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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON VIII.—FEB. 21, 1909.

Stephen the First Christian Martyr.

Acts 6: 1-8; 13: 3, 6; 15: 7; 24: 3.

Commentary.—I. The seven deacons chosen (vs. 1-7). After a time, when the church had become numerous, a complaint was made that partially was shown in the distribution of the common fund. The Grecians charged that their widows were neglected. The apostle immediately called the church together and asked that seven men be chosen whose duty it should be to attend to the distribution of the fund. This was done, Stephen being one of them.

II. Stephen falsely accused (vs. 8-15). Stephen, a man of great power, was the history of Stephen. It is thought that he was one of Peter's converts on the Day of Pentecost. Full of grace and power (R. V.). He was filled with the Holy Spirit and had power, (1) as a great reasoner and (2) to work miracles. He was a deep student of the Old Testament, a theologian of unusual insight, and showed a wisdom in speech that his adversaries could not gainsay. "He was a man of deeds," wonders—This is one of the words used in the New Testament to denote miracles, miracles—"Signs"—R. V. "He wrought miracles, principally, no doubt, in cases of sickness and suffering."

9. There arose certain—By his miracles and by his eloquence and power, Stephen excited the jealousy of the unbelieving Jews. They became excited and engaged in discussions with him. Libertines—"Freed men." Roman captives who had been given their liberty. Many of these had returned to Judea and they had a synagogue of their own in Jerusalem. Cyrenians—Cyrene was the chief city in North Africa, and a great Jewish colony. Numbers of Jews were settled there, and are said by Josephus to have been a fourth part of the inhabitants of the city. These Jews also had a synagogue. Alexandrians—The Talmud specially mentions the synagogue of the Jews who came from Alexandria, in which city about 100,000 Jews resided. They were the most learned of their race. Cilicians—Paul's native province. Asia—This was a Roman province in western Asia Minor, and not the "grand division." 10. Not able to resist—By arguments which they could bring. 11. Suborned men—Privately bribed and instructed. Against Moses—Stephen taught that the old dispensation was in decay, and that the temple must pass away. Against God—This must refer to the supreme dignity and authority which Stephen claimed for Christ as the Head of the new economy which was so speedily to supersede the old. 12. So stirred up the people—At this time the whole Jewish people were in a state of ill-suppressed frenzy, and most sensitive jealousy for the honor of the Mosaic institutions—feelings which broke out in constant revolts against the Roman power. This accusation was therefore the most likely one they could have pitched upon to stir up ill-will. Spence, caught him—Without law or form of justice. 13. False witnesses—"Their falseness consisted in the perversion of truth which they gave to the words of Stephen." 15. All... saw his face—All eyes turned upon Stephen. As he had been inspired by the Spirit in his arguments, so now, in the hour of trial, the Spirit shone out upon him, and the things of which he gave to the words of Stephen. 15. All... saw his face—All eyes turned upon Stephen. As he had been inspired by the Spirit in his arguments, so now, in the hour of trial, the Spirit shone out upon him, and the things of which he gave to the words of Stephen.

III. Stephen's defense (7: 1-53). After the false witnesses had testified the high priest asked Stephen to answer him. Then follows his defense or apology in which he gives a concise history of the Jewish people. He answers the charge of blasphemy by showing that he reverences the scriptures, and that he holds the faith of Moses. He answers the charge of which he gave to the words of Stephen. 15. All... saw his face—All eyes turned upon Stephen. As he had been inspired by the Spirit in his arguments, so now, in the hour of trial, the Spirit shone out upon him, and the things of which he gave to the words of Stephen.

IV. Stephen's triumphant death (7: 54-60). When they heard—it is disputed whether the speech was finished or not. His abruptness in closing and the anger of the Jews at this moment render it probable that he was interrupted. Cut to the heart—Literally, they were seen through, or asunder. A figurative expression for being greatly enraged. Gnashed on him—They thirsted for his blood; "snarled like beasts of prey." "Truth would always seem to produce a double effect. Sometimes we read that when the people heard Peter's speech they were pricked in their hearts, and said, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' But when the people heard Stephen deliver substantially the same message they were cut to the heart, and gnashed on him with their teeth. This is the history of preaching to-day."

