiance. He knows that Defiance Starch has printed on every package in large letters and figures "16 ozs." Demand Defiance and save much time and money and the annoyance of the iron sticking. Defiance never sticks.