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The Returning Saint By REV. JAMES M. GRAY, D. D. Dean of Moody Bible Institute, Chicago

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

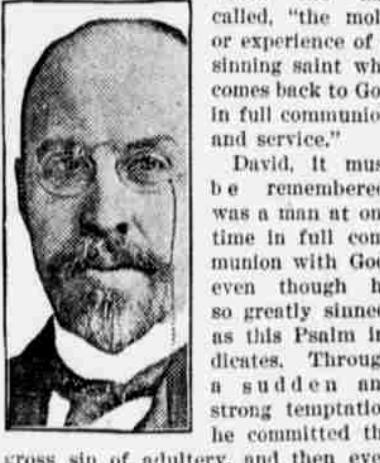
By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of the Sunday School Course of the Moody Bible Institute. (Copyright, 1917, Western Newspaper Union.)

LESSON FOR JUNE 3

JESUS BETRAYED AND DENIED.

LESSON TEXT—John 18:1-11, 16-17. GOLDEN TEXT—He was despised and rejected of men.—Isa. 53:3.

In teaching this lesson to some of the younger classes, emphasis might be placed upon the dramatic scene in the garden of Gethsemane, and Peter's denial at the fire. In some of the intermediate classes the scholars might be asked to write short, one-minute essays, describing the scene as though they, themselves, were present.



TEXT—Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.—Psalm 51:12. This is one of the best-known and most highly praised Psalms of David, which one has called, "the mold or experience of a sinner's soul."

David, it must be remembered, was a man at one time in full communion with God, even though he so grievously sinned, as this Psalm indicates. Through a sudden and strong temptation he committed the gross sin of adultery, and then even tried to cover over some of the effects of it by being accessory to the sin of murder.

Forgiveness and Cleansing. In the next division of the Psalm we see forgiveness and cleansing accorded him and secured on his part by faith in the atoning blood. This is expressed in verses 7-10, in the symbolism of the hyssop, in the washing of his soul until it is whiter than snow, in the blotting out of his iniquity, and in the creation within him of a clean heart.

We now see the restored one filled with the Spirit of God, in verses 11-17. He is filled with the joy of salvation; he is filled with power to teach transgressors and convert sinners; he is filled with the spirit of service and with the spirit of worship as indicated in his overflowing praise, and the presentation unto God of the sacrifice of a broken spirit and a contrite heart.

Finally he is seen in fellowship with God and interested now, not so much in things concerning himself, as in the things that concern God. His cry is, "Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion; build thou the walls of Jerusalem." This beautiful outline of the Psalm is suggested by the Scofield Reference Bible, and ought to bring the greatest comfort to any soul weary and heavy-laden with the burden of sin, and who is really desirous to find the way of deliverance from it.

The Same Truth in the New Testament.

One finds all the more encouragement to urge this because the same truth, only put in another way, is set before us again in the New Testament. You will find it in the First Epistle of John, chapter I, verse 9, where, addressing Christian believers, he says, "If we confess our sins, he (i. e. God), is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Because a man is saved by God's grace through faith in Christ, i. e., because he is a true Christian believer, is not to say that he will never again commit a sin against God. It is indeed his privilege, through the power of God's spirit dwelling within him, to continually live a life of victory over sin, and yet, like David, he may fall.

Under such circumstances, what is he to do? Has he lost out again? Has he utterly fallen never to be restored any more? Has Christ's sacrifice forever lost its efficacy for him? No, thank God, Christ, as his high priest in heaven, ever liveth to make intercession for him. And now, like David again, it is for him to judge his sin before God, for that is really the meaning of the word, "confess." Let him do this, and he will find God "faithful and just to forgive" him. "Faithful" to his promise that means, and "just" because Jesus Christ has paid the penalty of his sin.

"Merciful and Just."

