

## The Teacher

Who advised her pupils to strengthen their minds by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla, appreciated the truth that bodily health is essential to mental vigor. For persons of delicate and feeble constitution, whether young or old, this medicine is remarkably beneficial. Be sure you get Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

"Every week and fall I take a number of bottles of Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and am greatly benefited."—Mrs. James H. Eastman, Stoneham, Mass.

"I have taken Ayer's Sarsaparilla with great benefit to my general health."—Miss Thirza L. Crenar, Palmyra, Md.

"My daughter, twelve years of age, has suffered for the past year from

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A few weeks since, we began to give her Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Her health has greatly improved."—Mrs. Harriet H. Battles, South Chelmsford, Mass.

"About a year ago I began using Ayer's Sarsaparilla as a remedy for debility and neuralgia resulting from malarial exposure in the army. I was in a very bad condition, but six bottles of the Sarsaparilla, with occasional doses of Ayer's Pills, have greatly improved my health. I am now able to work, and feel that I cannot say too much for your excellent remedies."—F. A. Pinkham, South Moluncus, Me.

"My daughter, sixteen years old, is using Ayer's Sarsaparilla with good effect."—Rev. S. C. Graham, United Brethren Church, Buckhannon, W. Va.

"I suffered from

### Nervous Prostration,

with lame back and headache, and have been much benefited by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I am now 89 years of age, and am satisfied that my present health and prolonged life are due to the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla."—Lucy Moffitt, Killingly, Conn.

Mrs. Ann H. Farnsworth, a lady 79 years old, So. Woodstock, Vt., writes: "After several weeks' suffering from nervous prostration, I procured a bottle of Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and before I had taken half of it my usual health returned."

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### Sometime, Somewhere.

Unanswered yet? The prayers your lips have pleaded

In agony of heart, these many years?

Does faith begin to fail; is hope departing?

And think you all in vain those falling tears?

Say not the Father hath not heard your prayer;

You shall have your desire sometime, somewhere.

Unanswered yet? though when you first presented

This one petition at the Father's throne,

It seems you could not wait the time of asking,

So urgent was your heart to make it known.

Though years have passed since then, do not despair;

The Lord will answer you sometime, somewhere.

Unanswered yet? Nay, do not say ungranted?

Perhaps your part is not yet wholly done.

The work begun when first your prayer was uttered,

And God will finish what he has begun.

If you will keep the incense burning there,

His glory you shall see, sometime, somewhere.

Unanswered yet? Faith cannot be unanswered,

Her feet were firmly planted on the Rock;

Amid the wildest storms she stands undaunted,

Nor quails before the loudest thunder shock.

She knows Omnipotence has heard her prayer,

And cries, "It shall be done," sometime, somewhere.

—Robert Browning.

### The Sabbath-School.

#### INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

First Quarter-Lesson III.—Jan. 20.  
HEALING OF THE LEPER.—Mark 1: 35-45.

GOLDEN TEXT.—As soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.—Mark 1: 42.

JESUS PREPARES FOR HIS WORK BY PRAYER.—Vers. 35, 36. In the morning. After his exhausting labors of the previous day. He was human, and needed rest as we do. Rising up: The great burden of souls rested upon him and awoke him early. A great while before day: before the approaching dawn had diminished the darkness. He went out: from the house and the city. And departed into a solitary place: A feature of the lake of Gennesaret was that it was closely surrounded with desert solitudes. And there prayed. He would open in the presence of his Father, all the longings of his heart. Early morning prayer will be the best preparation for the day.

Why Jesus Prayed. The going forth alone, taking time from his needed sleep, shows the importance which Jesus attached to secret prayer. Jesus was human as well as divine, and his human nature needed prayer as much as we need it. He "was touched with a feeling of our infirmities." He needed communion with his Heavenly Father, to invigorate and refresh his spirit. He needed the things he asked for in prayer. To him, as to us, prayer was daily bread, vital air, the gate of heaven. Prayer in a solitary place was necessary in order to have opportunity for undisturbed communion. Public prayer is very blessed; but every soul needs solitary communion with God. There are times when, like Moses, we must go up on the mount alone and talk with God face to face.

And Simon and Peter, as usual, was the leader. Followed after him. The disciples may have been alarmed lest something had happened to him; but the people seemed to fear that He was going to leave Capernaum, where they wanted him to remain to teach them or heal their sick.

