

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson IX.—First Quarter, For March 4, 1917.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, John vi, 1-21—Memory Verses, 10, 11—Golden Text, Matt. vi, 11—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

The miracle of the feeding of 5,000 men, besides women and children, with a few loaves and fishes is the only miracle recorded in each of the four gospels and seems to me to set before us the one thing which believers ought to be doing, and that is to give the bread of life to every creature, for the gospel of God concerning His Son is a trust committed to us to use for the benefit of others, and if we are not faithful in the ministrations of the trust it will prove a serious matter for believers at the judgment seat of Christ. If any should ask, What can I do about it? Let such remember that the bread and fish of this miracle came from a little boy and was possibly his lunch which his mother had given him, but it came into the hands of the Lord Jesus, and He multiplied it and used it. I believe these facts are the reason why of all that has been wrought in and through my church and Bible classes for over twenty-five years, for I asked Him to let me be like one of the boy's loaves, in His hands to be blessed and broken and passed on to help feed hungry thousands. And has He not wrought wondrously?

Any one who is willing He will accept and use as He shall see fit. The second part of our lesson, the tolling disciples in the dark night with a contrary wind and He on the mountain praying is so suggestive of this whole age during which we are in the conflict with the world, the flesh and the devil, but He is at the right hand of the Father for us. He sees us tolling, and in the morning watch He will come, and we will be suddenly at our destination, forever with the Lord. It was Passover time, a great feast of the Lord to commemorate their deliverance from Egypt, but it had become merely a feast of the Jews. Not until Israel shall be delivered the second time and the nation be reborn and the Passover be fulfilled in the kingdom shall the whole world hear of the Living Bread, for then shall Israel blossom and bud and fill the face of the earth with fruit (Isa. xxxvii, 6).

In the meantime we who are redeemed should be wholly occupied in giving the Bread of Life as far and as fast as possible to complete His church and bring the morning of His return. He is, as then, full of compassion toward the multitudes and is saying to us, "Give ye them to eat" (Matt. xiv, 16; Mark vi, 37; Luke ix, 13); but, like the disciples, many prefer to send them away as if it was no concern of ours. Some, like Philip and Andrew, talk of what might be done if we had the money or speak of what is in sight as wholly insufficient to accomplish anything, forgetting that the silver and the gold are His, and He always knows what He intends to do and how He is going to do it, and He cannot fail nor be discouraged, for He shall see of the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied (Isa. xlii, 4; llii, 11). He did not say that He would begin or make the attempt or endeavor to build His church, but He said, "I will build My church" (Matt. xvi, 18), and all His "I wills" are as good as accomplished, for every purpose of the Lord shall be performed, and no thought of His can be hindered (Ps. xxxiii, 11; Isa. xiv, 24; Jer. li, 20; Job xlii, 2, margin). Instead of the people receiving each a little food, as Philip had suggested, they were all filled, and twelve baskets full remained over, for He would have all eat and drink abundantly (verses 1, 12, 13; Song v, 1). The limitations are all on our side, not on His, for He does everything abundantly, whether it be pardon or giving life or an entrance into His kingdom (Isa. lv, 7; John x, 10; II Pet. i, 11).

It does seem strange from our standpoint that the multitudes should be sent away in peace for a night of rest and those who had ministered to them be sent out into a night of tempest and toil and perplexity while He who knew all and did all and was full of compassion for all was away in the mountain alone talking over things with His Father. As we shall see in our next lesson (verse 57), and we cannot call too much attention to it, He ever lived by the living Father who had sent Him, and we are not as right as we might be in our daily life with Him unless He is all in all to us, as the Father was to Him (Col. iii, 11). His doings and leadings often cause us fear, but His word to His disciples is always: "Be of good cheer. It is I; be not afraid" (Matt. xiv, 27; Mark vi, 50). His own good cheer was His Father's absolutely perfect will, and when we can truly say that we always accept His will concerning us as perfect we shall walk on the waves of all circumstances without sinking, for His perfect love will cast out all fear, and He never gives a spirit of fear (I John, iv, 18; II Tim. i, 7). Inwardly we should always be saying, "Not I, but Christ," and concerning all things outward, whether people or circumstances, we may have grace to say, as Joseph did to His brethren, "It was not you, but God." We may continually dwell in God and in His love, singing "My home is God," and let Him dwell in us and work in us both to will and to do.



