

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR OCTOBER 7

PSALMS OF DELIVERANCE.

LESSON TEXT—Psalms 85 and 124.
GOLDEN TEXT—They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.—Psalms 126:5.

These Psalms breathe the spirit of the true patriot. The Psalmist sees his afflicted country suffering for the sins of the people, praying for their restoration to the Divine favor, and with the eagle eye of faith anticipates the joyful day of spiritual and temporal blessings because of restoration to the Divine favor. Doubtless such patriotism would be pleasing to the Lord on the part of us all.

Psalm 85.
I. Praises for Mercies Received (vv. 1-3).

Praise is given for
(1) Deliverance from Captivity (v. 1).

He had in mind the specific mercies of a given time; perhaps it was one of the oppressions of the Philistines from which they had been delivered. There seems to be no good ground for thinking that this was a deliverance from the Babylonian captivity. His praise is given to the Lord, the name rendered to Moses when the people were in bondage. It was fitting for him to appeal to God by the name which expressed the Divine attribute most concerned. The central meaning of the name Lord is the Unchanging, Self-Existing One.

(2) Forgiveness of Sin (v. 2, 3).
"Thou hast forgiven the iniquity—covered all their sin." God's restoration was the proof that he had pardoned. Great indeed was the sin of Jacob, but God's forgiveness was greater. He is peculiarly a God of mercy. Having forgiven the sins his anger is taken away. He stayed his hand from the judgment which would have justly fallen, to show his mercy. Many times he does this with us. The reason he can do this is that he has found a way by which he can be just, and at the same time justify the sinner (Rom. 13:26). In Christ's atonement all our sins are blotted out, covered up, and because of this God's burning, fierce anger is turned from us.

II. Prayer for Restoration From Backsliding (vv. 4-7).

He knew how worthless the outward blessings of the Lord would be unless the people inwardly turned to the Lord. He, therefore, besought the Lord to give them the greater blessing, that of a change of heart. Without the change of heart forgiveness would be futile. A change of heart can only be by God's help. Salvation and restoration is only possible as God bestows enabling grace. No one can come to God by his own efforts. It was for this reason that the Psalmist prayed that God would turn them. Only as the people turn from their sins can God's anger be turned aside. Two things are prayed for:

(1) That God would turn the hearts of his people toward himself (v. 4).

Knowing the people's utter helplessness to turn to God, he cried out to God to save them by turning them to himself. He knew that God's anger could not turn from the people as long as they were impenitent.

(2) That God would take away the very remembrance of their sins (vv. 5-7).

(a) The ending of his anger (v. 5). The desire seems to be that he would wipe out the very marks of his displeasure by no longer allowing punishment to be meted out to them.

(b) The return to the people's joy (v. 6).

Their joy could only be realized through a revival from God. The Psalmist now becomes more bold in his requests. He is getting near enough to God's heart to know that he delights in the welfare of his children, delights in their joy. The sure proof of a revival is joy.

(c) Shall show them mercy (v. 7). "Make it visible," is his cry. God's judgment was most real. His desire is that his mercy would be just as real.

III. Exultant Anticipation (vv. 8-13).
Having spoken the sentiment of the repentant people, the poet expresses confidence of the Lord's response. So faithful is God that those who sincerely pray to him can go forward with the assurance of petitions granted.

(1) "He will speak peace" (v. 8).

He knew that a gentle answer would come, but its continuance would depend upon the fidelity of the people. Turning to folly would provoke again his wrath.

(2) Will bring his salvation near (v. 9).

Only as his salvation was near could glory be in the land.

(3) Devise a way by which "Mercy and truth," "Righteousness and peace," may be united (vv. 10, 11).

He did not suggest a way. He may not have known it. Faith now sees the way in Christ. In him such a union has been blessedly effected.

(4) The land shall become fruitful (v. 11).

When sin is removed, temporal prosperity shall follow. Earth's barrenness is due to sin. When the curse is removed fruitfulness shall follow.

(5) Righteousness shall be the guide of his people (v. 12).

In that golden, glad age God's righteous ways will leave a track in which his own may walk with security.

Psalm 120.

I. The Fact of Zion's Deliverance (vv. 1, 2).

(1) By whom (v. 1). The Lord.

(2) Effect of (v. 1, 2).

(a) The people were scarcely able to believe it. So sudden and unexpected was their deliverance that it seemed to them as a dream. They expressed their feeling in joyful laughter.

