

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson VI., February 6, 1916.

The boldness of Peter and John—Acts 4, 1-31. (Print 4, 8.21.)

Commentary.—I. The apostles before the Sanhedrin (vs. 1-7). While Peter was declaring the fact of Christ's resurrection in Solomon's porch, the priests, the official who had charge of the temple guard, and the Sadducees came to him for they were greatly agitated and troubled at his preaching that Jesus arose from the dead. The Sadducees were an influential Jewish sect at this time. They rejected the doctrine of the resurrection and did not believe in the existence of angels. Peter must have continued his discourse for two hours, since he and John went up to the temple at about three o'clock in the afternoon and he began to speak shortly after that, and it was "eventide" when they were arrested and placed in prison. It was then too late for them to be brought before the Sanhedrin, for that body could sit as a deliberative body only by daylight, therefore the apostles were placed "in hold unto the next day." The preaching was by no means in vain, for the people believed the message. The number of the men was five thousand, and it is likely that as many women also believed, so the Christian community was already assuming large proportions. The next morning the Sanhedrin assembled and care was taken to have the prominent members present, for the case to come before it was an important one. Ananias was an ex-high priest and Caiaphas the acting high priest, the same officials who had participated in the trial of Jesus.

II. Peter's defense (vs. 8-12). 8 filled with the Holy Ghost—As he and the rest of the one hundred twenty were on the day of Pentecost. An occasion had arisen of special importance and he was prepared by the Spirit for it. The promise of Jesus to His disciples (Mark 13, 11) was about to have a fulfillment. Rulers—The heads of the twenty-four courses of priests. Elders—Twenty-four leading citizens, heads of families, elected to places in the Sanhedrin. In addition to these twenty-two scribes or professional teachers of the law were added. These rulers, elders and scribes together with the high priest constituted the Sanhedrin. Peter addressed this body with becoming respect. 9. The good deed—The apostle was not slow to declare that it was for a good deed that he and John were arrested. Both the healing of the cripple and the preaching of the gospel were good deeds. Impotent—Helpless. 10. Be it known unto you all—Peter was ready to answer the question that was asked him and bold in making the declaration. By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth—Through the authority and power of Him who was of Nazareth, a despised city, the miracle was wrought. Whom ye crucified—Peter was standing before the very body that had a few weeks before condemned Jesus on false testimony and caused Him to be put to death. He had the opportunity to preach Jesus to this company of high officials, and he told them with Spirit-inspired courage the truths they needed to hear. He charged home upon them in no uncertain language; the responsibility in putting Jesus to death, Whom God raised from the dead—The fact that leading Sadducees were before him did not keep him from preaching the truth of Christ's resurrection.

11. The stone which was set at naught—Reference is made to Psa. 118, 22. The figure is that of a stone being judged by the builders as unfit for a place in the structure, but later found to be the very one needed for the most important and prominent place in it. 12. Neither is one sentence Peter declared the inefficacy of the forms and ceremonies of the Jewish system to save any one. Jesus had come as the fulfillment of all that was real in the Mosaic economy. None other name—it must have pierced his hearers' hearts deeply when Peter told them that Jesus whom they had crucified was the only one who could save them or any one else. Whosoever we must be saved—if we are ever saved, it must be through the power of Jesus.

13. Unlearned and ignorant men—Peter and John had not studied under the great Jewish teachers of the day, and they were ordinary laymen, as the original of the word "ignorant" implies. They marvelled—Peter and John, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke with a power that astonished even the learned members of the ruling body of the Jews. Book knowledge of them—they recognized the fact that they had been with Jesus and had been influenced and empowered by him. They had received his spirit and spoke as he had spoken. 14. Could say nothing against it—They and all the people of Jerusalem had known the cripple who had lain at the temple gate for years, an object of pity and charity, and they saw him before them completely healed, therefore they were forced to admit that a great work had been wrought.

