

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson in the International Series for July 22, 1900—Peter's Confession and Christ's Rebuke.

[Prepared by H. C. Lenington.] THE LESSON TEXT—Matthew 16:13-23. GOLDEN TEXT—If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.—Matt. 16:24.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

After hearing the daughter of the Syrophenician woman Jesus returns to Galilee, and performs many miracles of healing. This is in the summer of A. D. 29. It is in Decapolis that the feeding of the 4,000 from seven loaves of bread occurs. Then comes the demand of the Pharisees and Sadducees for a sign. The Pharisees and Sadducees had not, we may imagine, seen any of Jesus' miracles. They had heard of His marvelous works and came to prove Him. But Jesus refuses to give them a sign. He would not perform a miracle for the mere purpose of demonstrating His power. Furthermore, we have reason to believe that these Jews would not have believed had they received the sign, but have used it as a basis for controversy, claiming, as they afterward did, that "by Beelzebub casteth He out devils." These events are all recorded in the first two Gospels, in Matt. 15:29 to 16:12, and Mark 7:31 to 8:21. Mark also gives the story of the healing of a blind man at Bethsaida as occurring at this time (Mark 8:23-26).

The People's Idea of Jesus.—After the events related above, busy days of teaching, healing and controversy with scribes and Pharisees, Jesus finds Himself alone for a little time with His disciples. He was drawing near to the close of His earthly ministry, and took this occasion to fasten upon their minds certain definite impressions. They had been with their Master the better part of two whole years. During this time they must have found certain ideas regarding the work and personality of Jesus, yet they had not probably resolved these into definite and fixed convictions. This was a suitable occasion now that opposition had come to definitely formulate what was in their minds and hearts. So Jesus asked, leading up to His real objective in the most natural way: "Whom do men say that I am?" The disciples, during their preaching tours and by contact with all sorts of people, had learned that the impression abroad was that Jesus was one of their prophets returned to earth. Some said He was John the Baptist, others that He was Elijah, and still others that He was Jeremiah.

Peter's Declaration.—But what Jesus was anxious about was what they thought. He sought not for popular approval, but to leave a personal impression upon the hearts of individuals. We find Him preaching just as earnestly to an audience of one as to great multitudes. "But whom say ye that I am?" Simon Peter answered the query: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." It was the great mission of Jesus to impress this truth upon the world, but this was the first time He had heard it expressed by human lips. Where had Peter learned it? We could say he had heard it from Jesus, Himself. But no mere words could convey a message fraught with such heavenly import. Jesus tells us where Peter learned the truth he had just uttered: "Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in Heaven."

The Rock Foundation.—These words of Jesus help us to understand what follows, for it shows upon what is built the Kingdom of God, both in the hearts of individual men and in its outward manifestation as the Church of God. It is the spirit of being in harmony with the Divine influences, being able to hear amid the confusion of this life the still small voice of God, that furnishes the foundation of the great structure Jesus was to erect. This faith in the heart of Peter has grown and broadened, deepened and heightened until now the host of the faithful and consecrated cannot be numbered. No influence is powerful enough to successfully assail this structure. "Upon this rock," says Jesus, "I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Jesus' Death and Resurrection Foretold.—We may merely note that this is the first time Jesus has clearly and unmistakably stated what was before Him. His disciples were to be forewarned and so forearmed.

Peter Rebuking His Master.—The attitude of Peter upon hearing the words of Jesus was quite natural in one so impetuous, yet it comes as a surprise after his declaration of the true character of Jesus, and the commendation of Peter by Jesus. But Peter had his weak moments, and could hardly have known at that time that he was but tempting Jesus to overthrow the work of His ministry, for the crowning point of that work was upon the cross.

Requirements of Discipleship.—Yet this very incident serves to emphasize one of the most important teachings of Jesus, namely, self-denial and cross-bearing are essential to true discipleship. Only by laying down His life was Jesus able to accomplish what He did.

Gems of Truth.—Conscience is the better man within the best of men. When the devil is sure of you he will let you alone. Better the pessimism that persists against odds than the optimism that makes no effort at all.

Deciding to do right is the beginning of a fence that God will help you to build to keep the devil out. The richest man is not the one who has the most, but the one who can be most thankful for the least.—Ran's Home.

An Unnatural Man.

Meligger—I suppose you'd call Eaton a bon vivant. Thingumbob—Heh! That's too mild. He's a gross glutton. Meligger—Oh, come now! Thingumbob—He is so. Every morning of his life after he has gorged himself with breakfast, he sits there and tells his wife in detail what she must get for dinner.—Philadelphia Press.

