

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON VII.—NOV. 17, 1912.

The Great Question.—Mark 8: 27-30: 1.

Commentary.—I. Peter's confession (vs. 27-30). 27. Went out—Jesus and his disciples went in a northeasterly direction from Bethsaida, where he had healed a blind man, along the course of the Jordan. He sought retirement for one of the most important crises of his earthly ministry. The solitude of the beautiful district whither Jesus now journeyed is illustrated by the fact that it is the only district of Palestine where a recent traveller found the "peculiar of the wilderness" (Psa. 102:6). Caesar-aea Philippi.—The ancient name was Pan-aea from the pagan deity Pan, but the city was rebuilt by Herod Philip, who named it Caesarea, in honor of Tiberius Caesar. It was called Caesarea Philippi, or Philip's Caesarea, to distinguish it from Caesarea on the Mediterranean. This was largely beyond the region of Jewish influence, and the farthest north that Jesus journeyed. Whom do men say that I am?

The question was asked to draw out the opinions of the disciples and to prepare them for the great subjects to be presented. 28. They answered—Various opinions were held yet all agreed that he was an extraordinary personage. Some said John the Baptist had returned to life. Some thought he was Elias (the Greek form for Elijah), who was to be the forerunner of the Messiah; and others said he was one of the prophets, that is, one of the old prophets risen again (Luke 9:10). It appears that the thought that Jesus was the Messiah did not prevail among the people. Whom say ye that I am?—This was a natural question to ask at this point. Jesus would now have the disciples declare how they had been impressed by his teaching, his miracles and his personal influence. Peter answered—Peter was the spokesman of the disciples, not only on this occasion, but generally. His impulsive nature and his quickness of apprehension favored this practice. It is thought that he was the oldest of the twelve. Although Peter answered the question, his reply expressed the sentiment of them all. Thou art the Christ—Christ is the Greek word for "anointed," and Messiah, the Hebrew for the same idea. There was no hesitancy and no uncertainty. The declaration was positive and emphatic. Matthew adds the words, "The Son of the living God" (16:16). This denotes the nature of Jesus in his relation to the Godhead. There is fully implied in this statement the fact of his divinity, as the former statement declares his office, as the Messiah. "The phrase, 'living God,' was common among the Jews, not merely to distinguish Jehovah from idols, but also to indicate his character as a personal Being who enters into sympathetic relations with the soul of man." Abbott. Peter's confession contains the very essence of Christian doctrine. 30. Tell no man.—The time for his full manifestation had not yet come, and he was not willing to provoke the Jewish malice or the Roman envy, by permitting his disciples to announce him as the Savior of a lost world.

II. Christ's prophecy of his death and resurrection (vs. 31-33). 31. He began to teach them.—The question asked and the answer given prepared the way for Jesus to declare plainly to his disciples the truth, that he must suffer and die, and be raised again in the fulfillment of his great mission. He had spoken figuratively of his death, and John the Baptist had called him the Lamb of God, who would take away the sin of the world (John 1:29). Jesus had said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). To Nicodemus he had said that the Son of Man must be lifted up (John 3:14). He had told the disciples that "the bridegroom" would "be taken from them" (Matt. 9:15). He had said in the synagogue at Capernaum, that his flesh would be given for the life of the world (John 6:51). Now in clear and un-

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takable language he foretold his death. Suffer many things, etc.—The opposition would constantly increase and culminate in his death at the hands of the highest officials of the Jews. Rise again.—Here is expressed a prophecy and a promise of his resurrection.

32. Openly.—The word is used in the sense of plainly, not publicly. Peter took him—Aside. Began to rebuke him.—Peter's impulsiveness again asserted itself. He could not reconcile the course Jesus had declared was lying before him with the great fact of his Messiahship. 33. Get thee behind me, Satan.—Jesus did not call Peter Satan, but indicated that Peter's rebuke emanated from Satan. Satan put the words in Peter's mouth, and Jesus used the same language that he did at the temptation in the wilderness. Thou mindest not (R. V.). Peter took into consideration not the deep import of Christ's mission, but had temporal advantage and glory in view. Peter's words showed very clearly that he had failed to grasp the nature and completeness of Christ's work as the world's Redeemer.

