

* The Sunday School *

BIBLE LESSON

Abridged from Peloubet's Notes.

Second Quarter.

THE CENTURION'S SERVANT HEALED.

Lesson IV. April 22, Luke 7:1-10.

Read Matthew 9:27-34; Mark 2:23-3:19; John 5.

Commit Verses 9, 10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.—Psa. 103:13.

EXPLANATORY.

I. MIRACLES FOLLOWING THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.—V. 1. WHEN HE HAD ENDED ALL HIS SAYINGS. Those of the Sermon on the Mount. Both in Luke and in Matthew a series of miracles follows close upon the promulgation of the laws and principles of the kingdom of God.

II. THE CENTURION OF CAPERNAUM.—Vs. 1, 2. HE ENTERED INTO CAPERNAUM. By the Sea of Galilee, where he seems to have made his home during his Galilean ministry, and the centre of his work in that whole region.

2. AND A CERTAIN CENTURION'S SERVANT. The centurion was a Roman military officer. "All Palestine was under Roman military government; this centurion was probably connected with the garrison at Capernaum.

III. SICKNESS IN HIS HOME.—V. 2. CENTURION'S SERVANT, WHO WAS DEAR UNTO HIM. R. V. margin, "precious to him," or "honorable with him." "Servant," his personal servant as distinguished from the soldiers under him. "He was probably a confidential servant, living in the house of his Master, on terms of more than usual intimacy."

IV. HE APPLIES TO JESUS FOR HELP.—Vs. 3-5. THE FOUNDATION OF HIS FAITH. AND WHEN HE HEARD OF (concerning) JESUS, the words and the deeds which showed his character and his power. Many wonderful miracles had been performed in Capernaum. The centurion was not credulous, but had the best of foundations for his faith.

THE MESSENGER TO JESUS. HE SENT UNTO HIM THE ELDER OF THE JEWS. Not of the synagogue, for which another word is used, but of the people, the Jewish government, the leading men, heads of families. The centurion probably felt that Jesus, being a Jewish prophet, would be most influenced by the leaders of his own people, who were the centurion's friends.

4. BROUGHT HIM INSTANTLY, i. e., urgently, as in the phrase "continuing instant in prayer."

5. HE LOVED OUR NATION, attracted doubtless by the great superiority of their religion, their loftier hopes, their better morality. HE HATH BUILT US A SYNAGOGUE, thus expressing his interest and faith in their religion. "Augustus had recognized the value of synagogues in maintaining order."

THE RUINS OF THE SYNAGOGUE AT TEL HUM (at Capernaum) are probably the remains of the very structure he erected, and in which Christ delivered his marvelous discourse on the bread of eternal life (John 6:59). "And the remains now, after eighteen centuries, in their rich and elaborate carvings of cornices and entablatures, of capitals and niches, show with what liberal hand he had dealt his votive offerings."

V. THE CENTURION'S FAITH.—Vs. 6-9. THEN JESUS WENT WITH THEM, saying according to Matthew, "I will come and heal him." Some of the delegation seem to have hastened in advance to the centurion's house, "which was probably in the suburbs," in order to relieve his anxiety before Jesus could arrive. As they drew near to the house, THE CENTURION SENT FRIENDS TO HIM, with another message. He probably had heard of the healing of the nobleman's son in Capernaum while Jesus was at Cana (John 4:46-53), so that he knew the presence of Jesus was not necessary; and he also felt, I AM NOT WORTHY THAT THOU SHOLDEST ENTER UNDER MY ROOF. This was an expression (1) of his conscious sinfulness in the presence of a holy prophet, endowed with such wondrous power from God. (2) Jesus was viewed by him wholly from the Jewish standpoint. "As the houses of Gentiles were 'unclean,' entrance into them, and still more, familiar fellowship, would 'defile.'"

7. SAY IN A WORD, as he had before to the nobleman's son.

8. FOR I ALSO (like Jesus, but in another sphere) AM A MAN SET UNDER

AUTHORITY. He had power indeed, but it was "authorized" and delegated power, power derived from the powers above him, such as the tribunes or "chief captains" (Acts 21:31) of the legion. Possibly he meant to argue, Although I am under authority, yet I command and am obeyed. How much more you, who possess authority yourself as the Messiah! I SAY UNTO ONE, GO, AND HE GOETH. My word is all powerful in the ranks which I command. Military service demands instant, unquestioning obedience. The centurion believes that Jesus, under authority himself from God, had received similar power over the unseen forces, over diseases, over angels and spirits.

9. HE MARVELLED AT HIM. "Only twice do we read in the gospel that the Saviour marvelled: once at the unbelief of his fellow-citizens at Nazareth (Mark 6:6), once at the faith of this heathen." His faith was the more wonderful since so much depended on it. SAID UNTO THE PEOPLE, who needed the lesson on faith. I HAVE NOT FOUND SO GREAT FAITH, NO, NOT IN ISRAEL, where it would naturally be expected, for they expected their Messiah, they knew the true God, and that he had wrought miracles for his people in the past. In the report of Matthew (8:11-13) follows an earnest warning to the Jews, and comfort to the Gentiles, based on this fact.

VI. THE REWARD OF FAITH.—V. 10. Jesus sent word to the centurion, "As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee" (Matt. 8:13). FOUND THE SERVANT WHOLE, restored to health. The authoritative word had gone forth, as the centurion had expected.

Ian Maclaren is going to answer the question, "Is the Minister an Idler?" in the May Ladies' Home Journal. This is a sort of companion article to "Should the Old Clergyman be Shot?" which he wrote some time ago, and in which he advocated a more humane disposition of aged clergymen. It is more than likely that he will be able to find some idlers in the pulpit, but it may be set down as a certainty that he will be able to establish as a fact that ministers as a class are among the busiest of professional men.

Friday afternoon at Rayworth's portable saw mill, cutting for G. G. Scovill, M. P. F., near Bellisle, a young man, James Murphy, was caught by the shaft and carried under it. His head and body were horribly crushed and death was instantaneous. Murphy was about 26 years old and a son of the late Dennis Murphy, of Bellisle.

A Forester's Case.

Chronic Kidney Disease Cured After Eight Years' Agony.

Mr. John J. Burns Gives His Experience with Dodd's Kidney Pills—Nothing Else Gave Relief—Death Seemed Near—Dodd's Kidney Pills Never Fail.

DARNLEY, P. E. I., April 2nd.—There are many members of the Independent Order of Foresters in this town, and the surrounding country district, and they are among the most respectable, wealthy, and estimable citizens of the district. They are all thoroughly acquainted with the case of Mr. John J. Burns, a popular member of the order, who conducts a boot and shoe business here.

Mr. Burns has had an experience that has been given to but few men. He has stood in the presence of the grim tyrant Death, within the very shadow of his wings. The monster's hand was outstretched to grasp his victim, and Mr. Burns was within an infinitely short distance of his grave, when a protecting influence came between him and Death, and the demon was put to flight. Dodd's Kidney Pills were his protectors. Death attacked him in the disguise of Kidney Disease.

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2nd Quarter

—1900—

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