That word "just" is full of strength and comfort for us. God is not only "merciful" in forgiving the man who comes to him through Christ, but he is "just" in doing so. He is "just" because that man's sins have already been atoned for on the cross, and it would be unjust to ignore that great fact and to cast the man away. This is a lesson for Christian backsliders, and alas! there are many of them in the church. Some of them would gladly return to the father's house, but they are timid and fearful and so discouraged. But let them take heart again, for God loves and yearns over them. The story of the prodigal son in Luke 15 was meant for them. That which he did insured a loving welcome for him in his old home, and so let them follow his example as outlined in the language of Psalm 51 and I John 1:9. They also will be met in the same way, and know what it is to have the old joy of their salvation restored unto them, because by grace they will be cleansed from all unrighteousness.

True Friendship.

The silence, the reserves, of a true friendship are more eloquent than its speech. The language of the heart in the hour of its necessity fills up the gaps of the broken speech, and what the lips cannot articulate, love interprets and love fulfills.—Donald Sage Many.

CANADA'S IMMIGRATION Increased by About Sixty Per Cent in Past Six Months.

That Canada is at war is now more fully appreciated on this side of the boundary line, now that the United States has stepped alongside its northern neighbor and linked hands in the great struggle for a freer democracy throughout the civilized world. As a result of this greater interest than ever is seen in the mutual effort to develop both the United States and Canada. Recently, just before the time that the United States declared its intention to enter the contest and contribute of its resources to the defeat of the autocracy, whose design was to permeate the world, Western Canada made an appeal for farm labor to till the fields and prepare the soil for the crops of grain that were necessary to feed the fighting forces and keep up the requirements necessary for the Allies. The responses were so great that before half the time limit expired, over six thousand laborers were secured. This was not sufficient, but once the United States was declared to be in a condition of war, and farm labor required here to meet any exigency as to short rations that might arise, the sister to the north, withdrew from attempts, which might mean a restriction of the farm labor supply in the United States. But even with this it is thought Canada will now be fairly well supplied.

Apart, however, from the farm labor proposition, it is gratifying from both a United States and Canadian point of view that the immigration of farmers to take up homestead lands and to purchase improved and unimproved land in Canada, has shown such a wonderful increase in the past three months. The great struggle for increasing the food supply has a broader and greater significance than ever. The food must come into existence, whether the rich soils of the United States or those of Canada be the factor.

It is altogether probable that the action of the Canadian Government in taking the duty off wheat going into Canada, thus automatically lifting the duty off that coming into the United States, may not be responsible for an increased immigration to Canada. Canada's reputation for growing larger average yields and a better quality of grain, and on lands, many of which are free, as well as those that range from \$15 to \$35 an acre, is an appeal that is being responded to by farmers who are now renting high-priced lands, is another reason for expecting an increasing number of farmers from the United States.

Mr. W. D. Scott, Superintendent of Immigration at Ottawa, Canada, recently gave out figures concerning immigration from the United States, which shows that the increase in the past three or four months is 60 per cent over the same period last year, and Mr. Scott forecasts that during the calendar year of 1917 there will be over one hundred per cent increase and be much heavier than for many years past. Mr. Scott declares that already this spring more settlers' effects have entered Canada than crossed during the whole of last year, and the movement has just merely started.

The new settlers are coming from numerous states through the ports of Emerson, North Portal and Coultas, as well as from Oregon and Washington, through Kingsgate and Vancouver. There arrived in Saskatchewan during the year ending December 31, 1916, a total of 8,139 persons as compared with 5,812 during the twelve months previous. At the same time nearly twice as many immigrants passed through the immigration department at Edmonton, Alberta, in the last twelve months as for the same period of the year before.

The number of settlers from Eastern Canada migrating to the west also increased. From January 1 to March 31, 1917, the number of cars of stock that passed through the Winnipeg yards was 750, as compared with 361 last year. A fair estimate of the value of each car would be about \$2,000, which means that the west has secured additional live stock to the value of \$1,500,000 or more, during the first three months of 1917, not taking into account that brought in by immigrants from the United States.—Advertisement.

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