III. Conditions and rewards of discipleship (vs. 34-41). 34. Called the people.—With his disciples.—There were those who gathered in the wilderness that they might be near Jesus. They were apparently at some distance from him and his disciples when he called them to him. Whosoever will come after me.—The word, "will," is not the sign of the future tense here, but expresses determination. Whosoever wills to become my follower, is the thought. Deny himself.—He must refrain from every wrong, and deny himself, every lawful thing that would hinder his progress in following Jesus. Take up his cross.—Be ready to suffer whatever it is necessary by virtue of being a disciple of Christ. 35. Whosoever will save his life.—It is determined to secure for himself ease and temporal advantages. Shall lose it.—Shall lose the higher good, the salvation of the soul, by trying to obtain earthly good. Shall lose his life.—Is determined to sacrifice temporal good for eternal. Shall save it.—Shall save his soul and shall secure all the earthly good that is necessary. 36. Gain the whole world, and lose his own soul.—If it were possible for one to become owner of the material world, and in so doing lose his life, his loss would be great; but if he should lose his soul, the spiritual loss would be infinite. 37. In exchange for his soul.—The soul forfeited can never be restored. 38. Ashamed of me and of my words.—It is a deplorable fact that mortal man, full of sin and of little worth, should be so puffed up in his own sight as to be ashamed of the infinitely mighty and holy Christ. Adulterous generation.—People untrue to God and estranged from him. Of him also the Son of man be ashamed. Jesus as Judge will forever disown him. Cometh in the glory of his Father.—Christ will come in glorious majesty, and will reward every man according to his works. 39. Some of them that stand here.—His disciples. The kingdom of God come with power.—Of those men standing with the Lord, three, six days afterwards, beheld him transfigured; all, save one, were witnesses of his resurrection; one at least, John, survived the capture of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple, and on each of these occasions "the kingdom of God" came "with power."—Maclaur. It came with power also on the day of Pentecost.

Questions.—Where was Caesarea Philippi? What question did Jesus ask his apostles? Why did he ask it? What was their answer? Who did Peter say Jesus was? What prophecy did Jesus utter regarding himself? Why did Peter rebuke Jesus? Give the language of Jesus' rebuke to Peter. What are the conditions upon which one can be a follower of Jesus? What is the des-

tiny of those who are ashamed of Jesus and his words? What is included in the coming of the kingdom of power?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—Christ revealed.

I. In his person and work.

II.—In the lives of his disciples

1. In his person and work. The question which Jesus asked his disciples

shows how dear to him is the personal faith of an individual, and how essential to salvation is the right apprehension

of his character as the Redeemer. Jesus did not enter to public opinion, yet he

sought to have men form a clear and right conception concerning him. He

examined his disciples on this most important of all questions in order to draw

from them a definite confession of their faith. He put them in a different case

from the multitude, and at the same time taught them that it was part of their duty to be interested in the spiritual

welfare of their fellow men. Peter's short but illustrious statement contained

the whole truth with respect to the person and work of Christ. He asserted the

divinity as well as the humanity of Christ. This was the first great confession

of faith which has come down to us through the ages. Jesus affirmed the

divinity of his redemptive mission, and assured Peter that his profession of

faith was a rich source of happiness to him. He declared that the truth which

Peter confessed should never be lost to the great body of his faithful ones. Peter

did not come to confess that great truth by nature, education or even by witness-

ing Christ's miracles. It was the direct act of the Father by which Peter was

enlightened. The revelation of Christ is an inward power rather than a

scientific belief. "All the glory of Christ as Mediator hangs upon the

knowledge of his person." It is the prerogative of the Father to reveal his

Son. The foundation of the church is an indestructible truth. Jesus represented

the church as an edifice of which he was the architect and builder. The church

is built upon him and not upon an idea or representation of him. In the language of the Jewish schools "to

