













IMPROVED  
UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

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**Lesson for April 4**

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**PETER AND JOHN BECOME DISCIPLES OF JESUS**

LESSON TEXT—John 1:29-42; Mark 1:16-20.  
GOLDEN TEXT—And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.—Mark 1:17.

Personal faith in Christ is the heart of Christian experience. Since persons are won by other persons it was vitally important that the Lord choose the right disciples at the very beginning of the Church. Outstanding among the twelve disciples were Peter and John, whose lives and letters we study during the next three months.

The manner in which they became disciples is of unusual interest—and is instructive as well. We will observe that our Lord is working in much the same way on the Peters and Johns of our own day. They came to Him by way of

**I. Testimony—They Heard About Jesus** (John 1:29-34, 41).

John, who modestly refrains from naming himself (v. 40), heard about Jesus from John the Baptist. His testimony is notable for its pointed presentation of Christ, and its unmistakable desire that they follow Him. John was an important man with a vigorous message, but he recognized that his only real business for God was to point men to Christ. He enjoyed having men follow him, but only that he might lead them to Jesus.

In doing Christian work we should learn so to bear our testimony that we may magnify Christ, and not ourselves. We must be careful to win men to Christ, and not to ourselves or our cause or church.

Peter was brought to Jesus by his brother Andrew. Andrew was a quiet, modest man of whom we do not read that he preached a single sermon. But he did do personal work (see John 6:8, 9; 12:21, 22). He has been called "Andrew the finder." May "his tribe" increase. We need more like him.

Hearing about Jesus is not enough. There must be the next step, the indispensable personal meeting with the Lord.

**II. Experience—They Saw Jesus** (John 1:35-39, 42).

The necessity of a personal experience with Christ is so clearly stated in Scripture that one can only marvel that it is so neglected in many churches today.

Neither John the Baptist nor, later, Andrew was content to tell about Jesus. They brought John and Peter to the Lord. John said, "Behold the Lamb of God" (v. 36); and Andrew "brought him to Jesus" (v. 42). These sum up the soul-winner's duty. We must bring our family, our friends, yes, the stranger with whom we deal, into the presence of Jesus.

He will look into their eyes and into their souls and see in them all the gifts and graces which may make them useful to Him (v. 42). John was the brother of James and Peter the brother of Andrew—just two humble fishermen in the sight of men. But Jesus saw in them two of the most useful men who have ever lived. Let us give Him a chance to deal with our friends and acquaintances.

Hearing and seeing are both excellent, but they lack one final step—and here it is—

**III. Action—They Followed Jesus** (John 1:40; Mark 1:16-20).

First of all they followed Jesus in becoming believers on Him as the Messiah. That experience of John's we find in John 1:40, and of Peter's (by inference) in verse 42. There is no salvation apart from that act of the will which follows a knowledge of Christ.

In the passage in Mark we find Him calling them to leave their secular calling as fishers of fish to follow Him and become fishers of men. Before they could become what He wanted them to be, they had to do something—rise up and follow Him.

Their unquestioning response indicated their faith, but, more than that, it showed that they were the kind of obedient men who could be used of the Lord. Jesus might have called His disciples from the learned and the mighty. But one wonders whether they would have been willing to respond without argument, and to learn of Him without prejudice or preconceived ideas of theology.

God must often pass the mighty and the noble of this world, and call those who are foolish enough to believe Him and obey (read I Cor. 1:17-29). The reason is given there—"That no flesh should glory in his presence." The glory belongs to the Lord, not to His servants.

Because they did obey they became "fishers of men." He led them, trained them, encouraged them, blessed them, and used them.

A disciple is a "learner," but he is learning for a purpose. Learning for its own sake, as an ornament or a selfish pleasure, is always a sad thing, but with the disciple of Christ it cannot be that if he rightly knows Christ.

The disciple is to win other disciples. That is the very heart of Christian witness.

**"Renegotiation" Might Touch You**

Under no other circumstances is the fine spirit of neighborly co-operation shown to better advantage in a rural community than in the case of fire or other calamity. This friendly spirit is not based upon personal interest, but upon the deep sympathy that just naturally arises in case of disaster. Of course, there is a personal interest if the fire threatens our own property, but we like to think this unity of spirit in our rural life is typical of America.

