

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson in the International Series for June 17, 1900.—Feeding of the Five Thousand.

[Prepared by H. C. Lenington.]

THE LESSON TEXT.—John 6:5-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Give us this day our daily bread.—Matt. 6:11.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The miracle of the lesson is the only one which is recorded in all the four Gospels. This does not, of course, prove that it is the most important of the miracles of Jesus, but it is some indication of its importance. It occurred in the plain of Butaiha, an uncultivated, uninhabited place, on the north-east shore of the Sea of Galilee. The four accounts will be found as follows: Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-46; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15. Based upon these four records, and combining the events and teachings, we may make the following analysis:

- 1. Jesus Receiving the Five Thousand.
2. Jesus Teaches (a) and (b) Heals.
3. One Method of Instruction.
4. The Miracle.
5. Jesus Gives Thanks.
6. The Loaves and Fishes.
7. Jesus on the Mountain in Prayer.

Jesus Receiving the Five Thousand.—After the death of John the Baptist the apostles, who had been abroad doing the work of Jesus, returned to report to the Master what they had done and what they had taught. Jesus Himself had not been idle, for Mark says that "there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat." So they went by boat across the lake to rest. But they were seen departing by many people, and so eager were they to see and hear Jesus that, as Mark goes on to say, "they ran about thither, and outwent them, and came unto Him." So great was the heart of the Master that He gave up the rest He needed. He was moved with compassion toward them and (Luke 9:11) "received them."

Jesus Teaches and Heals.—Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. But here is one instance (among many) where the lost came seeking the Master. How He met this occasion it is the object of this lesson to teach: (1) He received the people with compassion; (2) He taught them, speaking of the Kingdom of God; (3) He healed the sick, thus showing in a practical way His sympathy; and, (4) He performed the miracle of multiplying the loaves and fishes, thus accomplishing the double purpose of feeding the hungry multitude, and also showing that He was more than a man, that there was with Him the power of God. Those who were healed included the ones who by a long journey stood had gone beyond their strength, and also many who had ailments which permitted them to be absent in much their accustomed way. Besides these it may be that there were those who had not thus far been able to bring their sick to Jesus, and who thought that surely in the wilderness He would not be so thronged that He could not relieve them.

One Method of Instruction.—In this lesson is illustrated one of Jesus' favorable methods of instruction when with His disciples. We learn by sharp contrast. So Jesus said to Philip, when He saw the people were hungry: "Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" John explains the attitude of Jesus by adding that "this He said to prove him; for He Himself knew what He would do." Philip and the other disciples were to have a striking illustration of the wide difference between the human way and the Divine way. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."—Isaiah 55:8.

The Miracle.—Some of the miracles of Jesus may be susceptible of explanation and may have been in accordance with the foreordained laws of what we call nature. But a real miracle, like the one of the lesson, cannot be explained to the human mind. The how we cannot know. We can know, however, that the God who created this world, who put upon it all the wonders of its beautiful forms and breathed upon it the breath of life, is bound by no precedent of His own establishment, and therefore the miracles of Jesus, the Son of God, need not be explained. We may accept them as facts, and draw from them the lessons they teach.

Jesus Gives Thanks.—When the loaves and fishes were brought before Jesus He "gave thanks." This was a beautiful example for all disciples, and the custom of grace before meat cannot be too highly commended. We may remember that the chief significance of the custom lies in the fact that it recognizes God as the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

The Loaves and Fishes.—Only five barley loaves and two small fishes! No wonder Andrew asked: "What are they among so many?" God uses the little things of life for His great purposes. W. H. Van Doren has remarked that He multiplied by division, "distributed," and added by subtraction, "filled 13 baskets with the fragments of five barley loaves."

Jesus on the Mountain in Prayer.—"And when He had sent them (both the people and His disciples) away, He departed into a mountain to pray." Thus Jesus fittingly closed a busy day alone with God.

Spear Points.—He who loves folly may well listen to flattery. Your living speaks louder than all your logic. Every time you turn your eyes on evil its shadow falls on your heart. The way to flee from the justice of God is to flee to the God of justice. It will hurt you more to live a day without prayer than to live it without bread.