54. Being full—The Greek "being full" implies, not a sudden inspiration, but a permanent state.—Plumtree. Looked up—We would see most heavenly visions if we would "look up" often. Into heaven—The question has been asked how he could see into heaven from that council chamber; but we should remember that the Spirit revealed to him this scene in heaven. "The eye of faith can see heaven from any spot on earth." And yet—There is no infirmity about this statement. The glory of God—It was some visible manifestation of the divine splendor, such as Moses saw on Horeb and Ezekiel at Chebar. It first filled the tabernacle and afterward the temple, and shone round the shepherds, and appeared to the apostles upon Hermon. And Jesus—He saw Jesus "in His official character as mediator between God and man." Standing—In other places Jesus is represented as sitting on the right hand of God (see Matt. 26: 64). The right hand—Christ was exalted to place of honor and power. 56. Heavens opened—A figurative expression denoting that he was permitted to see into heaven. Son of man—This is the only time that our Lord is by human lips called the Son of man after His ascension. And why

RHEUMATISM Strikes the Heart

CAUSES: A run down condition of the system, poisoned blood, and Uric Acid. The joints become clogged with irritating secretions and grow stiff. Every movement tortures and racks the sufferer. Cure is not possible until the blood is purified. The most potent blood purifier is Ferrozone. It is a perfect solvent for Uric Acid and an antidote for all other poisons liable to cause inflammation or Rheumatic pains. But Ferrozone doesn't stop here. It provides the enfeebled sufferer with an abundant supply of pure, invigorating blood. This quickly results in more strength with which to fight the disease, starts a rebuilding of the system, ends in a permanent cure. Mr. Thos. Egan, of 92 Pearl street, New York, suffered so intensely from Rheumatism that his friends believed he could not recover. "The Rheumatism," writes Mr. Egan, "crippled me for four years. It seemed to run to the joints, which swelled and caused dreadful pain."

FERROZONE CURES

I wasn't able to walk and my strength rapidly decreased. My heart became so weak I had to be bolstered up in bed. I was at my wits' end when I heard of the wonderful cures of Ferrozone. Twelve boxes cured and I am now strong and perfectly well." There is no better remedy. Severe tests have proved it superior to all others. If you want the BEST and most scientific treatment for Rheumatism, Gout, Neuralgia, or Sciatica, use Ferrozone. No case too chronic. Price 50 cents per box or six boxes for \$2.50. Sold by all druggists.

here? Stephen speaking by the Spirit is led to repeat the very words in which Jesus himself, before this same council, had foretold His glorification.—Alford. See Matt. 26: 64, 68. Him out of the city—According to the law (Lev. 24: 14). The person to be stoned was required to be carried without the camp. Stoned him—The person to be stoned was placed on an elevation twice the height of a man, from whence with his hands bound he was thrown down, and then a stone as much as two men could carry was rolled down upon him by the witnesses, after which all the people present cast stones upon him.—Cam. Bib.

59. Receive my spirit—They stoned him while he was praying. This is the identical prayer that Christ himself had offered on the cross. Here is clear proof that it is proper to offer prayer to Jesus Christ. 60. Knewed down—A good position in which to pray, or to die. Fell asleep—He died. "But sleep implies an awakening." 1. Saul was consenting—So terrible was the hatred which this man bore to Christ and his followers that he delighted in their destruction. A great persecution—the rulers carried on the persecution with increasing violence. 2. Great lamentation—An evidence that he was not condemned by the Sanhedrin, as public lamentation was forbidden in such cases.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

Stephen the Witness.

