

THE FIRST SCHOOL OF PHILANTHROPY

The International Sunday School Lesson For March 17 Is "Jesus Sending Forth the Twelve"—Mark 6:1-11

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

There was once a Philanthropist, before the time when helpful folk were that big name, who went about among the people serving them. Although the wisest man in the world, he was not a theorist writing books about philanthropy in a detached study. He kept close to the unwashed, sweaty, bad-mannered, ungrateful, common people, who sometimes whined about their diseases and their hardships, and were not always worthy of the labor he bestowed upon them. Yet day and night, caring not for the cost of himself, this Friend healed and helped and comforted. He was the ideal social worker.

The Passion For People
As he moved among them, this Philanthropist was stirred to his heart's depth by the needs of his neighbors—for he liked to call people his neighbors. An ancient report of his experiences says, "When he saw the multitude, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were distressed and scattered as sheep without a shepherd. And another interpretation of the same account is even more moving. 'He saw them as sheep with the fleece off, bleeding, and unable to rise up.'"

Compassion for people was the first mark of this Friend. He was the merciful minister. Although he never took a course in any school of philanthropy, he himself was a teacher in the school of love. He had a rare capacity for affection. He loved men in the mass, and yet with a realization of their individuality without any limit.

This passion for people has become contagious. Since exemplified by the Master it has grown to be the dominant note of our time. There is a new hymn that is being much sung in Great Britain and is making its way in America, which embodies this modern sense of the claims of multitude. It is called "God Save the People," and is sung to the tune "Commonwealth."

"When wilt Thou save the people? O God of mercy, when? Not kings and lords, but nations! Not thrones and crowns, but men! Flow'rs of Thy heart, O God are they; Let them not pass, like weeds, away. Their heritage a supple day God save the people!"

"Shall crime bring crime forever? Strength aiding still the strong? Is it thy will, O Father, That man shall toil for wrong? No! Say Thy mountains; No! Thy skies; Man's clouded sun shall brightly rise And songs ascend instead of sighs God save the people!"

that permanent victory is with the Christ crowd. **The Power of the Average Man**
All over Christendom we see statues and pictures of the apostles. Commonly they are shown with halos around their heads. Sometimes children think that the apostles wore these when they were alive. The tendency is to conventionalize the reality out of these everyday peasants in the common clothes of their neighborhood, and with touselled hair and hands calloused and soiled with honest labor. That is the sort of men Jesus chose to carry on this greatest work of the world. He did not go to the Sanhedrin or to the palace for His cabinet but He went out where the ordinary everyday folk were to be met.

If this lesson accomplishes anything it should disabuse some minds of the idea that the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven depends upon the rare and exceptional men. Let it be said over and over again, with all possible emphasis, that the best friend of God is the common man. Lincoln's homily saying contained a profound truth, that "the Lord Almighty must love the common people, because he made so many of them." The churches are comprised in overwhelming preponderance of plain folk. The "one man" church is always a failure. Straight from the apostle comes this message of the indispensability of ordinary people.

The success of evangelism, missions, reform, and all other Christian causes, is to come by the union of the many in the service of the will of Christ. "Travel light" is good counsel for those who fare forth from home. Jesus sent His apostles out to their ministry with instructions to go about in the simplest fashion, and with the most meager equipment. Goods always encumber. When religion grows highly organized its tendency is to become too cumbersome for efficiency. Thus the great office buildings which denominations are erecting, and the huge endowments for city churches, are by no means an unmixed blessing. Out of the war will come new lessons of simplicity for religion. The first consideration is that all servants of Christ should be free and untrammelled. Their business is primarily with the message. In high dignity, and yet in utmost simplicity, they are to carry a story to the world.

What if the world will not receive the simple told story? Shall we all impress them by the wealth and magnificence and power of the Church? Ah, that is a fallacy into which religion has often fallen, to the dire hurt of religion and of the world.

The twelve were to testify to the truth, but if the truth were not received, then judgment would lie against those who spurned it. It is a terrible thing to know spiritual truth, for with the knowledge comes responsibility. Yet we are answerable for all the truth we can by any means learn, as well as for that truth which we cannot escape.