One reason why Job did not get entirely in the dark was because he kept looking up.—Rams' Horn.

Love's Greatest Sacrifice. Mother—Are you sure you love him? Daughter—Am I sure! Do you see this dress? "Of course I do. What of it?" "Will you kindly tell me if it bears the slightest resemblance to the present fashion?" "Well, really, it—er—it—" "It doesn't?" "No." "Well, I'm wearing it because he likes it."—Tit-Bits.

Finances. Beautiful Girl—Don't you sometimes get tired, Mr. Richbath, of living all alone in that great house of yours? He (elderly, but well preserved)—Indeed I do, Miss Hunter. That is why I am going to ask my two old aunts to come and spend the rest of their days with me.—Chicago Tribune.

A Groaner. He groaned at dawn, he groaned at noon, he groaned at night, and groaned when all alone. He groaned in company, groaned in bed, and groaned and groaned whatever was said. He groaned and groaned when life began, and groaned when he had grown a man.—Ally Sloper.

FRENCH AS SHE IS TAUGHT.



He—I suppose your French lessons were of great service to you in Paris? She—Not much. The stupid creatures don't seem to understand their own language.—The Cigarette.

Definition. A bigot is a mulish sort of chap, whose narrow judgment goes so far astray that for his views he does not care a rap. But holds his own, no matter what we say.—Chicago Record.

An Autopsy. Little Mike (who has struck a hard spot in his reading)—Feyther, phwat is an autopsy? McLubberty (promptly)—An autopsy, is it? Sure that's phin a dead man requists the docthor to cut him up, so that he can find out phwat is the matter wid him.—Harper's Bazar.

Gave Him a Poser. "You are my ideal," he said earnestly; "the only girl I ever loved, the only girl I ever could love. No other could possibly fill the void in my heart." "And if you never had met me, George," she asked, anxiously, "would you never have cared for any girl at all?"—Chicago Post.

Repertee. He (sentimental)—I wish I were a star! She—I wish I were one, too! He—May I dare to guess why? She—Because it is known that every star is millions of miles away from the next one.—N. Y. World.

A Pocket Romance. "How did Jones happen to marry Miss Brown? He used to be in love with that pretty Miss Smith." "Miss Brown lived in the next block, and it cost Jones two street-car fares to get out to Miss Smith's."—Chicago Record.

Wanted to Pay Extra. Grocer—What's that about the dozen eggs you bought this morning? Jones—They were all bad except one, and I called to see how much extra I owe you for the good one.—Ohio State Journal.

Human Nature. Mollie—There go Jack and Tom; let's follow them. Polly—But suppose they should see us? Mollie—Then they'll follow us.—Town Topics.

Risk Eliminated. "She occasionally bets on the races. She has an excellent system." "Indeed?" "Yes. She keeps what she wins and makes her husband pay what she loses."—Puck.

The Real Thing. "See those crocodiles ranged one above the other on the river bank," said the traveler in the south. "Yes," explained his wife; "I suppose those are the original crocodiles."—Yonkers Statesman.

Of Course. She—Which half of the world do you suppose it is that doesn't know how the other lives? He—The masculine.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Itemized List. The Enumerator—How many females reside in this building? The Janitress—There's a saleslady, a lady, four women and a scrublady.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Where He Failed. Wife—You seem to be able to read me like a book. Husband—Yes, I wish I could shut you up as easily.—Brooklyn Life.

Supreme Test. "She is a new woman, you say?" "Oh, unquestionably. Why, she is so far advanced that she no longer lies about her age."—Chicago Post.

Confidence. "Do you think that expert witnesses will give valuable testimony?" asked one of the lawyers for the defense. "I'm sure of it," answered the other. "If he can talk to the jury the way he talked to me he'll have them where they won't know what to believe, and they'll simply be obliged to give the prisoner the benefit of the doubt."—Washington Star.

