

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson in the International Series for April 27, 1902—Gentiles Received into the Church.

THE LESSON TEXT.

(Acts 11:1-18.)
4. But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying:
5. I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision. A certain vessel descended, as it had been a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came even to me:
6. Upon the which when I had fastened mine eyes, I considered, and saw four-footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.
7. And I heard a voice saying unto me, Arise, Peter; slay and eat.
8. But I said, Not so, Lord; for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth.
9. But the voice answered me again from Heaven, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.
10. And this was done three times; and all were drawn up again into Heaven.
11. And, behold, immediately there were three men already come unto the house where I was, sent from Caesarea unto me.
12. And the spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house:
13. And he showed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter.
14. Who shall tell these words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.
15. And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on me at the beginning.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.

OUTLINE OF SCRIPTURAL SECTION.
Peter arraigned.....Acts 11:1-3.
Peter explains.....Acts 11:4-17.
Time.—A. D. 37.
Place.—Jerusalem.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Gentiles Acknowledged.—Prejudiced as he was, Peter had been unable to resist the evidence that God made no distinction between Gentiles and Jews, and hence baptized Cornelius and his companions. But he had to face the church, possessed of the same Jewish bigotry, for associating and eating with those who were uncircumcised. The question had to come up as to whether Gentiles could become Christians without first becoming Jewish proselytes. The incident at Caesarea brought it up, and though the decision was just, yet, as we shall find, the matter was not finally disposed of.

Peter Arraigned.—The visit to Cornelius was probably the last incident of Peter's journey, and he went back soon to Jerusalem. The news of his action went before him and caused a sensation. Some, no doubt, rejoiced at the step forward which had been taken, but others were disturbed at Peter's action. Of course, in the strict sense of the words, all the members of the church in Jerusalem were "of the circumcision," but the phrase is used as a result of the later discussions with which Luke was familiar when he wrote. It refers to those who regarded the law of Moses as a part of the Gospel, rather than as a burden to be cast aside. They believed in a complete circumcision of man, and the way in which he had to defend himself proved that he had no personal or official authority to act as he pleased.

Peter Explains.—The history of the way in which Peter was led to go to Caesarea carried his justification on the face of it. The fact that he was praying when he saw his vision was an indication that he was actually directed by God through it. The "vessel" which he saw was very large, its corners being held in the sky, while its center reached the earth. The animals which it contained were apparently all of the class of creatures forbidden for food by the Jewish law. Peter was hungry at the time, and the invitation to eat must have been pleasant, but he was unwilling to eat unclean beasts. God's answer to his response was an intimation that there is a law higher than that of the outward form. God cannot, without making the world over, cause two and two to be five; but God can change at His pleasure laws about food. As a matter of fact, the Jewish unwillingness to associate with Gentiles arose largely from the fear lest, in such association, they might, unwittingly, eat unclean or defiled food. The meaning of the symbol was made apparent when Cornelius' messengers came and the Spirit especially instructed him to go with them, overlooking his Jewish prejudices. The six disciples from Joppa who went with him to Caesarea and to Jerusalem stood as witnesses to the propriety of Peter's action and to the genuineness of the outpouring of the Spirit upon the Gentiles. But the greatest witness was the Holy Spirit. Peter's concluding question (v. 17) was unanswerable, as his strongest opponents perceived.

Peter Approved.—The people who "held their peace" were those who at first blamed Peter for going to a Gentile's house. Nor could any genuine Christian, however loyal to the Jewish law and however strong in his Jewish prejudice, fail to glorify and praise God for His mercy to the Gentiles. The decision thus reached was not acted upon heartily by most of the disciples for a good many years. But it formed a precedent to which appeal was afterwards made; and it made it possible for those who were disposed to preach to the Gentiles to do so from that time in Antioch and elsewhere.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

Any salvation intended only for the people of one nation would doom the larger part of the race.
Any salvation limited in its application would not represent God, who loves all men alike.
Christianity has shown that all men are brothers, since they all have God for their Father.
Christianity has broken down the barriers between men, doing away with caste and supercilious feelings.
Bespising men on account of race, color or condition indicates a small mind and a perverse heart.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson in the International Series for May 4, 1902—The Church at Antioch.