(b) The heathen noted their deliverance as marvelous, and ascribed it to God (v. 2).

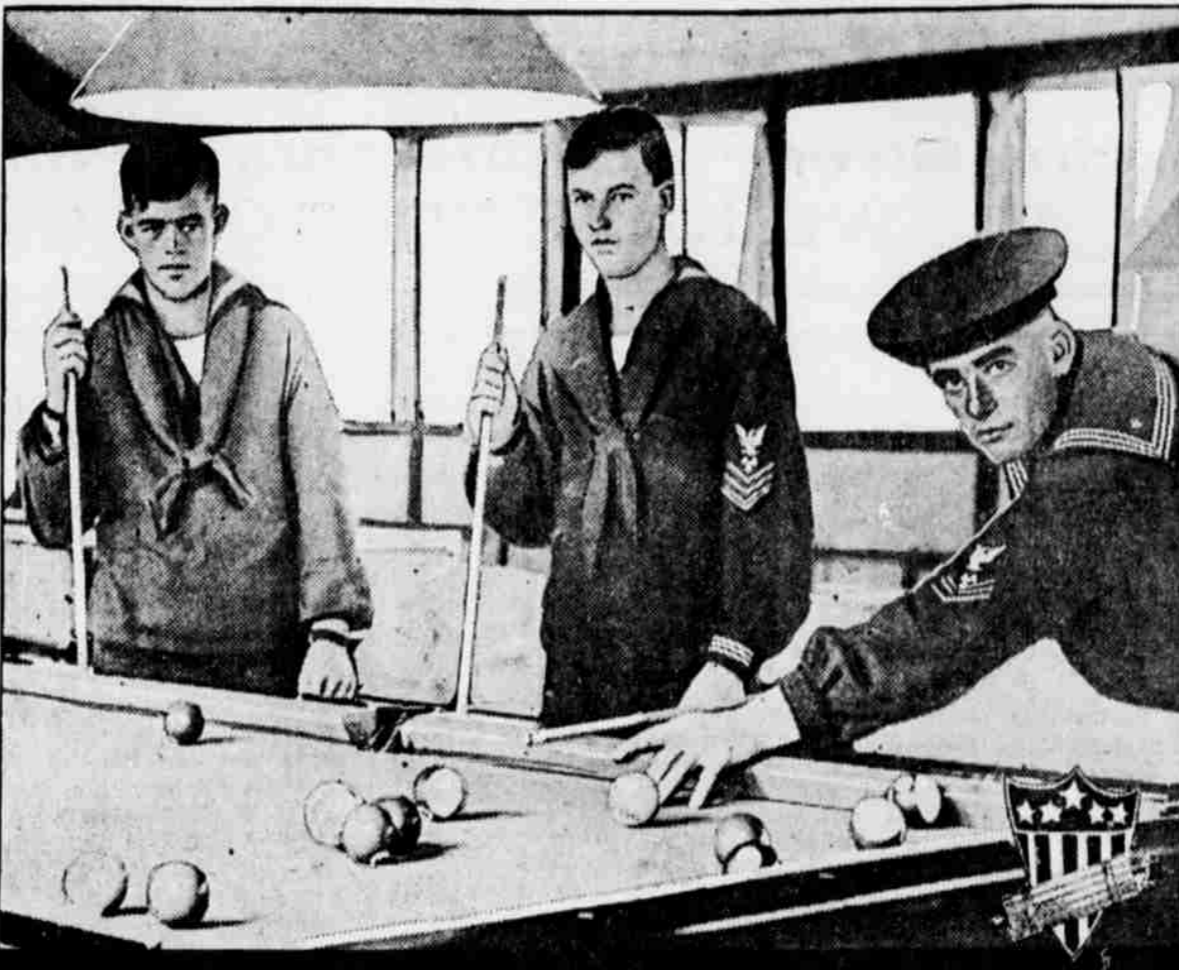
Pictures of World Events for News Readers

In This Department Our Readers in Fulton County and Elsewhere May Journey Around the World With the Camera on the Trail of History Making Happenings.



