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The Sabbath School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

First Quarter Lesson 4 Jan. 26 1902

THE LAME MAN HEALED.—Acts 3: 1-10.

Study Verses 1-16. Read Acts 3.

GOLDEN TEXT.—The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation.—Ex 15: 2.

HISTORICAL SETTING.

Time.—Some afternoon in June, A. D. 30; or not very long thereafter.

Place.—Jerusalem, in the outer court of the temple, near the Beautiful Gate, which led from the outer court into the Court of the Women.

ONE OF THE PENTECOSTAL MIRACLES.—Now Peter and John. Two apostles most advanced in the knowledge of Jesus. Both had followed Jesus almost from the first.

Both were with him on the Mount of Transfiguration, and within the gates of Gethsemane. Widely different, they were closest of friends. Went up "were going up" as in R. V. They ascended the temple hill, and were going up from one terrace to another in the temple courts. They had come into the temple. That is, into the great Court of the Gentiles. So as to be there at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. Or about three o'clock in the afternoon, the hour of evening sacrifice. And a certain man lame. All we know of his history is (1) that he was born with the cause of his lameness; (2) that it was caused by a weakness of the feet and ankles; (3) that it was so bad that he could not walk; (4) that he was poor; (5) that he was over 40 years old (Acts 4: 22). Was carried. They were in the act of carrying him at the time Peter and John were going in. Whom they laid. Were accustomed to lay. At the gate of the temple. Not the sacred building, but the sacred enclosure, including the courts. Which is called Beautiful. No gate of this name is mentioned by other writers. It may have been the Shushan gate, from the outside on the east, into the Court of the Gentiles, through Solomon's porch; or it was a popular name given to the magnificent doors of Corinthian brass described by Josephus, leading from the Court of the Women, which was reserved for the ordinary religious offices of the Jewish people. The folds of this brazen gate were seventy-five feet high and sixty broad, and were covered with plates of gold and silver. To ask alms, a gift of charity. Of them that entered into the temple. The kindest and most sympathetic people in the world are praying people. Who seeing Peter and John. It would seem that he must have known something about them. About to go into the temple. From the noisy Court of the Gentiles into the inner courts with the worshippers. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him. Peter looked at the man with intense gaze, as if to see into his very soul. Look on us. Calling his attention to what they were about to do, and awakening faith and obedience. And he gave heed. He probably knew something of the generosity of the Christians described in the last chapter. Silver and gold have I none. The apostles had not enriched themselves by the generosity of the new converts. No one had given up more for Jesus than they; but they asked for the selves no more than the most obscure believer. But such as I have give I thee. The presence of the Holy Spirit, the power to heal in Jesus' name, the knowledge of salvation and eternal life, the power to show the way of peace and joy, and the loving-kindness of the heavenly Father. In the name. The name expressed the whole being,—his character, power, and heart. Of Jesus Christ As the efficient cause, as the real living giver. Christ healed in his own name, the apostles in Christ's name. Of Nazareth. This is added to make perfectly clear of whom he referred. This one, so despised by the Jews, proves himself to be the Messiah. Rise up and walk. This, at the first view, might have seemed an absurd command. But the man understood the words aright; and he took him by the right hand. To strengthen his faith, to encourage the man to make the needful effort, and to help him to use his feet in rising and standing. The man's faith was strengthened by the miracles the apostles had already wrought, and by the marvelous change in those who had become Christians. His feet and ankle bones received strength. The language denotes with medical precision the nature of the restoration; the tread gained muscular firmness; the ankle joints new strength and play. Practical Suggestions. 1. Only such as a person has can he give to others. We cannot kindly others

unless we ourselves are on fire. If one has courage, hope, love, goodness, he can infuse them into other souls. If he himself is full of doubts, hate, ill-temper, bad passions, it is these he will impart to those around him. Hence it is that the most important element in teaching and in preaching is the man behind them.

2. This opportunity came to the apostles by the wayside, while they were on the way to another duty. Some of our best privileges and most useful hours come to us in this way.

3. We are never shut out from the means of great usefulness because we have not much money. But the greater gifts cost the giver more than money, as it is harder to be than to do.