THE LESSON TEXT.

(Acts 11:19-30.)
19. Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.
20. And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.
21. And the hand of the Lord was with them; and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.
22. Then came one of them, named Barnabas, a Levite, and a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost, and of faith; and much people were added unto the Lord.
23. Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:
24. And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.
25. And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch.
26. And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world; which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.
27. Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea:
28. Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.
29. **GOLDEN TEXT.**—And the hand of the Lord was with them; and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.—Acts 11:21.
30. **OUTLINE OF SCRIPTURAL SECTION.**
Many conversions.....Acts 11:19-24.
Barnabas and Saul.....Acts 11:25-26.
Prophecy of famine.....Acts 11:27-30.
Time.—A. D. 44 and 45.
Place.—Antioch, capital of Syria.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Church Expansion.—It was impossible to confine the church within Judaistic lines. As we have seen, the leaders were not ready to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. Even after Peter's experience at Caesarea with Cornelius and his friends, the apostles and evangelists did not push out among the heathen. The way was led, as our lesson shows, by disciples whose very names are unknown.

Many Conversions.—Probably the refugees from the persecution in Jerusalem traveled slowly. Of course many found permanent homes much nearer Jerusalem than Phoenicia, but perhaps the greater number went either to Tyre or to Antioch. Their habit of speaking only to Jews was natural. Perhaps news of Peter's visit to Cornelius reached them before they began preaching to the Gentiles in Antioch; perhaps they acted under the direct impulse of the Holy Spirit. It is noteworthy that these first preachers to the Gentiles had lived away from the influences of Jerusalem. Whatever the first impulse, their work was sanctioned by the Holy Spirit, and it was effective. The more effective such work as this was, the more certain was it to be questioned in Jerusalem. Yet the choice of Barnabas as the commissioner of the mother church showed a disposition to be fair. He was probably the most influential unofficial member of the church in Jerusalem; he was a man of great generosity and liberality; he had distinguished himself by large giving (4:36, 37) and by aiding Saul when others looked askance at him (9:27). The work met the test, and Barnabas was so pleased and interested that he did not return to Jerusalem at all except perhaps to make a report, but joined the preachers in Antioch.

Barnabas and Saul.—Barnabas had seen that Saul could not work effectively in Jerusalem, but he saw here an opportunity for him and so went after him. We have no record of what Saul had been doing in Tarsus, nor do we know how long he had been there, but he was ready to work in Antioch. The name Christian is of heathen origin and was probably meant as a witicism. The word occurs only three times in the New Testament, and always in such connection as to show that it was not then applied to themselves by Christ's followers.

Prophecy of Famine.—Many disciples from Jerusalem must have visited Antioch. The prophets are mentioned because the result of their prediction was noteworthy. There was no single famine "over all the world" in the days of Claudius, but that emperor had an almost constant battle with famine in different parts of his dominion, at one time himself suffering from the difficulty of obtaining food. The famines that especially affected Jerusalem were in A. D. 44 or 45, and 49.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

The Gospel is meant for all the world, and therefore should be preached to all men.
To scatter real believers is to scatter the Word of God, for they will be sure to proclaim it.
The work of evangelization should not be done by the few, but by the many—by the rank and file.
A good man will always rejoice in seeing a work of grace whether it accords with his training or not.
If one decides to serve the Lord, let it be with "purpose of heart."
Spear Points.
The worst of the ways of God are better than the best of the ways of sin. There is no sin a man can be tempted to but he will find greater comfort in resisting than in indulging.
The true calling of the Christian is not to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things in an extraordinary way.
It is a great deal easier to do that which God gives us to do, no matter how hard it is, than to face the responsibility of not doing it.—Rams Horn.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson in the International Series for May 11, 1902—Peter Delivered from Prison.

THE LESSON TEXT.