There is this same community of interest between industry, labor and agriculture, although sympathy for each other's troubles seldom comes to the surface. Every farmer knows that his best market for the produce of his farm is our local domestic market. He depends upon this domestic market to consume over 90 per cent of what our American farms produce each year. If anything happens to his domestic market, like the depression and loss of employment in the early thirties, agriculture is at once affected. On the other hand, if anything happens to the buying power of agriculture, industry is hurt just as badly.

Right now congress is considering the renegotiation of all government contracts. The law was passed on April 28, 1942. Some people are urging that these new renegotiation bureaus should examine contracts made long before the law was passed.

Take the case of a contract made in 1940. The work has been done and paid for; taxes have been paid to the government on the profits, if any; labor has been paid and the money balance distributed either in repairs to plant or perhaps paid in dividends to stockholders.

**Danger of Retroactive Measures.**

Suppose that same thing happened to our local store, or even to our farmers themselves. Suppose the prices we received for our crops, or the conservation payments by the government for 1941 or 1940 were suddenly to be "renegotiated." Every farmer has either fed out or sold his crop, purchased new machinery or perhaps painted the barn, or bought a new dress for his wife. If, under a retroactive law, he were suddenly put up against the threat of renegotiation, all of his credit, and perhaps even his investment would be disturbed.

No one wants unfair profits or excessive dividends out of war contracts. Investigation has shown that over 95 per cent of industry and business made no excessive profits out of the war. Certainly no farmers have received excessive prices for farm crops.

**Now Is the Time for Unity**

We want to get on with this war. We must have unity. Unity is based upon mutual confidence in our government and in each other. We are all looking forward to a return of peace after the war has been won. We will then want to resume our domestic markets, replace worn-out farm machinery and resume our normal trade relationships. Industry and business will need all of their American ingenuity and strength to provide jobs which, in turn, furnish our domestic market after the war.

True, renegotiation at present is applied only to industry and contracts with the government. But we all recognize the good old American principle that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

If business contracts can be renegotiated under a law passed long after the business contracts were made, how about the sanctity of our own contracts?

Just now the fire seems far from our own neighborhood, but if we look closely, our domestic markets, both now and after the war, are involved. We can well take time off to show a little neighborly spirit and help put out the fire.

**The Peoples' Edict**

Money to pay for the war, yes; but no money for frills in the civil operations of any of our governing bodies. That is the edict of the American people.

**Methuselah Flees Draft, New Gag in Reich Has It**

BERNE.—The latest wisecrack going the rounds here, attributed to German sources, has to do with the recent escape of Methuselah from the Reich, whither he had been sent to purge some sin in heaven.

Arriving out of breath across one of Grossdeutschland's many frontiers, it is related, he fell to the ground and panted:

"Gee, that was a narrow escape. Another five minutes and they would have had me! You see they are calling up my class next."

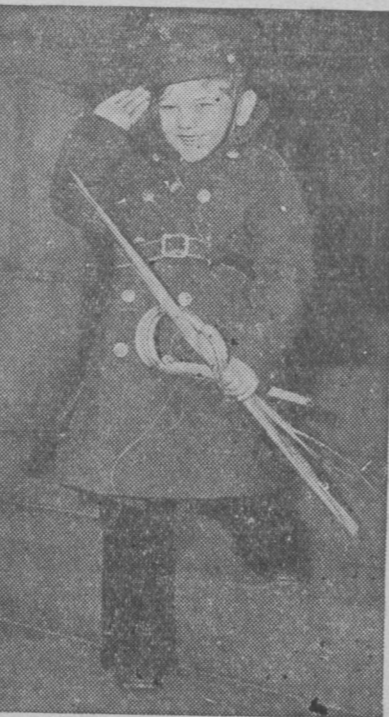
**Lion Drops Dead at Feet Of South Africa Farmer**

CAPETOWN.—Farmer M. Bothma of Tzaneen, South Africa, found himself in a ring of lions that had been killing cattle near his place. Bothma saw three of them and killed one with a single shot. Natives chased the other two as Bothma, swinging about suddenly, saw a lion charging him from the rear. The first shot, fired at 50 yards, did not stop the beast. At 10 yards Bothma fired again. The lion, making a final lunge, sprang and dropped dead at the farmer's feet.

