Sunday School Lesson

LESSON V.
MINISTERING TO SPIRITUAL NEEDS—Mark 2:1-12

Golden Text.—Son, thy sins are forgiven. Mark 2:5.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time.—The early summer, A.D. 28.

Place—Capernaum, at the northern end of the Sea of Galilee.

With this chapter begins the period of conflict in the life our Lord. Instead of the superficial enthusiasm of the people, he has to encounter the growing opposition of their leaders. At first, this is aroused by his extraordinary claims, then by his revolutionary act in calling Levi, the tax-cllector, to become his personal disciple (2:13-17), and finally, by his revolutionary teachings in regard to fasting and Sabbath-observance (2: 18-28). Mark produces this impression as plainly by his selection of events as if he had given this section the title "Period of Conflict."

Proclaiming God's Word"

1. And when he entered again into Capernaum after some days. Luke tells us at the close of his account of the healing of the leper that Jesus "withdrew himself in the deserts and prayed" (5:16) and from this we gather that Jesus had been away for some days in complete solitude. It was noised that he was in the house. It was always noised, reported, published that Jesus Christ was in the house. Everybody seemed to know it as if by intuition or instinct.

2. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, no, not even about the door: and he spake the word unto them. The phrase "the word" intentionally raises the word of Christ above the words of all others; it is the pre-eminent word because of its eternal truthfulness, because of its power, because it comes from God.

Forgiveness of Sins

3. And they come, bringing unto him a man sick of the palsy, borne of four. The word here translated "palsy" designates a nervous offection sometimes known as paralysis. It "commonly denotes loss of motive power in a muscle or set of muscles, and is equivalent to motor paralysis."

This palsied person was not borne in the arms of his four friends, but, as the next verse indicates, was carried by them on a bed, whereon he lay prostrate.

4. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the crowd, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed whereon the sick of the palsy lay. Concerning this incident Dr. William M. Thomson, for forty-five years a missionary in Syria and Palestine, has written a very illuminating interpretation. The houses in Capernaum "were, I suppose, like those in modern villages, low with flat roofs easily reached by a stairway from the yard or court. Jesus probably stood in the open court, which is the reception-room between two others; . . . Examine one of these houses and you will see that the thing is natural and easy to be accomplished. The roof is only a few feet above the floor, and by stooping down and holding the corners of the couch, merely a thickly padded quilt, the sick man could have been let down without any ropes or cords. And this I suppose was done."

5. And Jesus seeing their faith. The pronoun "their" does not refer only to these four men, as many claim but to all five, the paralytic and those who were carrying him. "Surely, his friends did not bring him against his will, and surely, he must have consented to be lowered through the roof. Where in all the Scriptures is remission of sins ever obtained without faith?" And yet the faith of these four men is directly referred to, and, had they not had faith in the Lord Jesus, the paralytic would probably never have been brought into the presence of the Saviour.

Saith unto the sick of the palsy, Son. Literally, this word should be translated "my child," and was "an affectionate address doubtless intended to encourage the man and strengthen his hope." Thy sins are forgiven. "Here lies the man. His muscular action has lost its motion. He lies here helpless as a log. The Master looks at him, through him, and, behold, another kindofparalytic is revealed. The man cannot command the activities of his own soul. His body is imprisoned in the palsied spirit" "In the entire Bible no sweeter word meets the sinner's eye than the word 'forgiveness' or 'remission.'

Sin is a word involving our relationship to God, a word indicating that things are wrong, that we have transgressed the law of God, and that that transgression must be punished by God. No man can wash away his own sin, nor present anything to God that will atone for that sin.

Jesus Had Critics

6. But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts. "These scribes formed an exceedingly powerful organization in the time of Jesus. 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. Their political importance was great, for it was their instructions which enveloped the whole Jewish life from the cradle to the grave in the 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."

7. Why doth this man thus speak? he blasphemeth: who can forgive sins but one, even God? "This is the unspoken charge in their hearts, which Jesus read like an open book. The word 'blasphemeth' means injurious speech or slander. It was, they held, blasphemy for Jesus to assume this divine prerogative. Their logic was correct. The only flaw in it was the possibility that Jesus held a peculiar relationship to God which justified his claim.

Why He Was Healed

8. And straightway Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, saith unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? 9. Which is easier, to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins are forgiven; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? Jesus did not ignore the question. He was not afraid of the question. Forgiveness of sin is something that takes place at the throne of God, and secondly, in the heart of a man; and forgiveness can never be touched or seen or heard. That this man had truly been forgiven, and Jesus' words declaring such forgiveness expressed an actual condition of forgiveness, we as believers never doubt; but these scribes did doubt it, and Jesus is now going to prove to them that he can do something that they can see with their own eyes and judge with their own natural powers of examination, something beyond all human possibility, which will prove that he has power over a human body such as no mere man has, and which ought to shock them into at least seriously considering whether he also then did not have power over the heart and spirit of a man. Nevertheless, we should remember that Christ healed the man in answer, not to the unbelief of the scribes, but to the belief of the man and his bearers.