One last word the lesson contains for the disciple. "He that receiveth you receiveth Me, and he that receiveth Me receiveth Him that sent Me." Christ identifies His representatives with himself. He goes into all the world to preach the gospel. The world's treatment of them in their sacred mission is a treatment of himself. That is a "high calling" indeed. No earthly ambassadorship can equal in dignity and in power this mission of working in the name and at the command of Christ.

Presbyterians Submit Two Plans For Merger

Atlantic City, N. J., March 15.—The commissions on union of the Presbyterian Church, North, and the Presbyterian Church, South, failed to agree upon a plan for the proposed merger of the two great church bodies at the final session of their joint conference here last night. Two plans were worked out and both will be submitted to the respective general assemblies with the recommendation that the assemblies decide the issues involved in order to give the commissions "a working basis to bring about the formal merger within the next year."

The church north proposes an organic union while the church south asks a federal union which would include not only the two churches represented by the commissions, but for the nine Presbyterian and Reformed churches in the United States, on the theory that there might come out of it a Presbyterian Church covering the whole country and embracing all who hold to the Reformed doctrine and Presbyterian government.



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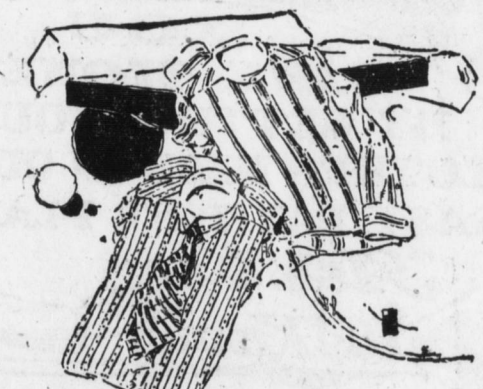


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What Will Happen if Japan Intervenes in Russia

Delicate and momentous questions of Allied diplomacy charged with the gravest military possibilities are raised by the proposal that Japanese troops intervene in Siberia to save from Germany's clutches the great military stores accumulated at Vladivostok and along the Trans-Siberian railroad, and to forestall the German penetration of Asia.

Such intervention, of course, might produce friction, if not hostilities, between Japan and Russia, and Germany is quick to see the advantage, for it would soon lead, in the opinion of the Cologne Volkszeitung, either to a Russo-German agreement against Japan or to an undertaking between Japan and Germany. On the other hand, the Boston Transcript suggests that "perhaps Japan's sword will avail where America's pen has failed either to help Russia or hinder Germany's operations against Russia."

The leading article in THE LITERARY DIGEST for March 16th takes up this latest phase in the Russian situation and summarizes expert opinions in Japan and America.

Other topics of immediate national interest in this number of "The Digest" are:

Our American Soldiers Under Fire

Sidelights Upon Their First Engagement With the Germans and a Picture Showing the Dugout Where the First American Officer Was Wounded in France and the Sign Placed by the French To Mark the Spot

- Putting War-Labor On a War-Basis
- The Browning Machine Gun a Success
- The Allies Supreme War Council
- President Wilson Chills Africa
- The American Navy and the War

- Is Wheat Too Cheap?
- Fires of War Revolutionizing Britain
- Our Hungry Enemies
- Beans—A Food for War and Peace

- New Fabrics for War Use
- The Senses of the Blind
- "Washington Crossing the Rhine"
- Operas and Freaks
- Y. M. C. A. Work from the Layman's Angle
- How Men Will Find Their Souls
- News of Commerce and Banking

- The Bee is Not a Geometrician
- Trees to Keep Snow Out of Railway Cuts
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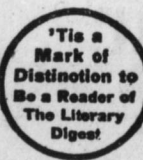
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Under the present restricted manufacturing and shipping conditions in the face of an enormous public demand it is not an unusual occurrence for patrons to miss the "Digest" because it sells out on the news-stands so quickly. Let us repeat the hint which we published recently. When you buy this week's copy of "The Di-

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March 16th Number on Sale To-day---All News-dealers---10 Cents

The Literary Digest



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