15. Confuted among themselves—Peter had fully answered their question and had done it with a boldness born of conviction and certainty. The testimony was all given, and in order that the members of the Sanhedrin might freely discuss the weighty question as to what was to be done with the apostles, Peter and John were taken out outside. 16. What shall we do to these men?—The question was a serious one. Thousands of persons had believed in Jesus and this miracle would greatly increase the influence of the apostles. 17. That it spread no further—They had a more difficult task than they imagined to keep the gospel and the report of the miracle from spreading further. Let us straitly threaten them—The Sanhedrin had no real cause against Peter and John and they stood in fear of the people, therefore they could simply try to intimidate them. 18. Called them—Brought them before the Sanhedrin again to warn them against the further preaching of Jesus. 19. Judge ye—Peter and

John were not to be intimidated. They had received the Holy Ghost and they had a commission from Jesus to preach the gospel. Even the members of the Sanhedrin must admit that one should obey God rather than man. 20. The things which we have seen and heard—The apostles were sure of their ground. They had definite knowledge of the truths they were proclaiming. They had convictions as to duty, and they could not keep their consciences clear and not continue to testify to the fact of Christ's resurrection. 21. Finding nothing—The apostles were triumphant. No true cause was found against them, and for fear of the people they could not bring false charges. The multitudes in Jerusalem believed that the healing of the lame man was the work of God. 22. The healed man had long been known and the miracle was a notable one.

IV. The apostles at prayer (vs. 23-31). The apostles went at once, when they were released, to their fellow Christians. They took the matter of their threatenings to the Lord in prayer. While they prayed there was a stirring physical manifestation of the Lord's presence, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. They had no thought of turning back from the work assigned them. They prayed for help to preach the word of God with boldness, and their prayer was answered.

Questions.—Who preached to the people after the lame man was healed? Why were the rulers troubled? What did they do with the apostles? How many converts did they have that day? What great council was called together? Why did they wait till morning? What question was asked the apostles? Give the main points in Peter's reply. Why did the people marvel? What did the Sanhedrin decide to do. Why did they not punish the apostles? Who glorified God? Why?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic—A test of religions.

I. The trial of Peter and John.

II. The trial of Jewish rulers.

I. The trial of Peter and John. Two men, disclaiming all original power, excited Jewish society by the performance of a miraculous deed. Peter was challenged by the Sanhedrin to give an account of the miracle. It was an offence of doctrine, rather than of deed, which excited the opposition of the Sadducean rulers. The apostle's teachings reflected deep discredit upon the tribunals of the nation. A great crisis was pending. Jerusalem was in a moral upheaval. Seventy of the nation's magnates were confounded by two peasants. The fact of healing was recognized with the logical conclusion that it was a sign of the presence and working of some supernatural power, yet the power of the authority of the apostles were questioned. They were sturdy, truthful, uncompromising witnesses to Jesus and the resurrection. They testified to the thing which had been done and of greater things which he could do. Peter's words had a remarkable effect upon his distinguished hearers. Though they contended that the apostles were not personally qualified and had no right to teach, there was the strange coincidence, that in the moment of their amazement the rulers should give true and sufficient explanation of their work in that they had been with Jesus and learned of him. The impress of the great Teacher was too evident to be denied. Tone, look and manner, declared the apostles' training beyond a doubt. The Jewish rulers had admitted the originality of Jesus as a teacher and had opposed him on that account. That originally had reappeared in his disciples. The old controversy had suddenly revived. For the apostles to vindicate Christ's character meant the condemnation of the rulers. The resurrection of Jesus was a complete vindication of his character. Reference to the crucifixion stirred the priests. Reference to the resurrection stirred the Sadducees. The name of Jesus was set forth as the source of power. "Neither is there salvation in any other," was the substance of every apostolic announcement. Christ's way of delivering the nation was by becoming the corner-stone of its hope. What Israel needed was new life and its only Savior was he who had healed the cripple. The apostles were branded as heretics and forbidden to preach by the supreme authority of the nation. Religion, politics and skepticism conspired to crush the young church. The apostles were endowed with divine fortitude. Their endurance of persecution was a guarantee of their sincerity and an exhibition of the power of the gospel in themselves. Theirs was the heroism of hearts inspired by love and living for the benefit of others. They knew their mission and message to be divinely given. They possessed the secret of true courage, because they believed and did the right, from right motive, under the immediate inspiration of the Spirit, who made them effective.

