

DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

Joy! Joy! Joy! "Bring hither the fatted calf and kill it." Luke 15:23.

There is a calf in the paddock that has been kept up and fed to utmost capacity, so as to be ready for some occasion of joy that might come along.

How glad they are to have him back! One brother, indeed, stands pointing at the back door and says: "This is a great day about nothing; this bad boy should have been chastened instead of greeted; veal is too good for him!"

The new convert's joy. It is no tame thing to become a Christian. The most tremendous moment in a man's life is when he surrenders himself to God.

A clock scene in every history. If some of you would rise from the bed of lethargy, and come out from your delirium of sin, and look on the clock of your day this morning, you would see and hear something you have not seen or heard before.

A large inheritance. Was his, and there was joy amounting to bewilderment; but that is a small thing compared with the experience of one when he has put in his hands the splendor of Heaven, and he can truly say: "Its mansions are mine, its temples are mine, its songs are mine, its God is mine!"

Paul gave his experience. He arose in the presence of the two Churches, the Church on earth and the Church in Heaven, and he said: "Now this is my experience: sorrowful, yet always rejoicing—poor, yet making many rich—having nothing, yet possessing all things."

The story of a king. who, on some great day of festivity, scattered silver and gold among the people, and sent valuable presents to his courtiers; but methinks when a soul comes back, God is so glad that to

in which you are indulging—joys of this world—into the raptures of the Gospel.

The world cannot satisfy you; you have found that out—Alexander longing for other worlds to conquer, and yet drowned in his own bottle; Byron whipped by disquietudes around the world; Voltaire cursing his own soul, while all the streets of Paris were applauding him; Henry II, consuming with hatred against poor Thomas a Becket—all illustrations of the fact that this world cannot make a man happy.

There is a land of pure delight, and when he came to the next line there were scores of voices uniting: "Where saints immortal reign."

Oh, it is a great religion to live by, and it is a great religion to die by. There is only one heart-throb between you and that religion this morning. Just look into the face of your pardoning God, and surrender yourself for time and for eternity, and He is yours, and heaven is yours, and all is yours.

The joy of the ministers. Oh, it is a grand thing to preach this gospel! I know there has been a great deal said about the trials and the hardships of the Christian ministry. I wish somebody would write a good, rousing book about the joys of the Christian ministry.

Why ministers live long. Life-insurance men will tell you that ministers of religion as a class live longer than any other. It is confirmed by the statistics of all those who calculate upon human longevity.

The western missionary, who says in a letter: "Thank you for your last remittance; until it came we had not any meat in our house for one year, and all last winter, although it was a severe winter, our children wore their summer clothes."

Heat versus food. "Why do you keep it so blazing hot?" inquired a patron of the proprietor recently as he entered a restaurant. "Because it is cold outside," replied the proprietor.

Christians rejoice. If you stood on Montank Point and there was a hurricane at sea, and it was blowing toward the shore, and a vessel crashed into the rocks, and you saw people get ashore in the lifeboats and the very last man got on the rocks in safety, you could not control your joy.

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express His joy he flings out new worlds into space, and kindles up new suns, and rolls among the white-robed angels of the redeemed a greater hallelujah, while with a voice that reverberates among the mountains of frankincense and is echoed back from the everlasting gates, he cries: "This, my son, was dead, and he is alive again."

At the opening of the Exposition in New Orleans I saw a Mexican fiddler, and he played the solo, and then afterward the eight or ten bands of music, accompanied by the great organ, came in; but the sound of that one flute as compared with all the orchestra was greater than all the combined joy of the universe when compared with the resounding heart of Almighty God.

For ten years a father went three times a day to the depot. In aggravating circumstances, but the father said: "He will come back."

A man of Keith who was hurried into prison in time of persecution, and one day he got off his shackles, and he came and stood by the prison door, and when the jailer was opening the door, with one stroke he struck down the man who had incarcerated him.

I am very certain of it. If you have never seen a telegraphic chart, you have no idea how many cities are connected together, and how many lands, nearly all the neighborhoods of the earth seem articulated, and news flies from city to city, and from continent to continent.

At the banquet of Lucullus, sat Cicero the orator; at the Macedonian festival sat Philip the conqueror; at the Grecian banquet sat Socrates the philosopher; but at our Father's table sit all the returned prodigals, more than conquerors. The table is so wide its leaves reach across seas and across lands.

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stereotyped supplication we have heard over and over again for twenty years, but a putting of the case in the hands of God with an importunate pleading. No long prayers. Men never pray at great length unless they have nothing to say, and their hearts are hard and cold.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24, 1890. The Great Teacher and the Twelve. LESSON TEXT. Mark 6: 1-13. Memory verses, 10-12.

LESSON PLAN. TOPIC OF THE QUARTER: Jesus the Mighty Worker.

GOLDEN TEXT FOR THE QUARTER: Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me; or else believe me for the very works' sake.—John 14: 11.

LESSON TOPIC: The Necessity of Faith.

GOLDEN TEXT: And they went out, and preached that men should repent.—Mark 6: 12.

DAILY HOME READINGS: M.—Mark 6: 1-13. The necessity of faith.

T.—Matt. 13: 53-58. Unbelief illustrated.