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Got There All Right.

Many years ago, at the beginning of November, a missive bearing the St Albans postmark reached St. Martin's. The envelope was addressed "lud man lunding." Neither tail nor head could be made out of this by the staff, so the letter was opened for a clew. The envelope read, "kenyobiatosfoyosho bfigs."

The practiced St. Martin's deciphered of puzzles promptly made out the signature as "Bill Higgs." With the key this afforded the rest was deliciously easy. The message was, "Can you buy a horse for your show?" and "lud mar" meant "lord mayor." So the letter, with an official translation considered, was delivered to the lord mayor elect.—London Mail.

Many Uses For Sawdust.

Sawdust is valuable. It can be used for almost anything except food. Used as an absorbent for nitroglycerin it produces dynamite. Used with clay and burned it produces a terra cotta brick full of small cavities that, owing to its lightness and its properties as a nonconductor, makes excellent fire-proof material for walls or floors. Treating it with fused caustic alkali produces oxalic acid. Treating it with sulphuric acid and fermenting it with the sugar so formed produces alcohol. Mixed with a suitable binder and compressed it can be used for making moldings and imitation carvings. If mixed with portland cement it produces a flooring material.—Philadelphia Record.

Ivory In Siberia.

An enormous supply of Ivory exists in the frozen tundras of Siberia, which it is thought, will probably suffice for the world's consumption for many years to come. This ivory consists of the tusks of the extinct species of elephants called mammoths. The tusks of these animals were of great size and are wonderfully abundant at some places in Siberia, where the frost has perfectly preserved them.

Tree In a Chimney.

On the island of Trinidad is a lone brick chimney which once was part of a sugar mill long since gone to ruin. The chimney has remained intact, and a tree has grown up through the center and pushed its branches through the top.

Leaves of the Poison Ivy.

No doubt just a picture of poison ivy is enough to cause some folks to shudder and remember the time their face and body became scarlet and swollen from contact with the leaves. How it itched and burned! Yet to rub it was only to make matters worse.

A curious fact is that some persons are immune from this poison, while others must not even breathe the pollen of the plant. It is often confounded with the Virginia creeper, although the difference between this is distinct. The leaves of the latter are divided into five leaflets, while those of the former have but three, a fact well worth remembering.

Strange enough, the witch hazel plant is sometimes found growing close to the poison ivy. As witch hazel extract is one of the best remedies for ivy poisoning it would seem nature was holding out disease in one hand and a remedy in another.

Heat at the Persian Gulf.

The Persian gulf and its coasts are in summer about the hottest place on earth's surface, a temperature of 120 degrees in the shade being not uncommon, while a black bulb solar thermometer has registered 187 degrees in the sun.