II. The trial of Jewish rulers. Peter gave the men of the court their appropriate titles, recognized their office and authority and addressed them with deference and respect. He made the most of his opportunity. The prisoner's bar was transformed into a pulpit. He stood in view of them all, a splendid illustration of the truth that "the righteous are as bold as a lion," exhibiting granite-like firmness and unflinching loyalty to truth in his declaration that the risen Christ is the only Saviour of mankind. In the boldness of Peter the Jewish rulers saw the answer to their own words, "His blood be upon us, and on our children." Their antagonism was strong in spirit, but futile in effect. In vain had the men of scholarship looked down contemptuously upon the men of true learning. Their prohibition aimed at an impossibility. The places of the prisoners and the judges were in reality reversed. The apostles were empowered anew to speak, by the combination of evidences against them. Working under the authority and power of the Holy Spirit made the apostles invincible. Being under the arrest of an accusing conscience and destitute of divine approval made the rulers the actual criminals.

T. R. A.



For the GIRL WHO IS THIN

It is all very well for fleshy people to admire a slim figure, but no girl likes to be referred to as "thin as a match" or "flat as an ironing-board."

Thinness means that the tissues are not properly fed and nourished. It indicates a tendency towards anaemia, which must be overcome in its early stages. You may eat plenty of food, but you are losing weight, and with it reserve force. The blood has got thin and watery.

It is usually the nervously energetic girl or woman who wears herself down by worry and anxiety, until the nerves become irritable and the form emaciated.

This condition never rights itself, and for this reason you must seek external assistance, such as is found in Dr. Chase's Nerve Food. This treatment should not be confused with fattening, oil-composed preparations. It is rather a true tonic, which sharpens the appetite, improves digestion and restores richness to the blood. Through the medium of the blood it feeds and nourishes the starved cells and tissues back to health.

Under this restorative, upbuilding treatment the angles disappear, and the form is rounded out to healthful proportions. The new tissues formed are strong and firm, and give to the body the buoyancy and vigor which makes you look well and feel well. Nervous headaches and indigestion disappear, and you feel again the joy of living. You can prove the benefit obtained by noting each week your increase in weight.

50 cents a box, 6 for \$2.50. All dealers, or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Ltd., Toronto.



Dr. Chase's Nerve Food

Dr. Chase's Recipe Book, 1,000 selected recipes, sent free if you mention this paper.



GRAIN FEEDING NEEDED.

The importance of including grain crops in the rotation for the farm this year is well worth considering. For economical feeding grain is a necessity where animals are kept for work and for their products. While it is true that grain can be purchased, it is equally true that feeding is seldom profitable where a considerable portion of the grain must be bought.

Take the case of feeding hogs. Successful growers have learned that for best results some grain is needed the entire life of the animals. Pigs will eat soaked corn, corn chops, kaffir, milo or ground oats when 3 or 4 weeks old. With plenty of pasture little grain will be needed in the daily bill of fare till finishing time, but some will be essential for rapid growth and development. Grain is indispensable for finishing hogs, to harden the flesh, and thus give the carcasses that finish so desirable for prime hogs.

With some farmers the idea seems to prevail that grain is not a necessity with milch cows. The error of that belief has been proved by the experience of some of the best feeders. Cottonseed meal is a rich concentrate, and where it is judiciously fed, little grain will be needed, but for maintaining in body fat nothing seems to quite take the place of grain—such as corn, oats, rye, barley, milo, kaffir and their various products. Grain serves as a most important factor in securing a normal milk flow and enabling the cow to maintain her bodily flesh and be healthy and vigorous.