W.—Matt. 9: 35-38; 10: 1-15. Laborers sent out.

T.—Matt. 10: 16-42. Laborers at work.

F.—1 Cor. 3: 1-15. Laborers together with God.

S.—Acts 19: 1-39. An open door.

S.—Heb. 11: 17-40. Victors through faith.

LESSON ANALYSIS. I. UNBELIEF ILLUSTRATED.

1. AUTHORITY QUESTIONED: Whence hath this man these things? (2).

Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? (Matt. 13: 54).

By what authority doest thou these things? (Matt. 21: 23).

Who gave thee this authority to do these things? (Mark 11: 23).

How doth he now say, I am come down out of heaven? (John 6: 42).

II. ALLEGATION ALLOWED: They were offended in him (3).

He shall be... for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence (Isa. 8: 14).

Then shall many stumble (Matt. 24: 10).

Upon this many of his disciples went back (John 6: 66).

They stumbled at the stone of stumbling (Rom. 9: 32).

III. BENEFITS HINDERED: He could there do no mighty work (5).

He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief (Matt. 13: 58).

Because of your little faith (Matt. 17: 20).

They were not able to enter in because of unbelief (Heb. 3: 19).

Without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him (Heb. 11: 6).

1. "Whence hath this man these things?" (1) The nature of the Lord's works; (2) The source of the Lord's works; (3) The aims of the Lord's works.

2. "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?" (1) His honored mother; (2) His lowly calling; (3) His peerless mission.

3. "He marvelled because of their unbelief." (1) Their unbelief; (2) His wonder.—Man's unbelief: (1) His root; (2) Its fruits; (3) Its unreasonableness.

II. FAITH ENCOURAGED. I. SENT OF THE LORD: He began to send them forth by two and two (7).

These twelve Jesus sent forth (Matt. 10: 5).

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel (Mark 16: 15).

He sent them forth to preach the kingdom of God (Luke 9: 2).

They went about preaching the word (Acts 8: 4).

II. TAUGHT OF THE LORD: He charged them... And he said unto them (8-10).

He opened his mouth and taught them (Matt. 5: 2).

He began to teach them many things (Mark 6: 34).

I have yet many things to say unto you (John 16: 12).

The words which thou gavest me I have given unto them (John 17: 8).

III. EMBODIED OF THE LORD: As ye go forth thence, shake of the dust (11).

It shall be more tolerable for... Sodom, than for that city (Matt. 10: 15).

Lo, I am with you always (Matt. 28: 20).

Shake of the dust... for a testimony against them (Luke 9: 5).

- 1. "They went out, and preached," (1) Missionaries; (2) Preachers.—(1) Obedient to the Lord; (2) Helpful to the world.

- 2. "They cast out many devils." (1) Demoniacal possessions; (2) Apostolic exorcism.

- 3. "Healed them." (1) Suffering humanity; (2) Healing Christianity.—(1) Healing needed; (2) Healing granted.

LESSON BIBLE READING.

THE APOSTLES AND THEIR WORK. Their names (Matt. 10: 2-4; Mark 3: 16-19; Acts 1: 20; Rom. 1: 1). From lowly positions (Matt. 4: 18-22; Acts 4: 13).

Eyewitnesses of Christ's career (Luke 1: 2; Acts 1: 21, 22; 1 Cor. 9: 1; 1 John 1: 1). Ordained of Christ (Mark 3: 13, 14; John 15: 16).

Sent to preach (Matt. 28: 19, 20; Mark 16: 15; Acts 9: 15). Received miraculous power (Matt. 10: 1; Mark 16: 20; Acts 2: 43). Suffered persecutions (Matt. 10: 16-18; Luke 21: 16; John 15: 20; 16: 2; 18: 19; Acts 12: 1-3; 2 Tim. 4: 6).

LESSON SUBROUNDINGS.

The last lesson narrated the incident that occurred on the way to the house of Jairus. The raising of the daughter of the ruler follows, according to all three accounts (Matt. 9: 23-26; Mark 5: 35-43; Luke 8: 49-55); that of Mark being most detailed and vivacious, probably owing to the fact that he derived his knowledge from Peter, one of the three disciples present on that occasion.

In Matthew 9: 27-34, two miracles are recorded in immediate connection with the raising of the ruler's daughter; but no other events in the narratives seem to have intervened before the second rejection at Nazareth, with which the present lesson begins.

The place of the first of the lesson (vs. 1-6) was Nazareth; of the latter half (vs. 6-13), the neighboring parts of Galilee. The apostles probably traversed the entire district.

The time of the former half may have been shortly after the last lesson; but the length of the preaching tour of the apostles is unknown. It ended, however, very shortly before a passover (the third), which followed the feeding of the five thousand. Hence the date was the early part of the year of Rome 782, A. D. 29, probably during the months of February and March.

Paralle passages: Matt. 13: 54-58; 9: 35 to 11: 1; Luke 9: 1-6.

New Fads in Men's Dresses.

If predictions are to be fulfilled, the women of society will have to look to their laurels the season just about to be inaugurated. The fashionable men are showing an alarming tendency towards discarding conventional costumes and adopting styles that are picturesque, to say the least.