(Acts 12:1-19.)
1. Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.
2. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.
3. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)
4. And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.
5. Peter therefore was kept in prison; but he was made without fear, and he declared openly unto God for him.
6. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains; and the keepers before the door kept the prison.
7. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison; and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.
8. And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.
9. And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.
10. **GOLDEN TEXT.**—The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.—Ps. 34:7.
11. **OUTLINE OF SCRIPTURAL SECTION.**
Martyrdom of James.....Acts 12:1, 2.
Peter imprisoned.....Acts 12:3-4.
Peter delivered.....Acts 12:5-11.
The displaced king.....Acts 12:12-19.
Time.—A. D. 44.
Place.—Jerusalem and Caesarea.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Church in Jerusalem.—That church had a new foe in Herod Agrippa I., grandson of Herod the Great, who was appointed king of Trachonitis by Emperor Caligula. This dominion was subsequently enlarged until, in A. D. 41, it included the whole of Palestine. Herod was not welcome to the Jews because he had Edomite blood in his veins. He tried to make himself popular with them by showing himself to be a Pharisee of the Pharisees, a scrupulous offerer of sacrifices and observer of the ceremonial law. His highest bid for their good will was made in his putting forth his hand against the church.

Martyrdom of James.—The Herod who appears in this account was Herod Agrippa I. He is not mentioned elsewhere in the Bible. This James was one of the three disciples most intimate with Jesus, but he is mentioned in the Acts only here and in the list of the apostles. It does not follow from that, however, that his work was less important or even less prominent than Peter's or John's.
Peter Imprisoned.—James was killed perhaps on the anniversary of Jesus' crucifixion on the Passover day. Peter was locked up, lot of ground, and the feast. A quaternion is a squad of four soldiers, and these soldiers served in watches, four at a time, to guard Peter. The prayer of the church is not said to have been for Peter's deliverance, though no doubt that was sought. Peter would need strength to endure, and the church would naturally pray for that most.

Peter Delivered.—Peter's rescue was on the last night before he was to have been put to death. The soldiers who were bound to him were asleep, as was permissible, but others were on guard at the door of his cell, besides the usual guards of the prison. Peter himself had to be roused, freed, clothed and led out without waking the guards, but the difficult work was safely accomplished. No wonder the sleepy apostle thought he was seeing a vision. The angel led him far enough away from the prison so that he would not be in immediate danger of recapture, and then left him.

Peter and the Disciples.—Peter knew Mary's home, which was quite possibly the house where Jesus had eaten the last supper and where the Holy Spirit had fallen on the disciples. That house was a common gathering place of the Christians. The unbelief of the company when Peter's arrival was announced is not surprising. It was quite as likely that some enemy might come in Peter's name as that the apostle himself would arrive. Nor is the unbelief creditable if, as is likely, their prayer was chiefly that Peter's faith and courage might not fail. That place was too well known as a resort of Christians for Peter to stay there. The James of verse 17 is the brother of the Lord and author of the epistle, who was president or bishop of the church in Jerusalem.

The Displaced King.—The killing of the guards was in accordance with military law, which recognizes no excuses for failure to guard a prisoner. Herod's removal to Caesarea was probably partly due to disgust at Peter's escape, but was intended only as an official visit. The sickness of which he died was probably not miraculous, but something of the nature of appendicitis, or, possibly, trichiniasis. The latter would be more likely, save for the fact that Herod would hardly so offend Jewish prejudices as to eat pork. Jews and Christians alike considered it a Divine judgment.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

Since the beginning the church has not been without its vexing and harassing enemies.
How many have suffered that we may worship God in peace and safety! Do we appreciate our privileges?
Sometimes the best and most needed servants of God are taken away, and yet the work goes on.
If we prayed more believingly, we would not be so astonished at the answers to some of our prayers.
God will answer our prayers in His own good time and way and in a manner far above our expectations.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The passage of an anti-pigeon shooting bill through the New York legislature will end this brutal sport, so far as that state is concerned. There was strenuous opposition to the bill, but this did not come from sporting men. It originated with the manufacturers of firearms, cartridges, powder and shot, whose agents have been the chief participants in the shooting matches and whose skill in advertising has been an advertisement for their own wares. It is believed that the promoters of these shooting matches may try to continue them in states where there is no prohibitory law. But prompt steps should be taken to head off such a move by having a law similar to the New York bill passed by the legislature of every state.