I. Full of grace. "Stephen, full of grace" (vs. 8, R. V.). As a man, he was honest, as a deacon, powerful to work wonders and miracles (vs. 8); as a preacher, radiant, rejoicing (vs. 15); as a martyr, full of the spirit of faith (vs. 55, 56), hope (vs. 59), love (vs. 60). Spurgeon says, "It is remarkable that Stephen is the only death scene described at length in the New Testament, except our Lord's. The Holy Spirit would not have us attach so much importance to the manner of men's deaths, as to the character of their lives."

II. Falsely accused. "They suborned men... and set up false witnesses" (vs. 11, 13). The last latitude is, "Blessed are ye, when man... say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake" (Matt. 5: 11). If you have given all your money, time and influence to the right, and are doing everything you can to make the world better, and have raised your voice against the crying evils of the day, and have told of your glimpses into heaven, you will be misunderstood, falsely accused, sneered at, caricatured, denounced and hated, but you will be like Stephen, a witness for Christ, and among those of whom it is written, "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you" (1 Peter 4: 14).

III. Full of attraction. "All... looking steadfastly... saw his face as if it had been the face of an angel" (vs. 15). The face of an angel at the tomb of Jesus was "like lightning" (Matt. 28: 3). God's messengers are "a flame of fire" (Heb. 1: 7). Moses' face shone as he came from personal communion with God (Exod. 34: 30).

Stephen the Martyr.

I. Filled with the Spirit. "He being full of the Holy Spirit" (vs. 55). Stephen saw the glory of God (vs. 55). A. J. A. J. says that when reading the words, "That we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15: 4), there came to him a suggestion of exceeding sweetness from the word "comfort" in the original. The Spirit is called the Paraclete, and here his office is called the paraclete, the inspiring of the Holy Spirit to sustain in time of trial. Of how many heroes it may still be said, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises" (Heb. 11: 13).

II. Free from care. "He... looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God" (vs. 55). There were no care-furrows on Stephen's brow. There was no anxious, hunted look in his eyes; no quiver on his lips. He did not fear nor faint. He did not cry out in dismay. He did not worry and wonder what the poor widows and orphans would do without his ministry. He did not think from any earthly pain; he did not trouble before any heavenly glory. Self was forgotten. He "looked up steadfastly."

III. Finding a soul. "Whose name was Saul" (vs. 58). Stephen's last prayer never ceased to echo in the ears of one who afterwards became a mightier advocate of the gospel than was he. If Stephen had not prayed, the church had not Paul.

IV. Full of triumph. "He fell asleep" (vs. 60). There is the sharp contrast with the blood dripping from his face and dyeing his garments, but so quietly, so contentedly, so peacefully had he resigned himself to the Saviour, who stood waiting for him, that the record says of him, "He fell asleep." Stephen is a winning still. He is speaking to day to all Christians.

A. C. M.

The good-mannered advertisement has the winning quality that makes successful the good-mannered person.

PRINCESS PAT.

Romer Received That She Will Wed Count of Turin.

Her Mother Took Snapshots of U.S. Warships.

Naples, Feb. 15.—The American gunboat Scorpion, which came from Constantinople to aid in the work of relieving the Messina earthquake sufferers, came in here to-day from the south and anchored alongside the British battleship Aboukir. On the other side of the Aboukir is the American supply ship Celtic, which also has been distributing relief in the south. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught are on board the British vessel, and this morning the Duchess took several photos of the American vessels with the idea of adding them to her collection of pictures of British warships that went to the earthquake victims.

FISHERIES RETURNS.

Falling Off in Value Compared With Last Year.

Ottawa, Feb. 15.—The report of the fisheries branch of the Marine and Fisheries Department, covering the fiscal year ending with last March, was represented to Parliament to-day. The report shows that the whole catch of fish by Canadians in Canadian waters totalled for the year twenty-five and a half million dollars. This is a falling off of three-quarters of a million, as compared with the preceding year. By Provinces, Nova Scotia leads with a total catch valued at \$7,632,330; British Columbia comes second, with \$6,122,923; New Brunswick third, with \$5,300,364; Quebec fourth, with \$2,947,990; Ontario fifth, with \$1,935,025; and Prince Edward Island sixth, with \$1,492,695. The output of the salmon fisheries for the year was \$5,014,446; lobsters, \$4,064,122; cod, \$3,619,818; and herring \$2,073,756. The industry employs over 11,000 men.