THE FIRST MISSIONARY TOUR IN GALILEE.—Vers. 37-39. All men seek for thee. The people wanted still to hear more, and to see more. And he said unto them, let us. Jesus and his disciples. Go into the next towns, that I may preach there also. St. Luke gives more fully, "to publish the good news of the kingdom of God." For therefore came I forth (from heaven). He must be about the business which was the purpose of his mission.

The Missionary Impulse. Here is an example of the missionary impulse. It is not enough for his Gospel to bless any Capernaum; it must go out into other regions. His mission has been transmitted to his people, and in their hands it is of the same kind as in his. The word of the Master is "Go," a word which he has illustrated by his own example. This is utterly opposed to that spirit which is too prevalent in some churches, that they must wait till their own community is wholly converted before they give and do for the wider field. Capernaum would be evangelized and the sooner because he went to other places. The influence of work elsewhere, reacting, would be felt there.

The Gospel must go everywhere. All the others needed the Gospel. And he preached in their synagogues, as the best place for reaching the people. Throughout all Galilee. Galilee at this time had probably a population of between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 people, and Josephus says there were 204 towns of over 15,000 inhabitants. And cast out devils. These miracles were to confirm his preaching, to illustrate the goodness and compassion of God.

THE HEALING OF THE LEPER.—Vers. 40-45. There came. Some time during this tour of Galilee. A leper. The most dreadful of all the diseases. This disease is nothing short of a foul decay, arising from the total corruption of the blood. In the Middle Ages, a man seized with leprosy was "clothed in a shroud, and the masses of the dead sung over him."

Leprosy as an Emblem of Sin. Sin is a deadly leprosy which has involved our whole race in one common ruin. Sin, like leprosy, separates from the pure and clean. The outward expressions and manifestations are but the effects of a disease which permeates the whole system. The tendency to sin, like the tendency to leprosy, is hereditary. The sins of the fathers are visited upon the children. Sin, like leprosy, is deceitful in its workings. It is painful and deadly. It is incurable by human wisdom or power.

Feeling his Need. The leper was conscious of his leprosy, and felt his lost condition. Lepers have no hope, and seldom ask medical aid, but only gifts of charity. The first step toward salvation from sin is to realize how sinful and guilty we are. Jesus' marvellous cures of others had awakened hope in the leper, and he went to him as the only possible source of health. What Jesus has done for others in saving them from sin, encourages us to go to him for our own salvation. And kneeling down. A gesture of entreaty. If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. If thou art willing, thou art able. He knew that he could cure him, because of what Jesus had done for those afflicted with equally dreadful and incurable diseases. But he feared lest he should not be willing to help such a loathsome outcast as he was. "If" embodies in itself both fear and hope in varying proportions. But when the soul can use "if" it has made progress in faith. No sinner should wait for more faith, but should come to Christ at once, as he is. Make me clean. Cleanse his whole body from the taints of the disease. Take away the disease. Moved with compassion. Jesus felt for the leper what he and his Father feel for all sinners, compassion and love. Put forth his hand, and touched him. The Saviour did not fear contamination from contact with the leper. I will; be thou clean (cleansed). The curative virtue of Christ is in his will, and not in instrumentalities. Immediately. The cure was instantaneous and complete. The leprosy departed. So Jesus cleanses the sinner by healing the seat of the disease. And he straitly (strictly) charged him, see thou say nothing to any man; i. e., till you have shown yourself to the priest.

Why this Prohibition. There was danger that the people would become greatly excited upon hearing of his miracles, with the idea that he was about to set up a splendid earthly kingdom, according to their erroneous notions of Messiah's work, and would thus arouse the hostility of the Jewish rulers and that of the Roman authorities, and interfere with his freedom in teaching. Jesus would not have the leper make a boast of his miraculous cure, glory in it, and in himself as a special object of divine favor. If the reputation of his marvellous cure preceded him to Jerusalem, the priests might deny that the man had ever been a leper, or was now truly cleansed. There was need of solitary thought and meditation on the great cure wrought in the man's body, that it might have the due spiritual effect on his soul. There was danger that the minds of the people would be drawn away from the great truths of the Gospel to dwell too much on bodily and temporal blessings. Jesus' chief purpose was to save men from sin, and bring back their souls to their Heavenly Father, and miracles were a means to this great end. Shew thyself to the priest: at Jerusalem, as was commanded by law. Offer for thy cleansing: as commanded in the same law. There was a regular and prolonged examination of the case, and if the man was shown to be free from leprosy, a ceremonial with various offerings (Lev. 14). For a testimony unto them. Unto the people that thou art healed. The design was evidently to prevent any suspicion as to the validity of the cure, by having the attestation of those recognized authorities who were enemies to him. In order that the officiating priest, and the other officials who are associated with him, may learn from them the facts that are transpiring in Galilee. These facts have an important bearing upon the fulness