James H. Causton, of Sitka, has made a strange request of Senator Foster. He relates that in 1852 a deposit of considerable cash was made in a bank in Paris to the credit of Matilda and William Burch, and that the money was forgotten and has lain in the bank ever since. He asks that Senator Foster start an inquiry on foot to ascertain whether the deposit can be withdrawn for the benefit of the Burches or their heirs. The matter was called to the attention of Secretary Hay, who ventured the opinion that it would be difficult to secure the money unless Causton was prepared to furnish detailed information and proof of deposit.

One of those severe and serious thinkers with whom Europe is crowded these days has come to the conclusion, and published it, that war between the United States and Russia is inevitable. He does not, however, say that it will come off next year. This being the case, remarks the Chicago Sun, we can all go about our business in the usual way.

A man elected to a local school board in London has sent this letter to the press, defining his policy: "The scientific men are gone. I hope we shall have no more dabbles with laboratories and that sort of thing. A good sound elementary education for our children is what we want; good reading, good writing and good arithmetic."

In a recent article a prominent physician says, "It is next to impossible for the physician to get his patients to carry out prescribed diets of hygiene or diet to the letter. He has but one left. Namely, the drug treatment." When medicines are used for chronic constipation, the most mild and gentle obtainable, such as Chamberlain's Stomach & Liver Tablets, should be employed. Their use is not followed by constipation as they leave the bowels in a natural and healthy condition. For sale by Middleburg Drug Co.

A sentimental editor out in Kansas asks: "Are there any sweeter words in the English language than these: 'I love you.'?" Perhaps not; but the words: "Here's that dollar I borrowed," are not lacking in eloquent and delightful enunciation.

Topeka, Kan., is in an animated discussion of the propriety of prayer, by the Washburn college students, for victory in football. There seems to be no objection, however, to intercession for the victims and maimed survivors.

But eight states do not now require examination by a state board of those who wish to practice medicine. They are Arkansas, Colorado, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota and Tennessee.

Halifax leads all Atlantic ports in the shipment of apples to Europe this season.

No Loss of Time.

I have sold Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy for years, and would rather be out of coffee and sugar than it. I sold five bottles of it yesterday to threshers that could go no further, and they are at work again this morning.—H. R. Phelps, Plymouth, Oklahoma. As will be seen by the above the threshers were able to keep on with their work without losing a single day's time. You should keep a bottle of this remedy in your home. For sale by Middleburg Drug Co.

The celluloid comb in a Monterey woman's hair caught fire from the hot draft of a register the other night and severely burned her. These ornaments are becoming dangerous, especially, says the Boston Transcript, for hot-headed people.

More than 20 varieties of rice are known in the Philippines; but, though this cereal is so important to the natives, not enough of it is produced to supply their needs, and large quantities have to be imported annually.

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Beware of the dealer who tries to sell something just as good.



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requires physical and mental ability of a high degree to withstand its hard labors. The high tension to which the nervous system is constantly subjected, has a depressing effect, and soon headache, backache, neuralgia, rheumatism, sciatica, etc., develop in severe form. Such was the case of Mail Carrier S. F. Sweinhart, of Huntsville, Ala., he says:

"An attack of pneumonia left me with muscular rheumatism, headache, and pains that seemed to be all over me. I was scarcely able to move for about a month when I decided to give Dr. Miles' Pain Pills a trial. In three days I was again on my route and in two weeks I was free from pain and gaining in flesh and strength."

Sold by all Druggists.
Dr. Miles' Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.

See the announcement of The Haver Distilling Co., Dayton, Ohio, which appears elsewhere in this issue explaining their plan of supplying the consumer with four full quarts of Haver's Seven-Year Old Rye for \$2.50, express prepaid.

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676

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A magazine writer complains that the human senses are grossly inadequate, and illustrates the case with the remark that "the ear hears little of what is going on around us. By means of a microphone the tread of a fly sounds like the tramp of cavalry." It would not enhance the enjoyment of a summer morning nap to add a microphone ear to a fly's present numerous advantages.