4. We learn from his incident something about the way God answers many of our prayers. When God appears to refuse the objects which we desire, he gives us others that are better.

5. The best gifts are not the exact things we want, but the power to obtain them; not mere money, but the power and opportunity to earn a living; not a definite amount of truth, but the means of searching for truth.

And he leaping up, stood, first to get his balance, and then walked. That is, into the sacred enclosure. At this hour, the time of the evening service of sacrifice, the courts of the temple would be full of worshippers. Walking and leaping. He never before put one foot before another, but now he walks and leaps. And praising God. His first thought was to return thanks to God for his great deliverance. He was cured in soul as well as in body. And all the people saw him. The miracle was public. And they knew, etc. They recognized him. There was no mistake that this man who was walking and leaping was the very man who had been born lame. Filled with wonder. The great design of the miracle seems to have been to arouse the attention of the multitude,—to convert them into inquirers.

PETER'S SERMON EXPLAINING AND APPLYING THE MIRACLE.—Vs. 11-26. Held Peter and John. (1) loving gratitude; (2) to show who had done such great things for him; (3) as a testimony that he accepted their Saviour and Master; (4) as a means of continued strength and grace. Ran together. After the regular service was over, the porch that is called Solomon's. A cloister extending along the eastern side, nearly six hundred feet. The porch was fifteen cubits (22 to 26 feet) wide, and its roof of cedar was supported by two rows of marble columns, twenty-five cubits (38 to 43 feet) high.

The text was the restored man standing by his side.

The Source of the Healing (a 12-15) Peter declares the power does not lie in the apostles. It would, indeed, be a marvel if by their own power or holiness they had made this man to walk. The power came from Jesus, the Prince of life, whom they had rejected and killed. But their God, the God of their fathers and of their nation, raised him up from the dead, proving that he was the Messiah of their hopes, and again presenting him to them for their acceptance.

The Means of Salvation was Faith (vs. 16, 17). Through faith in his name.... the faith which is by him. Salvation came to the lame man, and will come to you if you will believe and receive him. And there is hope, because through ignorance ye did it. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Repent and turn again (19-21) In view of this truth and because thus your sins may be blotted out.

Scripture Proof Follows (v. 22-25) The Scriptures you believe declare this same truth, and foretell these days. They themselves warn you that if you neglect to obey your Messiah, you must perish. But now the promises are being fulfilled before your eyes.

Closing Exhortation (v. 26). Believe and repent, for God and his Son Jesus earnestly desire to bless you, and save you from your iniquities.

All this has a personal and pressing application to us.

The Dog and the New Testament.

Dr. Moffat, the celebrated South African missionary, tells a humorous story of a shepherd lad who had been converted by reading the New Testament. He had been very wayward, but the teachings of Jesus had made him quite a new boy. One day he came to Dr. Moffat in much distress, telling him that their big watch-dog had got hold of the Book and had torn a page out of it. Dr. Moffat comforted him by saying it was no matter, for he could get another Testament.

But the boy was not at all comforted. Think of the dog, said Dr. Moffat, laughing, and said, If your dog can crunch an ox-bone, he is not going to be hurt by a bit of paper. Dr. Moffat supposed that the boy thought that the paper would hurt the dog's teeth, but that was not it.

Oo, Papa M. fat, he cried. I was once a bad boy. If I had an enemy I hated him, and everything in me wanted to kill him. Then I got the New Testament in my heart, and began to love everybody and forgive all my enemies, and now the dog, the great big hunting dog, has got the blessed Book in him, and will begin to love the lions and the tigers, and let them help themselves to the sheep and the oxen. What a beautiful tribute this African boy, out of the simplicity of his heart, paid to the power of the Bible!—At Home and Abroad.

The Sorrows of Genius.