Chip Off the Old Block. Growells—I wonder what makes that boy cry so when the nurse is trying to wash the dirt from his face? Mrs. Growells—Oh, I suppose he takes after you. Growells—Now, what do you mean by that? Mrs. Growells—He wants the earth.—Chicago Daily News.

Sad. Mrs. Wiseman—Seems to me you come home from the theater wearing a pretty long face. Wiseman—Oh, well—sad play. Tragic ending. Mrs. Wiseman—Why, how did it end? Wiseman (mournfully)—They married.—N. Y. World.

The Cause. "I wonder what makes a man's hair fall out so fast when once it starts?" "Worry," answered the man who always has an explanation ready. "Nothing tends to make a man bald so much as worry; and nothing worries a man so much as the idea that he is becoming bald."—Washington Star.

Not Envy? Rev. Dr. Fourthly—My vacation? I expect to spend it in Europe. My congregation has given me a purse of money and a three months' vacation for that purpose. Rev. Dr. Goodman (turning away with a sigh)—I wish my congregation was as keen to get rid of me as that.—Chicago Tribune.

Some Knowledge of Him. "It is to be more or less a little garden party," explained the prospective hostess. "We dine al fresco, of course." "I have heard of the gentleman," said Mrs. Gaskell, with well-bred indifference, "but I think I never met him."—Chicago Tribune.

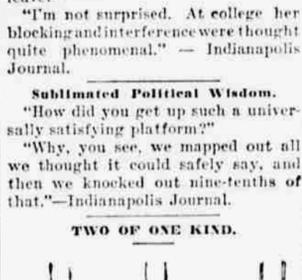
Awful Willie. Featherstone—What keeps your sister so long, Willie? Her Awful Little Brother—She's putting on the finest clothes she has. Featherstone—What's that for? Her Awful Little Brother—She said she was going to land you to-night if it could be done.—Tit-Bits.

Her Opinion. "Is it an indication of mental derangement for a man to talk to himself?" asked Willie Washington. "Judging by the men I have heard," answered Miss Cayenne, "it is not. The derangement is shown by the fact that the man listens to himself."—Washington Star.

Higher Education of Women. "She managed to keep her cook more than a week after the cook decided to leave!" "I'm not surprised. At college her blocking and interference were thought quite phenomenal."—Indianapolis Journal.

Sublimated Political Wisdom. "How did you get up such a universally satisfying platform?" "Why, you see, we mapped out all we thought it could safely say, and then we knocked out nine-tenths of that."—Indianapolis Journal.

TWO OF ONE KIND.



He—What, Julie, still awake! I hope you haven't waited for me till I came home from the club? She—O, no, dear! I've just come from my club.—Der Floh.

Like Iron. "There is a suit, my friend," said the dealer, "that will wear like iron." "I guess that feller was a liar," said the victim two weeks later. "The suit is rusty already."—Indianapolis Press.

Hamlet Up to Date. Polonius—There is nothing that counts for success in life so much as honesty. Hamlet—Oh! I don't know; you seem to get along pretty fair.—Judge.

Think Me Like It. "I think my landlord must be a chess player," said Dinwiddle to Van Bramm. "What makes you think that?" "He told me it was my move."—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

Another Question. Chicago Child—Ma? Chicago Mother—What is it, child? Chicago Child—What do women do with all their old wedding rings?—Judge.

Quite Delightful. Round Town—Griggs got out of that trouble by a tight squeeze. The Fair Young Thing—Oh, what a delightful experience.—Yonkers Herald.

NIAGARA FALLS EXCURSIONS.

Low-Rate Vacation Trips via Pennsylvania Railroad.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has selected the following dates for its popular ten-day excursions to Niagara Falls from Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington: July 29, August 5 and 23, September 6 and 20, and October 4 and 18. On these dates the special train will leave Washington at 8:00 A. M., Baltimore 9:35 A. M.

This year the excursions from Philadelphia will be run by two routes. Those on July 29, August 9, September 6, October 4 and 18, going via Harrisburg and the picturesque valley of the Susquehanna as heretofore, special train leaving Philadelphia at 8:30 A. M.; excursions of August 23 and September 20 running via Trenton, Manunka Chunk, and the Delaware Valley, leaving Philadelphia on special train at 8:00 A. M.

Excursion tickets, good for return passage on any regular train, exclusive of limited express trains, within ten days, will be sold at \$10.00 from Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, and all points on the Delaware Division; \$11.25 from Atlantic City; \$9.00 from Lancaster; \$8.50 from Altoona and Harrisburg; \$6.00 from Sunbury and Wilkesbarre; \$5.75 from Williamsport; and at proportionate rates from other points, including Trenton, Mt. Holly, Palmyra, New Brunswick, and principal intermediate stations. A stop-over will be allowed at Buffalo, Rochester, Canandaigua, and Watkins within the limit returning, on the excursions of July 29, August 9, September 6, October 4 and 18.