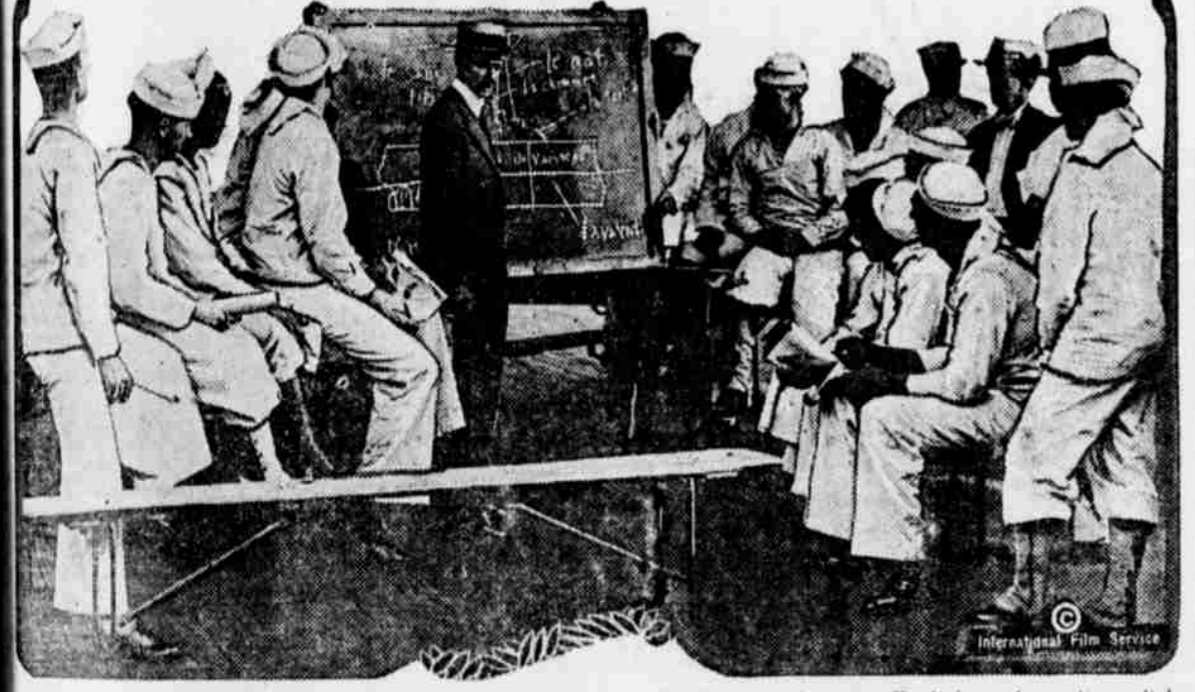
1—View of the encampment in Porto Rico where patriotic Porto Ricans are training for service in the American army. 2—Wounded Italians sitting by a roadside east of Gorizia, waiting for an ambulance. 3—Nicholas Romanoff, deposed czar of Russia, with a stump for a throne. 4—Hjalmar Branting, leader of the socialists of Sweden and editor of the organ of the labor party.