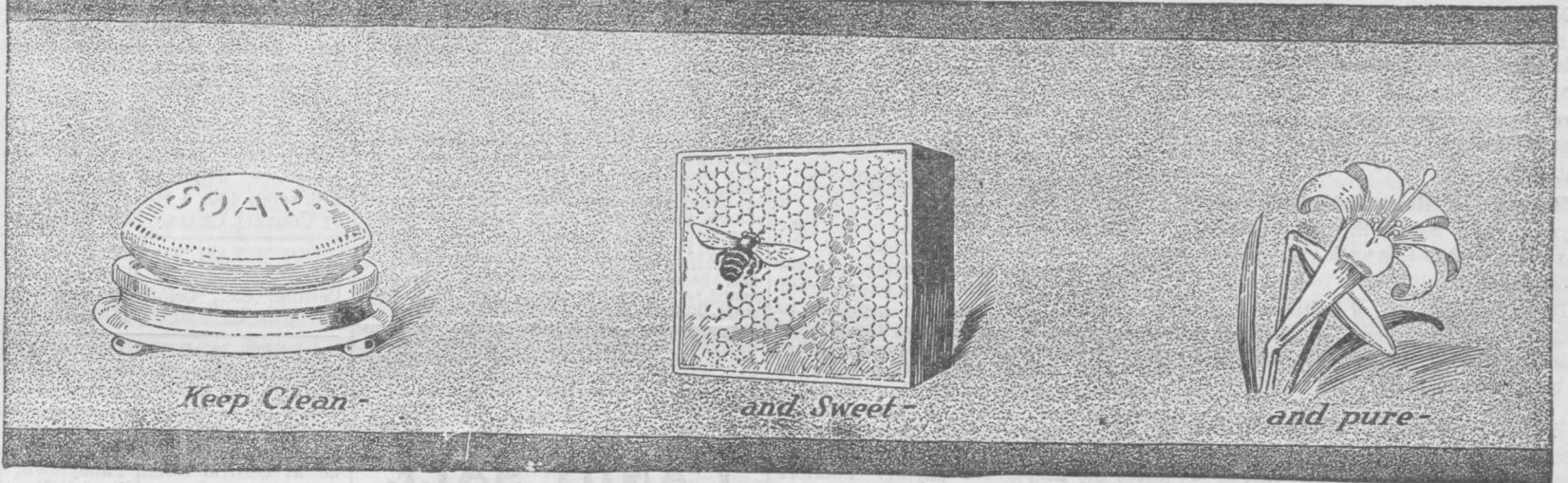
When one remembers that the hottest room in a Turkish bath is usually kept at about 160 degrees the appalling nature of this Persian heat will be better realized.

The greatest heat ever known in England was on Aug. 18, 1893, when a shade temperature of 95 degrees was registered. But on this day the sun temperature did not quite equal that of July 28, 1885, when 162 degrees F. was registered in the sun.

When you consider facts like these it is difficult to believe that our planet receives only one two-thousand-millionth part of the rays flung out by the sun.—London Telegraph.



Purity is a Great Thing, Friend!



My folks down South keep telling me: "Be clean and sweet and pure." And I'll bet you I am just about the purest cigarette ever made!

Why, the SOVEREIGN factory is dusted every morning, just like a lady's parlor. That's the sort of home I have. And I've got to make good all the time—in

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Great Expectations.

"I really believe, Will Atwood, that you married me because I have money," she announced, with a fine display of feeling.

"No, you're wrong," returned her husband candidly. "I married you because I thought you'd let me have some of it."—Exchange.

Expectations Realized.

"Look'ee, Garge, didn't I tell'ee all th' time my boy would make th' folks sut up an' open their mouths when 'e got to Lunnon?"

"Zo you did. And has 'e done it?"

"Aye. 'E've started business as a dentist!"—London Passing Show.

Naval Salutes.

Originally a town or a warship fired off its guns on the approach of friendly strangers to show that they had such faith in the visitors' peaceful intentions they didn't think it necessary to keep their guns loaded; hence the naval salute.

Word From Br'er Williams. Lightening don't hit twice in de same place, an' right dar is a lesson fer you—wid de first lick it 'tends ter all de business it went after.—Atlanta Constitution.

She Married One.

"Is there an old maid in your family?"

"Yes; my husband."—Detroit Free Press.

The best manners should be used all day and every day. They are none too good for constant use.

PRACTICAL HEALTH HINT.

To Prevent Diabetes.

As to the prevention and cure of diabetes, which, according to statistics, is more or less on the increase, a noted physician of this country gives the following timely suggestions: "Diabetes is not exactly a disease, but in a certain sense is a symptom. It runs in families and in some cases is inherited. Fat people are very prone to it. They, as well as persons who inherit a tendency to diabetes, should have their urine examined twice a year for sugar. They should guard against obesity and diabetes by eating no candy or other sweets and by limiting the amount of starches eaten. The man who in middle life gives up hard, physical work and is promoted to an office chair, with increased mental worry, is exposed. Probably the best way to prevent diabetes is to keep physically fit; to keep the muscles firm, solid and well under control of the nerves. Regulated exercise, with freedom of worry, mental work, is an important factor in the prevention of diabetes. Periodic physical examination is one of the best means to detect this disease and to divert its attack."

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