bind" and "to loose" meant to prohibit and to permit, to determine what was

wrong and must not be done, and what was right and ought to be done. Jesus

gave authority to every man who lives in the higher realm of truth to open

up the truth to others. When Jesus had drawn from his disciples the ac-

knowledge of his divinity he announced his approaching passion. It

would have been useless to speak of his death until they were convinced of his

divinity, and still the apostles were un-

prepared for his sayings, and could neither understand nor accept them. Peter's heart was agitated. His mighty

grasp of faith concerning the divinity of Christ was much the same as it was

when he stepped out upon the water to go to Jesus, and his humanity predom-

inated again as before; this time, in the disappointment that his Lord should not

have the glory he expected of him. Jesus' rebuke prevented the greatness

of his faith from being spoiled by the earliness of his hopes.

II. In the lives of his disciples. Jesus pictured to his hearers a profession, him-

self taking the lead, his cross, toward the kingdom of heavenly glory. He summoned his disciples like a com-

mander addressing his soldiers, going before and showing the way. A voluntary following is a condition from which

there can be no deviation. Jesus very distinctly set before all men the condi-

tion of discipleship in his kingdom, and the true way to self-blessing glory. The value of the higher life cannot be com-

puted. We must calculate the value of the soul by the price that has been paid for it and by the home which has been prepared for it. The atonement is the

great proof of the soul's worth. It has marvellous capacities and untold possi-

bilities. Its loss is the loss of losses, the death of death. No amount of earthly gain can secure the soul against death and the judgment. Plain, reason-

obliges consideration of Christ's question, "What shall a man give in ex-

change for his soul?" T. R. A.

Had Stomach Rumbings Distress Before Meals

Was Seldom Free From That Weary, Droopy, Half-Dead Feeling.

Now Cured, and Gives Good Advice to Others With Dyspeptic Tendencies.

If you have any stomach distress at all you will certainly be interested in the following experience which is told by Mr. Edward Dawkins.

"When I was working around the farm last winter I had an attack of inflammation," writes Mr. E. P. Dawkins, of Port Huron, Mich., "and was weak for a long time, but well enough to work until spring. But something went wrong with my bowels for I had no use for the food I ate. My stomach kept sour, and always after eating there was pain and fullness, and all the symptoms of indigestion. Nothing helped me until I used Dr. Hamilton's Pills. Instead of hurting, like other pills, they acted very mildly and seemed to heal the bowels. I did not require large doses to get results with Dr. Hamilton's Pills, and I feel so glad that I have found a mild yet certain remedy. To-day I am well—no pain, no sour stomach, a good appetite able to digest anything. This is a whole lot of good for one medicine to do, and I can say Dr. Hamilton's Pills are the best pills, and my letter, I am sure, proves it."

"Refuse a substitute for Dr. Hamilton's Pills of Mandrake and Butterum, 25c per box or five for \$1.00, at all drug stores, or sent paid from the Catherhorne Co., Buffalo, N.Y., and Kingston, Canada."

POISONED IN LABORATORY.

Niagara Falls, N.Y., despatch: Poisoned by powerful acids with which he was experimenting to-day, Edward C. Spurge, general manager of the Ozone Vanillin Company, was found lying on the floor of his private laboratory at the Falls plant. He died several hours later with regaining consciousness. He was married in September, and came here from Paris, France.

INFLUX OF SETTLERS.

Ottawa, Nov. 11.—Of 133,710 people who came to Canada last year from the United States 19,384 were returning Canadians. Of the total 69 per cent. were naturalized Americans and 31 per cent. had never taken out their citizenship papers. Fully 150,000 are expected this year.

SALT RHEUM CAME OUT ON HANDS

Formed Watery Pimples. Itchy and Had Horrible Burning Sensation. Lost Some of Finger Nails. Could Not Open Hands. Cured by Cuticura Soap and Ointment.

235 N. Ligar St., Toronto, Ontario.

"For seven years I have been troubled with salt-rheum. It came out on my hands and

formed kind of watery pimples all over them which became

itchy and it had a horrible

burning sensation, as I

caused me a good deal of

pain. It came out on my

hands in the fall and remained

there till after spring. I

might mention that I lost some of my

finger-nails by the disease. During this

length of time I was utterly useless, as I

could not open my hands. I tried several

other patent medicines without a bit of

relief. Some of my friends advised me to

try Cuticura Remedies so I sent for samples

and by using them there was a great im-

provement. Then I went to the drugist

and bought one cake of Cuticura Soap and

two boxes of Cuticura Ointment; after using

them I am glad to say I am completely

cured. I have not to lose courage but

to (signed) Miss Lillian Irwin, Oct. 19, 1911.