10. But that ye may know that the Son of man hath authority on earth to forgive sins (he saith to the sick of the palsy), 11. I say unto thee, Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thy house. "We here meet for the first time in Mark's Gospel the title which Jesus gave himself: 'the Son of Man.' That the human nature of Christ is thus expressed is beyond question. But 'the Son of Man' lifts this one man out from among all men as one who bears this human nature in a way in which no other man bears it. Here is a case in which Jesus did not touch the sick man, but uttered only the word as the expression of his mighty will. As in all the miracles, the proceeding is astounding and overwhelming—three short, sharp commands and a terrible disease like paralysis is literally blown away, and the man's body made sound and whole."

12. And he arose, and straightway took up the bed, and went forth before them all. Jesus asked this man to do, thus far, things that would absolutely testify to the fact that his disease had been removed, that his paralysis had gone. Men when converted should show unmistakable signs to those with whom they work, that there has been a real change in their lives. Their talk should be different, the places where they go, their thoughts should be different; their social life should be different; the sins that formerly marked their daily conduct are put away, and every one recognizes at once the change that has come. Insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion. "How can we stir the outside world to wonder and praise? We must first of all arouse their attention. Men's minds must be compelled to turn their eyes and look and think, and how is it to be done? They must be made to see something very extraordinary in the commonplace. Out of the church of Christ must go forth vigorous, healthy men and women who went in paralyzed.

Insurgent Deserters

GIBRALTAR. — Increasing desertions and uneasiness in insurgent Government's capture of strategic Teruel, were reported this week by impartial foreign sources.

The insurgents have installed an armed cavalry patrol in the no-man's land separating British Gibraltar from insurgent-held La Linea in an effort to check the desertions from General Franco's army.

Windows and doors which close automatically as soon as it begins to snow or rain have recently been exhibited in a Continental exhibition.

Automatically Refrigerated Automobiles

Engineer Forecasts Summer Driving Soon to Be Comfortable

The automatically refrigerated automobile to make summer driving comfortable will not be long in making its appearance, L. W. Child, air conditioning engineer, said last week in a paper prepared for delivery at the annual meeting of the Society of Automotive Engineers.

Form Is Unknown

He suggested the use of a non-toxic gas and an engine-driven compressor, which like the system in the average household mechanical refrigerator, to give the motorist a cool ride in 100 degrees of temperature at midday.

"Just what form this system will take," he said, "depends upon future development work. However, it is certain that in the near future some form of safe, economical, automotive refrigerating system will appear, and when it does we can go merrily on our way, laughing at the weatherman and our notoriously variable climate."

Cooling Difficulties

Air conditioning the average automobile is not a simple problem, Child explained.

Air leaks in car bodies are a major problem, he said, and the older the car the worse the leaks. The sieve-like qualities of car bodies vary too with speed, wind velocity and direction, Child continued. The trick in air conditioning is to make air leak out instead of in, he said.

In both summer and winter, Child said, the engineer must take account of the amount of vapor given off by automobile passengers. He said a normal adult exudes 75-1000 of a pound of water an hour. Other points he mentioned are the regulation of the cubic flow of air through the car and maintenance of enough humidity for comfort.

Passengers Give Off Vapor

"A human," said Child, "is something like an electric percolator, in that he gives off heat by convection, because he is hotter than his surroundings, and he gives off heat by c porating water because he evolves steam at a higher pressure than the surrounding water pressure."

Winter air conditioning Child found to be relatively simple because the primary requisite was heat, controlled by the quantity of hot water passing through the heating system's coils.

Honored by Her King

Gracie Fields, talented British actress, was made a Commander of the British Empire, a noted British Order, on the New Year's Honor List. Miss Fields is shown in her London home as congratulations poured in.

The FARMER'S CORNER

Conducted by PROFESSOR HENRY G. BELL

With the co-operation of the Various Departments of the Ontario Agricultural College

1.—Q.—"Would you please advise us the value per ton of farm manure, well rotted, all cut straw used for bedding on dairy farm, as compared with commercial fertilizers?"—G.R., Grey Co.