of the time, and the fulfilment of the Scriptures. But he went out: from the place where he was cured. Began to publish it much. In his rash zeal he disobeyed Jesus' command. It seemed impossible to him and ungrateful not to tell what the Lord had done for him; and yet it would have shown truer gratitude and larger love to have obeyed. As it is, he becomes a sort of show-man of himself. Some marvel much at the disobedience of a man of so much faith. Unhappily, multitudes who believe, take liberties with Christ's commands, and pick and choose amongst them, neglecting all the reason of which they do not see, or the importance of which they do not appreciate. The supremest necessity of man is to obey orders. Inasmuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city. He could not go publicly into towns and cities to preach, but had to keep in the open and uninhabited places. Of course, this was only for a time. The moment that his presence now recognized in a town, he was liable to be surrounded and hemmed in by a surging crowd of ignorant, and ignorantly expectant, gazers, wonderers, and volunteer followers. One sees now how wise it was to tell the leper to hold his tongue. And they came to him from every quarter. The people kept coming to him, notwithstanding the difficulty of reaching him.

### PRACTICAL HINTS.

If Jesus needed to go away alone to pray and hold communion with God, how much more do we need such seasons.

Every new day and every new work should be prepared for by prayer.

There is that in Jesus which attracts all men to seek him. Jesus has in himself that life, and help, and truth, and love which draw all men toward him.

Like Jesus, we, too, are set forth to preach the Gospel and help the sick and needy.

We are not to wait till all are converted at home before we carry the gospel to others.

Sin is like leprosy,—incurable, loathsome, contagious, hereditary, painful, all-pervasive, from small beginnings; shameful, separating from others. Learn from the leper how the sinner should come to Jesus and be saved. He felt his disease; despair of human help; believed in the power of Jesus; he came with his leprosy, and submitted to the will of Jesus.

We need to give men the touch of sympathy.

In the services we are called to render one another, we fail far oftener from want of will than want of power. We fail to use many opportunities, not because we cannot, but because we will not, use them.

Jesus is the expression of the compassion of God for men. He loves to help and heal. Our very weakness and need are arguments for going to him and trusting him.

We should show our gratitude in the Lord's own way and by obedience to his commands.

We should be a living witness that Jesus is able and willing to save men.

How much harm a false and disobedient zeal, even in doing good, may accomplish!

### The Conversion of Children.

Those who place a light estimate on the conversion of children make a great mistake. The best orchards are composed of trees which were grafted when small. The men of whose deep and abiding piety, and consequent usefulness, honorable mention is made in the Bible, began to lead a life of piety in early life. Look over the list. We give one or two: Moses was brought up in the household of Pharaoh, and was skilled in all the learning of the Egyptians, but there is no mention made of his having practiced their vices. Joseph, while a mere lad, lived so near God that prophetic revelations were made to him. He, too, as Moses had done, successfully resisted all the enervating and worldly influences of an idolatrous court. Those converted young may not make as great a sensation at the start as those who have turned from vicious courses to the service of God, but they, as a rule, hold out longer and lead more useful lives. Let us labor more earnestly and steadily for the conversion of the children.

WHEN DAY BEGINS.—Day begins at sunset with the Jews, Athenians, Chirise, Mohammedans, Italians and Bohemians. At sunrise with the Babylonians, Syrians, Persians and modern Greeks. At noon with the ancient Egyptians and modern astronomers. At midnight with the English, French, Dutch, Germans, Spaniards, Portuguese, Americans.

Not to enjoy life, but to employ life, ought to be our aim and inspiration.—Macaulay.



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is the bane of so many lives that here is where we make our great boast. Our pills cure it while others do not.

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