For more than a generation Cuticura Soap

and Cuticura Ointment have afforded the

most economical treatment for affections of

the skin and scalp that torture, itch, burn,

scale, and destroy sleep. Sold everywhere.

Sample of each mailed free, with 32-p. Skin

Book. Address post card: Potter Drug &

Chem. Corp., Dept. 35D, Boston, U.S.A."

FIELD SELECTION OF SEED CORN.

The increased yield of shelled corn per

acre is the purpose of field selection.

Strong germination is one of the inci-

dentials that can be taken care of later

by a germination test.

Knowledge of ancestry is almost as

desirable for seed corn as for dairy an-

Field selection gives some knowledge

of ancestry.

Seed should not be selected from a

stalk near barren stalks. There would

be a strong chance that the barren stalk

was one of its parents, and that it

would tend to produce other barren

stalks.

Moderately good ears from a thick

stand are better seed than very fine

looking ears from a thin stand where

they have had an extra supply of sun-

shine, moisture, and plant foods.

Moderately long ears produced higher

yields than short ears, twenty-one

times out of twenty-two in two years' tests.

The lower-yielding short ears invariably

exceeded the longer ones in circum-

ference. Greater circumference, then,

does not mean greater yielding power.

The heavier ears usually give higher

yields. This weight should accompany

reasonable length, circumference and

shelling percentage. Immaturity must

throw it out, however.

Cressed-dented ears produced a little

more than rough-dented ears. Ears se-

lected from the plant averaged over

three bushels per acre more than wagon-

shelled seed from the same field. The

wagon-shelled ears were shorter in size

and general appearance, but the mother

plant and its surroundings were not de-

finitely known.

More information may be obtained

from Bulletin No. 212 of the Ohio Ex-

periment Station, Wooster, Ohio.

Although this corn was grown in

Ohio the results are worth our consid-

eration. Differences in season should be

kept in mind.—J. O. Benkin, Minnesota

College of Agriculture, in Farmer's Ad-

vocate.

GROWERS SHOULD CONTROL EVAP-

ORATORS.

Canadian fruit growers find evapora-

tion the most convenient method of dis-

posing of inferior grades of fruit, but owing

to the small orchards and the lack of

co-operation, much valuable fruit for

exporting purposes is entirely wasted.

In view of the large quantity of fruit

lately blown off the trees, and the addi-

tional fruit that may be expected to fall

during the usual storms before the close

of the picking season in October, it

would appear to be in the interests of

Canadian apple growers to organize the

evaporating industry, not only to secure

a product better graded and packed, but

also to utilize a far larger quantity of

the lower grades of fruit. This can be

most conveniently done if the apple

growers unite into co-operative associa-

tions, not only for selling purposes, but

for the purpose of establishing evapora-

tors. An evaporating plant is not an

expensive plant, nor is the necessary

skill for managing it beyond that which

can be readily obtained. The only really

useful evaporator to the fruit grower is

the one controlled by the fruit grower.

Privately-owned evaporators seldom

prove of much value to the fruit grow-

er, nor are they likely to promote the

reputation of the county for good fruit.

—September Fruit Crop Report.

CONSULTING ENGINEER

ENDORSES GIN PILLS

29 Broadway, New York.

"I bought some of your GIN PILLS at

Victoria, B.C., last September. Your

remedy I find, at 60 years of age, to

give perfect relief from the Kidney and

Bladder Troubles incident to one of my

age. I urgently recommend GIN PILLS

as being the one thing that

does me good." E. C. WOODFORD.

Box 6, 6 for \$2.50. Money back

if GIN PILLS fail. Sample free if you

write National Drug and Chemical Co.

of Canada, Limited, Toronto.

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MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS

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