Homer was a beggar; Plautus turned a mill; Terence was a slave; Boethius died in jail; Paul Borgheae had fourteen trades, and yet starved with them all; Tasso was often distressed for five shillings; Bentivoglio was refused admittance into a hospital he had himself erected; Cervantes died of hunger; Camoens the celebrated writer of the "Lusiad," ended his days, it is said, in an almshouse, and, at any rate, was supported by a faithful black servant, who begged in the streets of Lisbon; and Vangelas left his body to the surgeons, to pay his debt as far as the money would go. In England, Bacon lived a life of meanness and distress; Sir Walter Raleigh died on the scaffold; Spenser, the charming Spenser, died forsaken and in want; the death of Collins came through neglect, first causing mental derangement; Milton sold his copyright of "Paradise Lost" for seventy-five dollars, in three payments, and finished his life in obscurity; Dryden lived in poverty and in distress; Otway died prematurely, and through hunger; Lee died in the streets; Steele lived a life of perfect wafle with bailiffs; Goldsmith's "Vicar of Wakefield" was sold for a trifle, to save him from the grip of the law; Fliding lies in the burying-ground of the English factory, at Lisbon, without a stone to mark the spot; Savage died in prison at Bristol, where he was confined for a debt of forty dollars; Butler lived in penury, and died poor; Chatterton destroyed himself.—Conkey's Home Journal.

Don't Give Him Up

Don't give up a boy or turn against him because he is bad. If your parentage and surroundings had been the same as his perhaps you would have been bad, too. He may not be altogether bad. Give him another trial at least. Put yourself to the trouble to do a favor for him, and do it with an earnest, loving spirit. In many cases this will win him, and when once you have won him he is true until death. If your first effort to win him does not succeed, try again and again. You will get nearer to him each time, and as his associates come over to you he will be drawn nearer and nearer.—School Journal.

When a man's chief business is to serve and please the Lord, all his circumstances become his servants.—R. O. Chapman.

Lay not up against your neighbor the sin of yesterday. He may have repented of it to-day.

Good Health is Impossible Without regular action of the bowels. Laxa-Liver Pills regulate the bowels, cure constipation, dyspepsia, biliousness, sick headache, and all affections of the organs of digestion. Price 25 cents. All druggists.

Used internally Hagyard's Yellow Oil cures Sore Throat, Hoarseness, Quinsy, Pain in the Chest, Croup, etc. Used externally cures Rheumatism, Stiff Joints, Contracted Cordis, Sprains, Swains, Burns, Scalds, Cuts and Bites of Insects.

Out of Sorts.—Symptoms, Headache, loss of appetite, furred tongue, and general indisposition. These symptoms, if neglected, develop into acute diseases. It is a trite saying that an "ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and a little attention at this point may save months of sickness and large doctor's bills. For this complaint take from two to three of Paroelce's Vegetable Pills on going to bed, and one or two for three nights in succession, and a cure will be effected.

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"I have used Ripans Tablets for a number of years and would not be without them. I was troubled with indigestion and constipation, and have noticed since I used them that I am getting rid of these terrible ailments which caused me to look on account of the disease. Of late I have not had any. I had just got over a bad spell of bilious fever and constipation on the step, when a neighbor came to me and mentioned how well I looked. I told him I had just got over the fever and that I was afraid to get anything on account of indigestion, from which I had suffered since I was quite young. He advised me to take Ripans Tablets. I said I would try them, and from that time I haven't been without them. I can not say anything but that I feel as if I had a new lease of life. I feel very thankful that I have found something that will prolong my life."

GASTRIC TROUBLES.

"I had suffered three years at least from gastric troubles. I could not sleep at night. My head ached and my feet would be cold as ice. My bowels were not regular and I would have such cramps from gas forming on my stomach that I would faint away. I was in such distress that I would have sooner died than live. About three months ago I was suffering and fell on my body was tied up inwardly. My brother recommended Ripans Tablets to me. My husband obtained some for me from the nearest drug store and I would not now be without them. They relieved me of all the foul gases that formed in my stomach and they move my bowels regularly for which I had been taking physics all the time. I have no more gas, my bowels move regularly. I have no more headaches and can sleep well. In fact, I feel as light as the air when I breathe, and that is saying a good deal for a woman who weighs 100 pounds. I am sorry that I did not commence using the Tablets a year ago, for they would have saved me a great deal of pain and suffering."

One gives relief

Ripans Tablets, now and then. They benefit the weakest man. And if dyspepsia is their work, continued, R.I.P.A.N.S. make it go.

The Five-Cent package is enough for an ordinary case. The Family Bottle (60-cents) comes as a supply for a year.