Seeking the Best Odds. "Professor Hadley says that only ten per cent of the marriages are happy ones." "Well," replied the sweet young thing, "even in that case let us remember that the odds on marital happiness are about ten per cent better than those on a happy spinsterhood."—Chicago Post.

No Judge of Beauty. Artist's Sister—Oh, George, your work is going to be appreciated at last! At the gallery to-day I heard Mrs. Highup say you had the prettiest picture on exhibition. Struggling Artist (despondently)—Mrs. Highup, unfortunately, is no judge. She admires that red-faced, pug-nosed baby of hers.—N. Y. Weekly.

A Rise in Values. First Lobbyist—That congressman has got the big head. Second Lobbyist—Has he? First Lobbyist—The worst I ever saw. Just because his home paper referred to him as a second Daniel Webster, he expects to get fancy prices for his vote.—N. Y. Journal.

Not Very Neatly Put. He (pleadingly)—Why can't we be married? She (coolly)—Oh I can't bear to leave father alone just yet. He (earnestly)—But, my darling, he has had you such a long, long time. She (freezingly)—Sir!—Tit-Bits.

In the Vegetable Line. She—Are you going to the donation party, to-night? He—To be sure, I am. "Well, you've got to take some vegetables with you." "Then I'll take that box of cigars you gave me Christmas."—Salem Statesman.

Her One Chance. "Only think, I dreamed last night I got that exquisite new frock I showed you in a window the other day, for a birthday present. Brutal Husband—Really? Try to go to sleep again and dream who it was that gave it to you.—N. Y. World.

A Training School. Meeks—Stone always speaks well of everybody. Weeks—Merely a force of habit. Meeks—How so? Weeks—He's a marble cutter and his specialty is cutting epitaphs on gravestones.—Chicago Daily News.

At a New Angle. Could any power the gift of us. To see ourselves as others see us. No doubt with great surprise we'd gaze. And ask: "Who is that stupid ape?"—Detroit Free Press.

VERY SMALL TALK. "Earrings are all the go, now, aren't they? Are you having your ears pierced?" "No. I'm only having them bored!"—Punch.



Scared Him with It. "I love to pop corn," he said, as he sat by the open grate and did it. "It seems to me, Mr. Slowleigh," she replied, "that you confine your popping abilities to an unnecessarily narrow field." And then he tumbled.—Baltimore

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BOILS AND CARBUNCLES

These unwelcome visitors usually appear in the spring or summer, when the blood is making an extra effort to free itself from the many impurities that have accumulated during the winter months.



Baneful Boils

Dangerous Carbuncles

Carbuncles, which are more painful and dangerous, come most frequently on the back of the neck, eating great holes in the flesh, exhaust the strength and often prove fatal. Boils are regarded by some people as blessings, and they patiently and uncomplainingly endure the pain and inconvenience under the mistaken idea that their health is being benefited, that their blood is too thick anyway, and this is Nature's plan of thinning it. The blood is not too rich or too thick, but is diseased—full of poison—and unless relieved the entire system will suffer. The boil or carbuncle gives warning of serious internal troubles, which are only waiting for a favorable opportunity to develop. Many an old sore, running sore, even cancer, is the result of a neglected boil. Keep the blood pure, and it will keep the skin clear of all the irritating impurities that cause these painful, disfiguring diseases. S. S. S. cures boils and carbuncles easily and permanently by reinforcing, purifying and building up the blood and ridding the system of all accumulated waste matter. S. S. S. is made of roots and herbs which act directly on the blood, and all poisons, no matter how deep-seated, are soon overcome and driven out by this powerful purely vegetable medicine. S. S. S. is not a new, untried remedy, but for fifty years has been curing all kinds of blood and skin diseases. It has cured thousands, and will cure you. It is a pleasant tonic as well as blood purifier—improves the appetite and digestion, builds up your general health and keeps your blood in order. Our physicians have made blood and skin diseases a life study—write them fully about your case, and you will be cheerfully given. We make no charge whatever for this service. Send for our book on Blood and Skin Diseases—free. Address, The Swift Specific Co., Atlanta, Ga.



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