For the excursions of August 23 and September 20, stop-over will be allowed at Buffalo on return trip within limit of ticket. The special trains of Pullman parlor cars and day coaches will be run with each excursion running through to Niagara Falls. An extra charge will be made for parlor-car seats.

An experienced tourist agent and chaperon will accompany each excursion. For descriptive pamphlet, time of connecting trains, and further information apply to nearest ticket agent, or address Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia. 7-12-21.

REDUCED RATES TO BELLEFONTE.

For the Centre-County Centennial at Bellefonte, Pa., July 25 and 26, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets from all stations on its line in the State of Pennsylvania, to Bellefonte and return, at one fare for the round trip (minimum rate, 25 cts.). Tickets will be sold and good going July 24, 25, and 26, and to return until July 27, inclusive. 7-12-21.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAUTAUQUA.

Reduced Rates to Mt. Gretna via Pennsylvania Railroad. For the Pennsylvania Chautauqua to be held at Mt. Gretna July 2 to August 8, 1900, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell special excursion tickets to Mt. Gretna from New York, Washington, Baltimore, Frederick, Md., Canandaigua and intermediate points, including all stations on its line in the State of Pennsylvania. Tickets will be sold June 25 to August 8, inclusive, and will be good to return until August 13, inclusive. 7-21-21.

A Friendly Suggestion. "Life is really not worth living." "Said the pessimist with a shiver; 'old man,' the optimist replied. "Go take something for your liver."—Chicago Daily News.

A Forced Acceptance. Mr. Aldermann—Young Hilkoller just asked me for Mary's hand and I told him to take her and be happy. Mrs. Aldermann—Oh, John, how could you? Mr. Aldermann—Confound it, I had to! Tomorrow is election, and if I'd kicked him out of the house I'd have lost his vote.—Judge.

Crime Upon Crime. In sentencing a prisoner to be hanged for the murder of a soldier Lord Eskgrove dilated upon the crime as follows: "And not only did you murder him, whereby he was bereaved of his life, but you did thrust, or push, or pierce, or project, or propel the lethal weapon through the bellyband of his regimental breeches, which were his majesty's!"

Advertisement for Parker's Hair Balm. Over half a century of it is one of the reasons why goods stamped "1847 Rogers Bros." the product of this long experience are best. They are sold by leading dealers. For catalogue No. 191 explaining points of interest to buyers, address the makers International Silver Company, Meriden, Conn. Take no substitute Remember 1847

Advertisement for S.S.S. Blood Poison. In some cases the external signs of Contagious Blood Poison are so slight that the victim is firmly within the grasp of the monster before the true nature of the disease is known. In other cases the blood is quickly filled with this poisonous virus and the swollen glands, mucus patches in the mouth, sores on scalp, ulcers on tongue, sore throat, eruptions on skin, copper colored spots, and falling hair and eyebrows leave no room for doubt, as these are all unmistakable signs of Contagious Blood Poison. Doctors still prescribe mercury and potash as the only cure for Blood Poison. These poisonous minerals never made a complete and permanent cure of Contagious Blood Poison. They drive the disease back into the system, cover it up for a while, but it breaks out again in worse form. These powerful minerals produce mercurial rheumatism and the most offensive sores and ulcers, causing the joints to stiffen and finger nails to drop off. Mercury and potash make wrecks, not cures, and those who have been dosed with these drugs are never after free from aches and pain. S. S. S. acts in an entirely different manner, being a purely vegetable remedy; it forces the poison out of the system, and instead of tearing down, builds up and invigorates the general health. S. S. S. is the only antidote for this specific virus, and therefore the only cure for Contagious Blood Poison. No matter in what stage or how hopeless the case may appear, even though pronounced incurable by the doctors, S. S. S. can be relied upon to make a rapid permanent cure. S. S. S. is not a new, untried remedy; an experience of nearly fifty years has proven it a sure and unfailing cure for this disease. It is the only purely vegetable blood medicine known.

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Advertisement for Applied Science. Through the efforts of Prof. John Milne and Prof. George Davidson, an "earthquake pendulum," costing \$250, has recently been sent to Hawaii, where it will be employed to study the tremors to which our newly-annexed island group is subject. This undertaking forms part of a great seismic survey of the world, through which it is hoped to obtain a fairly complete knowledge of the location of the earthquake centers of the globe, and of the direction and intensity of the earthquake waves which radiate from them. The station at Hawaii will be among the most important. Applied Science. Buxley—Why, aeronauts tell us that a woman's voice can be distinctly heard at an altitude of 3,520 yards. Trimble—Great Caesar! It must have been my wife!—Brooklyn Life.

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