A.—I hasten to say that a ton of farm manure from dairy farms where the liquid manure is retained will carry approximately 10 lbs. Nitrogen, 5 lbs. Phosphoric acid, and 10 lbs. of Potash. A conservative estimate of the value is $2.00 per ton. A ton of 2-12-10 fertilizer will carry 2% Nitrogen, 12% Phosphoric acid, and 10% Potash, or 40 lbs. Nitrogen, 240 lbs. Phosphoric acid and 200 lbs. Potash. This will cost approximately $34.00, or for $2.00 you would be able to make an application of 117.6 lbs. per acre or $2.00 worth contains 2.3 lbs. Nitrogen, 14 lbs. Phosphoric acid, and 11.7 lbs. Potash. The manure contains a considerable amount of very valuable organic matter which fertilizer does not contain. On the other hand, you get nearly three times as much Phosphorus and considerably more Potash in the fertilizer for $2.00.

2.—Q.—"We have recently been discussing the advisability of mixing our own fertilizer for treating asparagus beds and have wondered what to use as a filler. What would you suggest? Is it advisable to mix your own fertilizer for say a 5-7-10 ratio, using Nitrate of Soda, Superphosphate and Muriate of Potash? I understand that mixing this ourselves is more economical and just as effective as purchasing the same thing from a manufacturer already mixed."—P.F., Halton Co.

A.—It is true that you can either make or have made a fertilizer of the analysis 5-8-10. This would call for the following mixture:

Nitrate of Soda	667 lbs.
Superphosphate (16%)	875 lbs.
Muriate of Potash	400 lbs.
Total	1942 lbs.

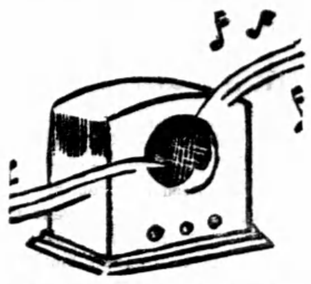
This would leave room for 58 lbs. filler to the ton. You can either use fine sand or fairly finely ground limestone. If you use the latter, it would be well to put in 900 lbs. of Superphosphate to overcome any reversion of the soluble phosphate that may occur from coming into direct contact with the lime.

As to the advisability of mixing your own fertilizer,—this will of course depend upon your knowledge of figuring out the mixture that you wish to make and upon your equipment for mixing the materials. If you have a small cement mixer and if the materials that you are combining are given time to be thoroughly mixed in this machine, chances are you will get a fairly good uniform distribution of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium throughout the mixture. If your mixing is done with a shovel on an average floor, I doubt very much the thoroughness with which the plantfood carriers are distributed uniformly throughout the pile. I do not know of any firm offering 5-8-10, hence you can have it made by written application to any firm, in accord with the Fertilizer Law, as shown in section 9(a) on page 5 of that pamphlet.

My impression would be that unless you have considerable cheap labour available, you would do well to buy this mixture under specifications from some standard fertilizer company and have them mix it up for you.

Princess and Husband Lured by Hollywood

Princess Baba, daughter of the Rajah of Sarawak, and her husband, Bob Gregory, are headed for Hollywood, Cal., and a possible film career. Gregory is an English wrestler.



Around The Dial

RADIO HEADLINERS OF THE WEEK

By FRANK DENNIS

Hello everybody, have you listened to Toronto's Treasure Hunt program yet? If you haven't, you're the only one, for judging from the number of telephone calls which pour into the studio every night the program is on, every radio owner in the city seems to be following the Treasure Hunt car. During the first two broadcasts, there were from ten thousand to fifteen thousand telephone calls. This game, which has caught the interest of so many listeners, is really very easy to play. The announcer takes the audience on an automobile tour of Toronto and mentions certain corners, streets, buildings, traffic lights and other landmarks which serve as clues as to the direction the car is travelling. When the destination is reached, a whistle blows, and then the first person to phone in the correct location receives a handsome prize from the sponsors. And by the way, folks, they don't announce the phone number over the air. There is a special number, which you can obtain quite easily by visiting the sponsor's store. And then, you're all set to win a prize. The program is broadcast every night except Saturdays and Sundays, from 7 to 7.15 p.m., over station CKCL.

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Applause Meters Decide

From puzzles to swingsters! Future Tommy Dorseys and Benny Goodmans will have a chance to show their wares in a series of contests to be broadcast on Tommy Dorsey's program over the NBC-Blue Network, beginning Friday, January 21st, at 9.30 p.m. E.S.T. Applause meters will be used to judge the studio audience's choices, and cash prizes will be awarded to the winners. Contestants will be allowed to choose their own instruments — trumpets, trombones, saxophones, tin whistles or any other swing band instrument, and those who go on the air will play choruses with Dorsey's orchestra. The resulting melodies should be worth listening to! If you would like to try your luck, write to Tommy Dorsey, care of the Amateur Swing Contest, NBC, Radio City, New York.