**Annual Loss of \$450,000,000**

Dr. Henry A. Gardner, director of the scientific section of the National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association, Inc., in his "Economics of Paint," cites a finding by a distinguished British scientist, an expert on problems of corrosion, that the annual loss of steel alone, due to corrosion, was in the neighborhood of \$500,000,000. Speller, in his book entitled "Corrosion; Causes and Prevention," suggests that the annual replacement value of steel due to corrosion may be as high as 2 per cent of the total tonnage in use. Taking 450,000,000 tons as a basic peacetime annual figure, 2 per cent of this, if figured at \$50 a ton, would suggest an annual loss of \$450,000,000. But fabricated steel corrodes so rapidly that the annual loss, if unpainted, would probably be at least 20 per cent, Dr. Gardner estimates. Even assuming that only 10 per cent of the steel produced in the world is used in America in exposed places, there would still be an annual loss of \$450,000,000 that is preventable by the use of paint.

**Palm Sunday**



Edward Fleri, five, clutches the precious palm leaves in his small fist as he leaves Saint Vincent Ferrer's church in New York. Edward is dressed in the garb of a cadet. Special services for Palm Sunday, on April 18, have been planned by churches everywhere.

**Vagrant Boiled Long Enough to Fix Furnace**

LINCOLN, ILL.—The heating plant at the Illinois Odd Fellows Home for Orphans is back in operation—and Vagrant Blacksmith Jerry Simpson, his repair job a success, was back at the Vandalia Prison farm.

The boiler broke down in the midst of the arctic weather this week. No local repairman was available, but there was a blacksmith at the Vandalia Penal farm, serving a six-month sentence for vagrancy. Prison authorities gave him a two-day leave, dispatched him to the spot with his tools.

**Non-Com Ratings**

There are seven grades for enlisted personnel of the army, with master sergeants and first sergeants sharing the first grade, according to the war department. Technicians of the third, fourth and fifth grades rank immediately below the staff sergeants, sergeants and corporals of their grade. The grades for enlisted men follow: Master sergeant, first sergeant, first; technical sergeant, second; staff sergeant, third; technician, third; sergeant, fourth; technician, fourth; corporal, fifth; technician, fifth; private, first class, sixth; private, seventh.

**SCENE CHANGE**



"I say, old man, what is your idea in leaving the seashore for the mountains?"  
"It's my wife's idea. She says the people here have seen all her new gowns."