AMERICAN SAILORS IN "EAGLE HUT," LONDON



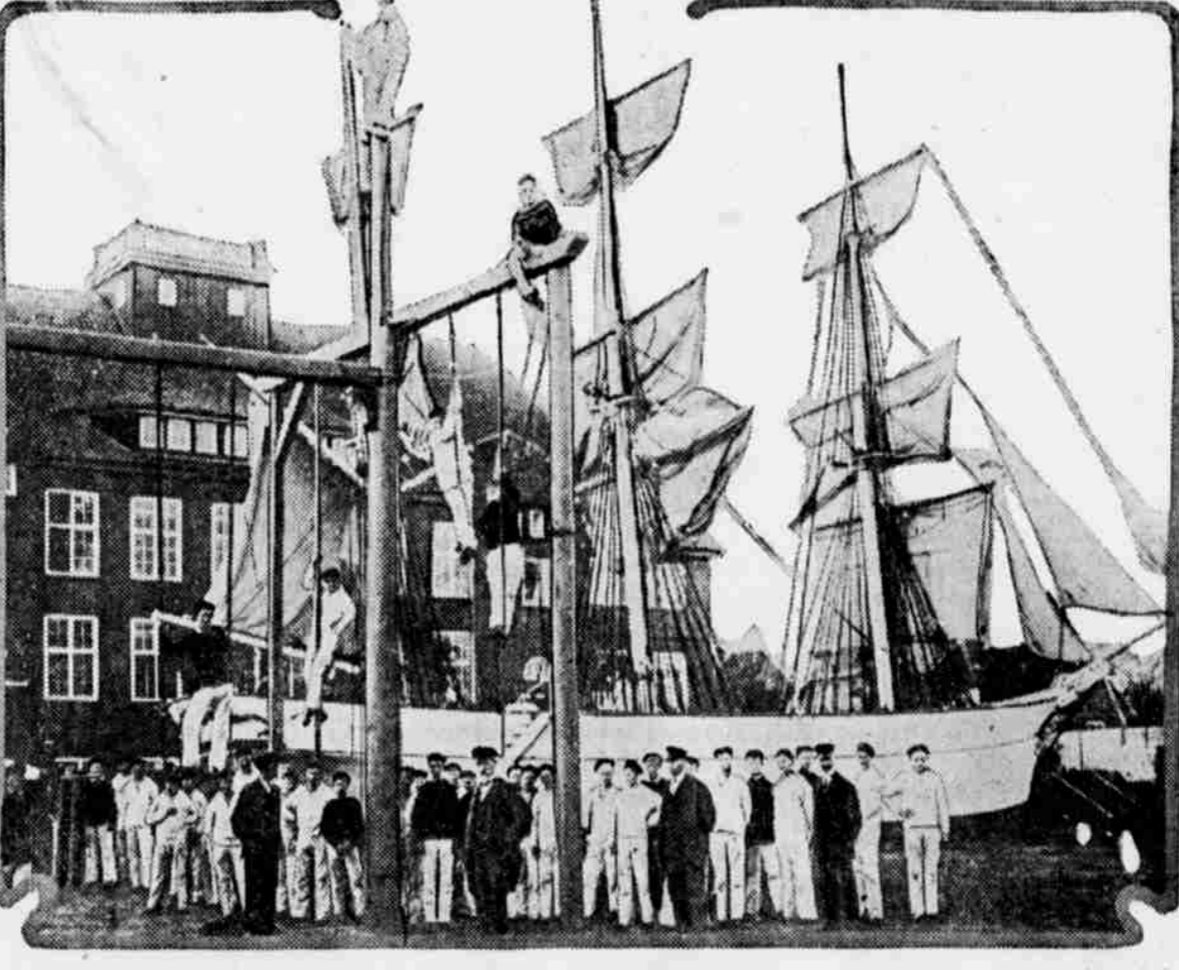
American Jackies playing a game of pool in the "Eagle Hut," erected by the Y. M. C. A. for the comfort and amusement of American soldiers and sailors in and about London.

TEACHING FRENCH TO OUR JACKIES



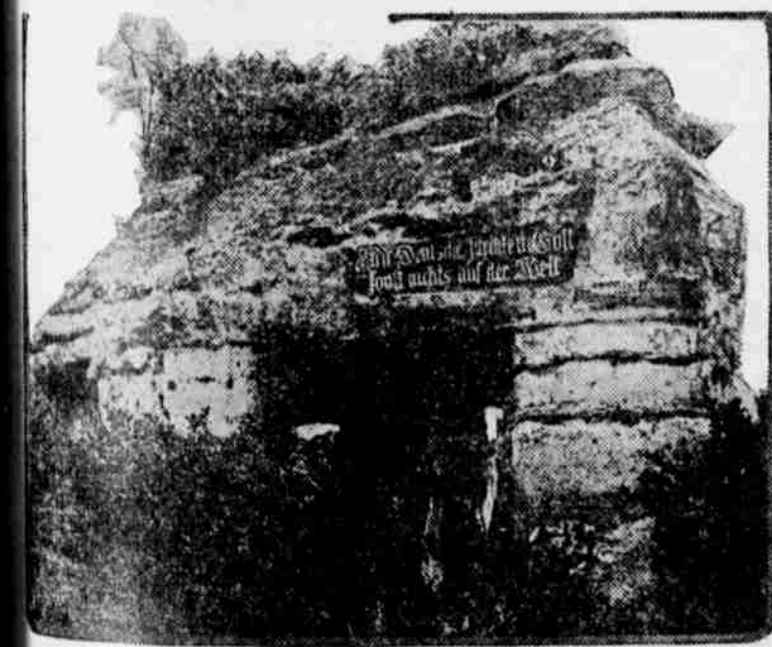
If our Jackies can't speak French almost as well as they do English, or salt water English, at least, it won't be the fault of some of the hard-working naval instructors. On board ship and in the navy yards, the Jackies are wrestling with all sorts of French tongue twisters. Here is a typical French class aboard an American battleship held up at a navy yard. The lesson for the day is on battleship nomenclature.