The report urges that the protection and development of the great resources of the waters of the Dominion would be facilitated were the present divided authority and overlapping of Federal and Provincial jurisdiction merged in one central system under Federal control.

BLYTHE TO HANG.

Wife Murderer to be Executed on May 13 h at Toronto.

Toronto, Ont., despatch: Just before noon to-day Judge Riddell sentenced Walter Blythe, the Canadian Pacific section man, who beat his wife to death at Agincourt, to be hanged on Thursday, May 13th, in Toronto jail.

The date of the execution was fixed at the period named in order to give the prisoner's counsel, Mr. T. C. Robinette, time to prepare a reserve case, and to get additional evidence from England as to the prisoner's mental condition to aid him in this.

THIS IS HOT.

Here's a Torch That Burns Through the Hardest Steel.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 15.—A torch, operated by oxygen and acetylene, radiating a heat of 6,300 degrees, said to be the most terrific known to science, has been invented here. By means of this torch, it is possible, it is declared, to weld aluminum, heretofore regarded as an impossibility.

The torch makes a flame that will cut through two inches of solid steel in less than a minute and pierce a twelve-inch piece of the hardest steel in less than ten minutes.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

FARMERS' MARKET.

The offerings of grain on the street to-day were 1,100 bushels. Wheat is a cent higher, with sales of 290 bushels at \$1.01 to \$1.02. Oats, firm, 373 bushels selling at 47 to 48c. Barley unchanged, 600 bushels selling at 55 to 60c per bushel.

Hay is unchanged, with sales of 35 loads at \$12 to \$13.50 a ton for No. 1 and at \$9 to \$10 for mixed. One load of bundled straw sold at \$12 at \$9.25 for heavy, and at \$9.50 to \$9.60 for light.

Dressed hogs are easier at \$9.25 for heavy, and at \$9.50 to \$9.60 for light.

Wheat, fall, bushel... \$1.01 \$1.02

Do, goose, bushel... 0.95 0.96

Oats, bushel... 0.47 0.48

Barley, bushel... 0.55 0.56

Rye, bushel... 0.90 0.91

Pears, bushel... 0.60 0.61

Hay, per ton... 12.00 13.50

Do, No. 2... 9.00 10.00

Straw, per ton... 12.00 13.00

Dressed hogs... 9.25 9.60

Butter, dairy... 0.25 0.26

Do, creamery... 0.28 0.30

Eggs, new laid... 0.32 0.33

Do, fresh... 0.27 0.28

Chickens, dressed, lb... 0.14 0.17

Geese, lb... 0.13 0.15

Turkeys, lb... 0.20 0.24

Cabbage, per dozen... 0.50 0.75

Do, per dozen... 0.50 0.75

Potatoes, bag... 0.75 0.80

Onions, bag... 0.85 0.90

Apples, barrel... 3.50 5.00

Beef, hindquarters... 8.50 10.00

Do, forequarters... 6.00 7.00

Do, choice, carcass... 8.00 8.50

Do, medium, carcass... 5.50 7.00

Mutton, per cwt... 8.00 10.00

Veal, prime, per cwt... 8.50 11.00

Lamb, per cwt... 10.50 12.00

LIVE STOCK.

The railways reported 108 carloads of live stock as being received at the City Market on Wednesday and Thursday.

There were several lots and loads of good to choice cattle, but more of the common and medium.

Trade was good, especially for the best grades of butchers; in fact, all grades of butchers were a little higher in price.

Exporters—About 60 export steers sold from \$3.25 to \$3.55, one load, the butchers purposes, at \$3.50 to \$3.75, being sold at the latter price. Bulls sold from \$4 to \$4.50, and one at \$4.75.

Butchers—Choice loads and lots of butchers sold from \$1.75 to \$1.80, and there were some light exporters, sold for butchers purposes, at \$1.50 to \$1.75.

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