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Right on top of all this discussion of the values of swing as compared to the good old fashioned waltz, we find that, after all, none of these Masters of Music really know what will gain the public favor from one month to another. At least that is what Paul Whiteman must mean when he says: "Any musician able to predict what kind of music will be popular next year ought to give up music and go in for races and the stock market."

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Day-to-Day Happenings

Carlton E. Morse, author of One Man's Family on NBC, is another one that can't predict the future. He claims he doesn't know very far in advance what will happen to his characters. Although Morse writes the serial two or three weeks ahead, he keeps the script open to revision so that he may bring in up-to-date comments on important happenings of the day that any family would be likely to discuss.

* * *

Charlie McCarthy must be quite a help to Edgar Bergen in more ways than one. Edgar, who is naturally shy, says his shyness doubles when he is talking to a member of the fairer sex. But with Charlie on his knee, should he stumble over a word, he throws his voice to Charlie, who first reprimands Edgar, then carries on an impish conversation with the young lady in the well-known McCarthy manner.

"Your Melody Singer"

A program that has caused much favorable comment is the Sunday afternoon quarter-hour over CBL featuring a young tenor known as "Your Melody Singer." His singing of sacred songs and familiar melodies of the more restful type has occasioned many requests for an extension of the allotted period, and now his sponsors have doubled the time of the program. It now runs from 4.15 to 4.45 and in addition to the Melody Singer the program will include Olga Berezowska, brilliant young soprano, and an instrumental ensemble of real quality. The extended program will be heard over CBL and also through CBM, in Montreal. These programs are sponsored by Thomas J. Lipton Limited.

Campus Slanguage Becoming Fixture

Planting the Hardware Might Get An Unwary Victim Conked In Parlance of Western University Students and Co-eds.

Something like the automobile, slang is here to stay, according to Prof. J. A. Spenceley, Professor of English at the University of Western Ontario. Regardless of the rantings of purists, slang has a place on the campus, the professor said. Here are some conversational excerpts from local Collegians:

Jam session—A noisy argument open to all comers.

To jell—To make an engagement for coffee and cigarettes.

Turning it on—A professor warming up on his subject.

Spreading it—A rambling conversation.

Hardware — Sorority or fraternity pin or ring.

Plant the hardware—Exchange of fraternity or sorority pins.

Conked—Engaged to be married.

Cooing—Endeavoring to make peace with a professor.

Wrestle—An informal dance.

A boiled shirt—A severe professor.

Earliest mechanical time measure was a water clock, containing water which was allowed to escape through a small hole; marks on the side indicating the lapse of time.

The Stars And You

By A. R. WEIR

WHAT THE STARS FORETELL FOR THOSE BORN ON JANUARY 28, 29, 30, 31 and FEBRUARY 1, 2 and 3

★★★

Those whose birth dates are listed above were born when the Sun was in the Sign Aquarius. Aquarius people are usually very determined, have fixed ideas, motives, aims, likes and dislikes and are usually hard to swerve from any given course. Their tempers are always in control but are very forceful, being controlled by a strong will. Yet, these people make good friends, kind and considerate and, because of their sane reasoning ability, seldom hurt or harm others.

YOUR OWN BIRTHDATE:

JANUARY 28: This should be rather a changeable year for you—you will gain by a contract, agreement or legacy but will have difficulty with elderly people. Much happiness, however, is denoted when dealing with the opposite sex.

JANUARY 29: A great improvement should occur in your business and financial affairs and there is indication of money coming to you through unusual ways. Your lucky years are 1938 and 1946. You are inclined to be egotistical.

JANUARY 30: This should be a brilliant year for you financially, relatives should benefit you and the year should be excellent for social affairs and for love. You are rather selfish at times.

JANUARY 31: If you are single there is every possibility you will marry this year as all signs indicate the way clear and bright for both love and social affairs. You will also have good health and several long journeys are indicated. You have a great desire for wealth and honors.

FEBRUARY 1: You will receive some important news from a long distance and journeys are shown—probably abroad. Saturday is the most fortunate day in the week for you. You are a hard and studious worker but at time covetous of the possessions of others.

FEBRUARY 2: Money should come to you in many small ways this year and your own shrewd business ability will come to your aid and prove of real advantage. Socially all indications are always good and some new work may come your way. You havee a sweet disposition.

FEBRUARY 3: A very important change should come to you this year—new work—journeys—excitement—adventure. Socially, affairs are a bit mixed, however, so be cautious. Young people are your best aids this year and will bring you diversion, amusement and relaxation. You are a very clear reasoner.

If you birth date is not listed above and you would like a horoscope for any birth date in the year, or if you would like a complete personal horoscope for any date listed above, send 10c to A. R. Weir, 73 Adelaide St. W., Toronto. Please print your name, address and birth date plainly.