

THE FOLLY OF BOASTING

Dr. Talmage Says History Is Full of Instances Showing How Arrogance Was Rebuked.

We Had Better Undertake Than Overrate Ourselves. WASHINGTON, D. C.—While this discourse of Dr. Talmage rebukes arrogance...

halt you in your way. The same cup that Benhadad drank out of just before his defeat will be offered to effect your defeat...

All up and down history we see such too early boasting. Saul, the Marshal of France, was so certain that he would conquer...

There are old farmers who cannot do one more day's work. What harvests they raised in 1850! They were the rotation of crops as well as they knew the rotation of the seasons...

There are old mechanics that can no more shove the plane or pound with the hammer or bore with the bit or run up the ladder to the scaffolding...

THE SABBATH SCHOOL

International Lesson Comments For January 5. Subject: The Promise of Power, Acts 1, 1-14—Golden Text, Acts 1, 8—Memory Verses, 6-8—Commentary on the Day's Lesson.

1. "The former treatise." The gospel of Luke. Luke was also the author of the Acts. "Behold, the gospel is not known of this person, but he was no doubt a person of rank and perhaps a Roman officer who had been converted to Christianity."

2. "Until the day." The fortieth day after His resurrection, the day of Pentecost. "God gave not the Spirit by measure unto Him. John 3: 34. Jesus who was appointed with the Holy Ghost (Luke 4: 18), the power of the Holy Ghost gave commandments to the apostles to be His witnesses. "Apostles."

3. "Passion." Sufferings on the cross. "Infallible proofs." The single Greek word, translated "infallible proofs," notes the strongest proofs of which a subject is capable, an irresistible proof. The proofs here meant are Christ's speaking, walking and eating with His disciples after His resurrection. "Forty days." At different times during a period of forty days, "The kingdom of God." This expression has several significations but here, as in Mark 1: 14, it includes the whole Christian dispensation, its message, progress and economy. The meaning is, Jesus gave these instructions about the organization, spread and edification of His church.

4. "Assembled with them." Probably an ascension day. "Commanded them." The last commandment given by the Lord to the apostles directed them to await the gift of the Holy Ghost in Jerusalem. "Not to depart from Jerusalem." The coming of the Spirit was to be at the next great feast after the crucifixion. Jerusalem was the centre of Jewish influence, and at that time strangers would be reached from all parts of the world. They were not qualified to go until after the baptism of the Spirit came upon them. "Wait." Many run away from the promise of the Father, it could not fail. "With the Holy Ghost." The Holy Spirit was not to be given them in greater fulness than ever before. At that time their hearts would be cleansed and they would be filled with love.

5. "John." The Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. "John's baptism was in water." A baptism unto repentance. 2. A type of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. John pointed to Christ who should baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire. "I shall be baptized with the promise of the Father, it could not fail. "With the Holy Ghost." The Holy Spirit was not to be given them in greater fulness than ever before. At that time their hearts would be cleansed and they would be filled with love.

WHERE THE FAULT LAY

Dr. Frank W. Allport, one of the leading oculists of Chicago, was recently appointed examining physician by the board of education. A pupil from one of the schools where "fads" are more thoroughly in vogue than in almost any other public school, came to Dr. Allport in the regular course of events to have his eyes examined. The physician went through the usual formula for discovering the defects of vision.

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When the letter was handed to the King he read it without a smile and then bade his chamberlain take it to the princess and read it to her. The chamberlain went to the baby and gravely read the letter aloud to her, and then returned to the King. "Well," said the King, "what did the princess say?" "Nothing, your majesty!" "Very well. Silence gives consent; see that the lady's petition be attended to."

6. "The trouble with most men who once do good deeds is that they waste the rest of their lives admiring them." "This is uncalled for," remarked the factious postmaster, as he put the letter in the unclaimed box.

7. "Not for you to know." Christ constantly avoided giving His disciples a direct answer to questions which he refused to satisfy their curiosity and he of no particular benefit. "In His own power." Authority. R. V. The word rendered power is the same as when Demetrius said in the next verse. It should be noted that Jesus did not disapprove of the question asked in verse 6, but, as Lange says, "He rather confirmed it, because it was the Father had fixed the time."

8. "I shall receive power." The energy of the Holy Spirit was to be given to them. It was not to be the logical consequence, but "the power is a living union with a living God." "Is come upon you." The Holy Spirit gives, 1. Knowledge and understanding. 2. Faith. 3. Holiness. 4. A spirit of prayer. 5. Courage. 6. Steadfastness. 7. Zeal. "I shall be witness." They shall not merely bear witness, but be witnesses to the world. They were to be witnesses to a crucified, a risen and a coming Christ. "In Jerusalem." The disciples were to begin at home, with the Jews, and gradually reach out until the glorious gospel reached the whole human race.

9. "When they beheld." The disciples did not see Him at the grave, because His resurrection could not easily be proved by their seeing Him afterward, but they saw Him return to heaven, as there would be no other way to prove it. "A cloud." Perhaps it was like the fiery cloud pillar, the wilderness.

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10. "Were looking." (R. V.) Wondering what it all meant. "Two angels." Angels in the form of men. "White apparel." See Matt. 28: 3. The white garment were an emblem of purity.

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12. "Olivet." Frequently called the Mount of Olives. "Sabbath day's journey." About three-fourths of an English mile.

13. "Come in." That is, into the city from the country. Into the upper chamber (R. V.) Probably the upper room which had been used by our Lord and His disciples for the passover feast. "Where ye were abiding." This does not mean that this was their permanent habitation, but that they remained there for the descent of the Holy Spirit.

14. "Continued." During the ten days they waited. "With one accord." With one mind. There were no schisms, no divided interests, no discordant purposes. "Steadfastly in prayer." (R. V.) Their prayers were earnest and persistent. "With the women." This probably refers to the women who followed Him from Galilee, but it may mean merely that women were present. "Mary." This is the last mention in Scripture of the mother of Jesus. "His brethren." The brethren of Jesus at first rejected Him, but now they believe in Him and are present at the Pentecost outpouring.

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