Nothing can take the place of grain for work animals as it gives the needed strength to the body. True again, cottonseed meal may reduce the quantity of grain required, and it is an economical protein supplement; and certain legume hays may reduce the protein and the carbohydrates needed in grain; but, nevertheless, some grain must be fed for best results.

Fattening sheep must have grain. While lambs are being grazed they will secure most of their living, if the pasture is good, but when it comes to finishing, some grain must be given. So it can readily be seen that every diversified or livestock farm must have grain in some form. The farmer cannot afford to neglect grain for his livestock, and for bread for his family.

Where crops are marketed grain is better than some others. While grain contains considerable plant food, and when sold has a tendency to impoverish soil, yet it is staple, and usually not difficult to market. Besides, it keeps well, and may be held, when deemed advisable. Hay is bulky, and often expensive to hold or deliver, and neither is it as easily sold as grain. The best use of grain is to feed it to good animals. In this way the high

cost of marketing is saved; at least a large part of the fertility in the grain may be returned to the soil, and the animals or animal products sold with probably a profit on both the crop and animals.

The best grain for the farm is the crop that produces the most profit under the conditions. The largest crop may not be the best. The crop that produces the most profit is grain, animal products, work, etc., is the crop to grow.

Often it is best to grow two or three grain crops in the rotation rather than confine the grain crop to one, as corn or maize.

Where wheat has been sown in the fall, corn, spring oats and some of the grain sorghums make a good rotation. Legumes may then be planted as a companion or follow the grain crops.

FARM NEWS AND VIEWS.

Nothing will go so far toward improving farm life conditions and build up the rural districts as good roads.

Wagon roads, good every day in the year, between principal centres of population, have become a necessity. Treat the stock right. The man who kicks dumb brutes kicks brutality into his own heart. Animals have ability to realize pain and pleasure, and love of life and offspring.

Success will come in the largest measure to those farmers who adopt the rotations system of farming, the diversified system, and who supplement this with the best of tillage methods.

It has been quite generally believed that a small potato seed will yield just as large a crop as large tubers. Extensive tests made at the South Dakota experiment station, however, prove quite conclusively that this theory is not true in practice. In these experiments the use of sizable seed produced a greater proportion of potatoes of desirable size than the use of culls. The type of potatoes produced from culls used as seed is measurably smaller in the first generation than those produced from selected seed tubers. The results of this experiment furnish quantitative evidence that the use of culls for seed causes potatoes to run out. Not only in the type of tubers produced from selected seed larger than from culls, says the experimenter, but also the average weight of tubers produced is greater.

Sows can be made to produce two litters a year. When this is desired they should be bred at the first period of heat after the pigs are weaned. Sows bred twice a year will not produce so many pigs in each litter as when bred only once a year, but more pigs should be raised in a year from each sow. Do not follow the idea that when planting trees you should put fertilizer at the bottom of the hole. Plant your tree, and when within about two inches of the top place your fertilizer and cover over with soil. The rain will wash the essence down to the roots. The same practice can be followed with established trees. Care should be taken that the fertilizer does

not touch the bark or roots. Remember, trees take up food with their fibrous roots, and fibrous roots usually are near the ends of big supporting roots, and tree roots usually go as far outward as the branches extend.

There is no reason for broadcasting manures in the vegetable garden. It is wasted energy. Apply manure to each hill or row, with dirt between it and the seed. This gives the greatest results for the least expenditure of time and money. No need to feed weeds.

Loamy, or so-called rich, soils hold their nutrient part in readiness because there is sufficient vegetable matter to make it light. This gives a chance for the air to aid the germs of fertilization to increase and multiply, to prepare the substances to be taken up by the plants.

Heavy clay soil. Apply manure to the vegetable matter, permit the fertilizer to filter away beyond reach of plant roots before the plants get all out of it.