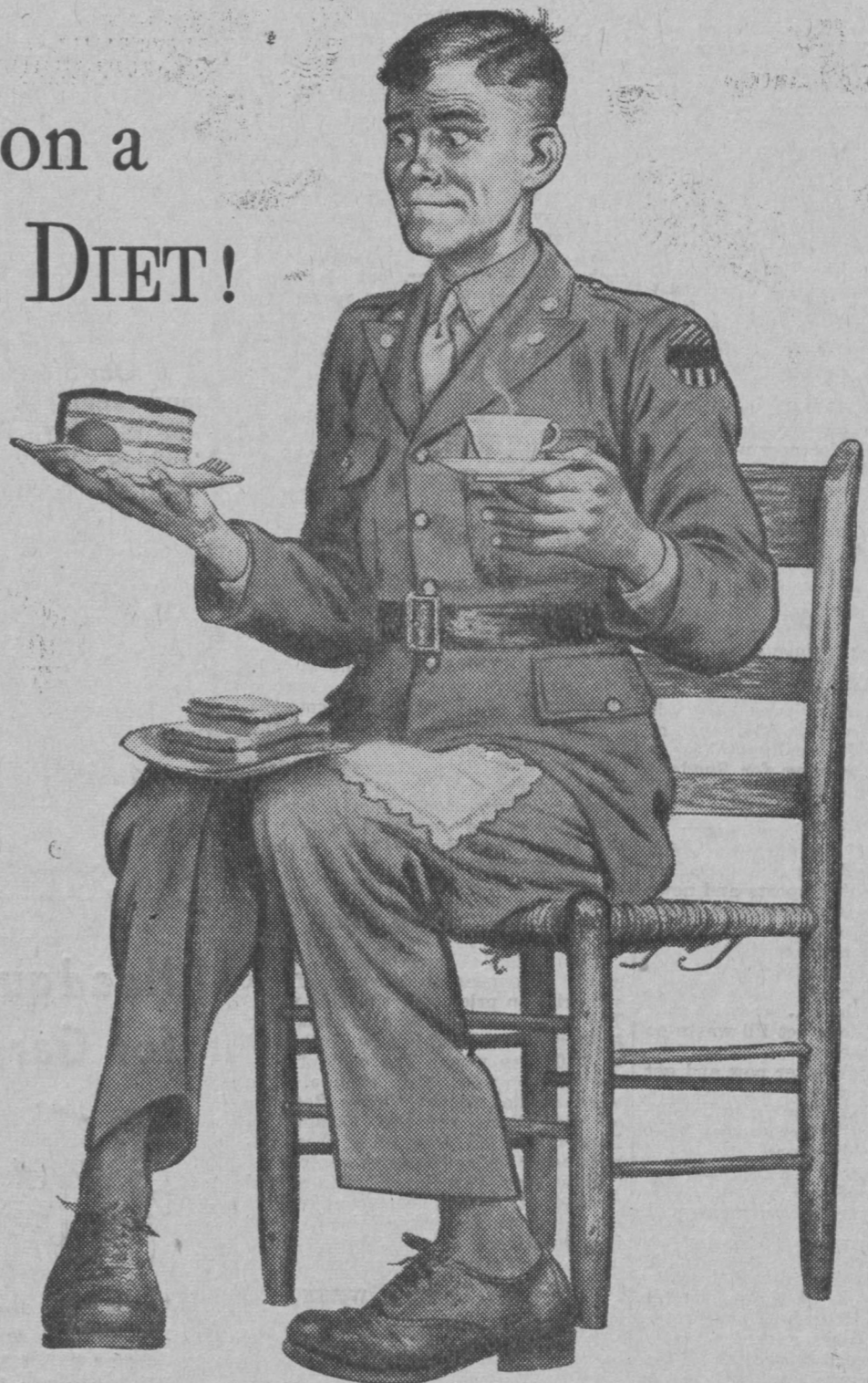
**This Is the Army, Mr. Jones**



- 72 lbs. Meat
- 125 lbs. Potatoes
- 50 lbs. Bread
- 90 qts. Milk
- 100 lbs. Fresh Vegetables
- 125 lbs. Canned Goods
- 63 qts. Fruit Juices
- 21 doz. Eggs
- 25 lbs. Butter, Shortening
- 20 lbs. Sea Food
- 18 lbs. Pastries
- 22 lbs. Sauces, Jams, Jellies
- 7 lbs. Coffee

When, on April 6, the nation observes Army day, it will be the first such observance since the point system of food rationing was inaugurated for the civilian population. The above picture does much to show why rationing was necessary. This mountain of food is what it takes to train a bombardier cadet for 12 weeks at the San Angelo army air field in West Texas, where bombardiers leave by the hundreds for the fighting fronts.

**Butch is on a BALANCED DIET!**



**T**HIS situation isn't covered by Army regulations. But we're betting that Butch will find a way to handle it without spilling a spoonful!

In fact, we electric companies know just how he feels. We have the same problem. Right now, we're being called on to balance good service and low, regulated rates against fast-climbing costs and tremendously increased demands for electric power.

We're doing it, too. Filing all our war orders. Giving America far more power than all the Axis countries combined. Pushing production up and up. . . . And besides that, we're balancing a big plate of taxes.

Don't get us wrong. We know the need of wartime taxes. We're proud that business-managed electric companies paid \$620,000,000 in taxes last year. That was 23c out of every dollar you paid us—8c to local and state governments—15c to the federal government—enough to outfit 1,687,762 buck privates like Butch.

How is it possible to make so much power and meet so many taxes at the

same time? Because of sound business methods and long experience—because men, women and management worked together as a team.

But while we're doing all this, government and municipal power systems are not paying a penny in federal taxes to help win the war.

Shouldn't every one do his full share?

INVEST IN AMERICA! BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