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LEGAL ADVERTISING

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE
In the County of Snyder, Pennsylvania, I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the will of the late George Campbell, late of Union Township, Pennsylvania, deceased, as the same appears from the records of the County of Snyder, Pennsylvania, and as the same is filed in the office of the County Clerk of said County, at the Court House in the City of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on the 14th day of March, 1902.
D. W. CAMPBELL, Executor.
Witness my hand and seal, at Harrisburg, Pa., March 14, 1902.

Assignee's Notice.
In re assigned estate of Elizabeth A. Barker, doing business as John A. Barker, agent.
Notice is hereby given that Elizabeth A. Barker, doing business as John A. Barker, agent, of West Perry Township, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, has made an assignment of all her property and effects, for the benefit of her creditors, to the undersigned.

Sheriff's Sale of Life Interest in REAL ESTATE.
By virtue of a writ of Ven. Ex. awarded by the Court of Common Pleas of Snyder County, Pa., and to me directed, I will sell at public sale at the court house in Middleburg, Pa., on Saturday, May 24, 1902

at 12:30 o'clock P. M., a certain life interest in land or real estate situate in Jackson Township, Snyder County, Pa., bounded as follows: To the north by lands of Charles Miller on the east, on the south by lands of John Ewing and Penna. creek, on the west by lands of S. E. Barker and on the south by the public road, containing an acre, more or less, whereon are erected a SHED, BARN, PIG HOUSE, CARPENTER SHOP, BARN, PIG HOUSE, apple trees, peach trees, grapes and also a well of good water and a well.

Seized, taken into execution and to be sold to the life interest of William Martin in the above stated real estate. G. W. ROW, Sheriff.
Sheriff's Office, Middleburg, Pa., April 3, 1902.

Sheriff's Sale of REAL ESTATE.

By virtue of certain writ of Fieri Facias, is issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Snyder County, Pa., directed to me, I will sell at public sale at the court house in Middleburg, Pa., on Saturday, May 17th, 1902

at 12:30 o'clock P. M., the following described real estate to wit:
All that certain farm or tract of land situate in West Perry Township, Snyder County, Pa., bounded on the north by lands of Jonathan Wooster, on the west by lands of Jacob B. Miller, on the east by lands of F. M. Montell, on the south by lands of F. M. Montell, containing 60 ACRES, more or less, of which about 40 acres are cleared and the balance is timberland, whereon are erected a SHED, JOE and PUMP HOUSE combined and a well of good water, BARN, BARN and PIG STABLE, an apple orchard and peach orchard, about 1800 trees, about 700 of them are in bearing condition and a lot of other fruit, pears, cherries, plums and grapes.

Seized, taken into execution and to be sold as the property of Daniel Barker.
G. W. ROW, Sheriff.
Sheriff's Office, Middleburg, April 2, 1902.

CHARTER NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the Governor of Pennsylvania on the 12th day of May, 1902, by W. H. Lyons, J. R. McWilliams, under the act of Assembly entitled, "An act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations," approved April 22, 1901, for the purpose of incorporating the "Snyder Bridge Company," the character and object of which is the erecting, constructing and maintaining the bridge across the Susquehanna River at or near Snyder, Pa., and for these purposes to have, possess and enjoy all the rights, benefits and privileges of said Act of Assembly and supplements thereto.
J. R. McWilliams, Solicitor.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE.

In re-estate of George Slater, late of Beaver County, Pa., deceased.
In the Orphans' Court of Snyder County, Penna.
The undersigned auditor appointed by the Orphans' Court of Snyder County, Penna., to distribute the fund in the hands of A. S. Wetzel and James H. Blugan, executors of the last will and testament of said deceased will act for the purpose of his appointment at the office of J. G. Wetzel, in the borough of Middleburg, Pa., on May 22, 1902, at 9 o'clock A. M., at which time and place all claims must be presented or be forever thereafter barred from coming in or claiming a part of said fund.
A. W. FOWLER, Auditor.
Middleburg, Pa., April 26, 1902.