GERMANY PREPARING TO REGAIN HER COMMERCE



This photograph, brought over from Germany recently by an American woman, shows the training ship of the mercantile marine school established by the government in Hamburg in anticipation of the time when Germany will try to recover her former place in the world's commerce.

"WE GERMANS FEAR GOD, NOTHING ELSE"



Inscribed on the rock above this artillery shelter is the avowal: "We Germans fear God, but nothing else in the world." The shelter is in the region of the Elephants, near Lyons.

BOMBING A MUNITION DEPOT



This remarkable photograph was taken inside the German lines from the airplane of an aviator who made a raid on a great boche munition depot. The daring aviator, starting out on the apparently reckless venture of getting by the German lines and successfully bombing the Teuton stores of munitions, flew to a point above the depot and dropped quantities of incendiary bombs while the Germans kept firing a terrific fusillade at him. Despite the danger, he kept at his task and earned his reward when he saw the munition storehouse burst into flames. The smoke from the burning depot can be seen ascending. The aviator returned to his own lines safely.

Her Choice.

Hazel was at a loss to make a choice between two young sprouts in her garden of love. She desired a hardy plant, one that would thrive in any soil and under any conditions. No shadow must prevent the sprout selected from growing. Every day could not have its full allotment of sunshine. Which would she choose? Either was pleasing to the eye. Then came a day when the wind blew hard—a draft from one end of the country to the other. One of the sprouts withered from the biting blast. The other thrived and grew as though it had been blessed with continual sunshine. Now Hazel is happy. Her choice has been made.

TWO LEADERS IN GERMANY



To the left is Matthias Erzberger, head of the Catholic Center party, who is believed in Europe to have been a factor in causing the pope's peace proposal. To the right is Karl Helfferich, the German secretary of state.

His Jinx.

The day that the men of the Ninth division completed their rifle practice at Fort Harrison a little dog was out on the range, running back and forth in front of the targets. When a bullet hit one of the targets with a "zing," the little dog would rush up to the target with a yelp, barking at the target until another "zing" attracted him to another target. For more than an hour he bounded back and forth in front of the targets, a fearless little venturer in "no man's land," and finally when he was called off, he trotted away not a whit the worse for his experience in front of the firing line of student officers.

"I hope I have the same sort of a jinx on the Germans' bullets that the little mutt seemed to have on ours," said one fellow when the dog had been called off the range.—Indianapolis News.

ENGLISH WOMEN DRIVE SIDE CARS



Women motorcycle and side-car drivers are not uncommon in the streets of London these days. They act as dispatch carriers and drivers for one of the women's auxiliaries that have so greatly assisted the government.

Coffee Market in Our Hands.

Prior to the trouble in Europe Hamburg and Havre were the two great coffee markets of the world, both receiving goods from the growers of all the world and storing them in wonderful warehouses to be re-exported according to trade requirements. Today both these markets are totally eliminated and it is within our power to dominate the coffee trade of the future. Conditions for this are ideal. In the first place no duty is charged on coffee imported into the United States. Secondly, we are well situated, geographically, to become the distributing center for this staple for the western hemisphere and should be the middlemen for this line for the bean grown in South and Central America and the West Indies. Furthermore, our larger ports have many merchants handling this article exclusively.

The Fates Have It!

Two young stenographers were discussing the camp at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, which, since they were young stenographers, means that they were talking about the men out at the fort. It was the day after the commissions had been announced for the first training camp. "What do you think about it, honey?" inquired the first. "I think it's a shame," replied the other. "Why, Andra, do you know that back in July I had my choice of three of the nicest, good-looking fellows out there. Well, I didn't want to be a pig, so I just picked the most promising. Now they have passed out those commissions. One of the two I turned down is a second lieutenant, and the other is really a captain. But George (George was the one I choose), George didn't get a thing. That's just my luck."—Indianapolis News.

READY FOR ATTACK FROM ABOVE OR BELOW



Home on a French torpedo boat, showing how aerial quick-fire guns are mounted on the torpedo tubes, thus providing for defense against either aerial or submarine attacks.