Wardens Elected

- Brant—Reeve Morgan Harris of Brantford Township.
Bruce—Reeve A. E. MacNab, of Walkerton.
Carleton—Reeve W. J. Armitage of Torbolton.
Dufferin—Reeve Josiah Marshall of Mono Township.
Elgin—Reeve Frank Pineo of Malahide Township.
Grey—Reeve A. E. Cordingley of Shallow Lake.
Halton—Reeve L. E. Fleck, of Georgetown.
Huron—Robert Livingston, of Grey Township.
Hastings—Reeve Wm. H. Nugent, of Wollaston township.
Haldimand—Ivan W. Holmes, of Jarvis.
Kent—Reeve T. F. Hinnegan, of Wallaceburg.
Lambton—William Hall of Arkona.
Lanark—Reeve W. E. Scott of Almonte.
Lincoln—Reeve T. O. Johnston, of Port Dalhousie.
Leeds—Andrew M. Ferguson of Rear of Young and Escott Township.
Lennox and Addington—T. J. Cook of Camden township.
Norfolk—Reeve Matthew McDowell of North Walsingham Township.
Oxford—Reeve James Pullin, of West Oxford Township.
Ontario—Reeve Wm. J. Jackson of Scugog Township.
Perth—Reeve McCausland, of Blanshard Township.
Prince Edward—Edward Partello, of Bloomfield.
Peterboro—Reeve Darling of Dummer Township.
Renfrew—D. J. Kelly, of Sebastopol Township.
Simcoe—Reeve James Marten, of Sunnidale Township.
Victoria—Reeve James Robertson of Ops Township.

- Wellington—Reeve Stickney, of Peel Township.
Wend—Reeve George Rysdale of Stamford Township.
Waterloo—Reeve Paul Snyder of Woolwich Township.
Wentworth—Reeve J. H. Dickenson of Glanford Township.
York—Reeve W. J. Knowles of Aurora.
DUNDAS STORMONT and GLEN GARRY—Geo. E. Clark, Reeve of Charlottenburg township.
DURHAM and NORTHUMBERLAND—Geo. Greer, Reeve of Cobourg.
FRONTENAC—James Haldix, of Portsmouth.
HALIBURTON—JOHN WELCH, Reeve of Anson township.
PEEL—GUY BELL.
RUSSSELL and PRINCETON—J. G. BRADLEY, Reeve of Caledonia township.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS

Table with columns for various market items like Apples, Potatoes, Eggs, Butter, etc., and their prices.

SUGAR MARKET

Table listing sugar market prices for items like Sucrars, Extra granulated, etc.

LIVE STOCK

Table listing live stock prices for items like Export cattle, Butcher cattle, etc.

OTHER MARKETS

WINNIPEG GRAIN OPTIONS

Table listing Winnipeg grain options for Wheat, Oats, etc.

MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET

Table listing Minneapolis grain market prices for Wheat, Corn, etc.

DULUTH GRAIN MARKET

Table listing Duluth grain market prices for Wheat, Corn, etc.

LONDON WOOL SALES

London—An excellent selection of 5,600 bales brought out increased competition at the wool auction sales today. All wools were 10 per cent dearer than the December sales, and some of the finest grades often showed an advance of 4 to 6 per cent. The extraordinary price of 28 3/4 for Victorian greasy wools, and 28 1/2 for scoureds were paid. The market is strong on prospective supplies and the large contracts recently taken.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK

Table listing Chicago live stock prices for Cattle, Steers, Hogs, etc.

BUFFALO LIVE STOCK

Table listing Buffalo live stock prices for East Buffalo, Despatch, etc.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE

Table listing Liverpool produce prices for Wheat, Corn, etc.

\$500,000 ALBANY FIRE

Albany, N. Y., Report.—Fire, which broke out in the Albany Tire Repair Shop in the centre of the business district from exploding oils at 3 o'clock this morning, destroyed the company's building and spread to adjoining buildings with a loss estimated at half a million dollars. Among the buildings destroyed were the Albany City Tire Repairing Company, Oddfellows' Hall and several office buildings, which housed the New York State Automobile Association and Albany Automobile Club. A portion of the municipal Gas Company's buildings was also destroyed.