

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON II. April 8, 1917. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead—Master Lesson.—John 11: 17-44.

COMMENTARY.—I. Mourning over the death of Lazarus (vs. 17-19). 17. When Jesus came—Jesus had been at Bethabara, in Perea, the place where John the Baptist had preached and baptised. He went there from Jerusalem where the Jews had tried to arrest him (John 10:39, 40). He did not enter into Bethany, but came into the vicinity. Four days—It was said that Lazarus had been in the grave four days, though he knew it without being told. Lazarus must have died on the day that messengers told Jesus he was sick. Jesus tarried two days and occupied one day in journeying to Bethany, making four in all. It is the custom in that country to bury the dead on the day that death takes place, for decomposition speedily follows. 18. Bethany—The name means "house of dates," probably from the abundance of date palms formerly growing there. It is on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives. It is now a wretched Moslem village. The Arabic name is El-Azariyah, or The Lazarus. Fifteen furlongs—One and seven-eighths miles. 19. Came to Martha and Mary—The family must have been prominent in the community as well thought of by the Jews, even though they were in close friendship with Jesus. To comfort them concerning their brother—it was part of the Jewish ceremonial of mourning that many, ten at least, should come and console (Gen. 37: 35, 2 Sam. 12: 17; Job 2: 11). It is said that the usual period of mourning was thirty days; three of weeping, seven of lamentation, twenty of sorrow. But the instances in scripture vary.—2 Sam. 1: 11. Resurrection Power in Jesus (vs. 20-23). 20. Martha went and met him—Jesus halted outside the village, and as soon as Martha heard of his coming she went to meet him. "Her position here, it may be said, is obviously that of the elder sister, the head and manager of the household."—Smith. It is natural that she should be the first to go forth to meet the Master. Mary still sat in the house (R. V.).—The same characteristics of Martha and Mary, respectively, are seen here in the incident described in Luke 10: 38-42. The sitting posture was usually assumed by those who were mourning. 21. Lord—Master, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died—Martha does not reproach Jesus for not having come, but regrets that he was not present to heal him while he was sick. There was not time for Jesus to reach him after word was sent to him that Lazarus was ill. She expressed her confidence in his healing power, but supposed that he must be present in person to do the work. 22. Whatsoever thou wilt ask of God—Her words indicate that she believed Jesus could ask the Father to raise the brother from the dead and his prayer would be answered. She had probably heard of the raising of life of the widow of Nain and of the daughter of Jairus. She must have known of the Old Testament miracles of resurrection from the dead. Her declaration of faith must have been pleasing to him. 23. Thy brother shall rise again—Although Martha understood these words to refer to the final resurrection of the dead, she must have been comforted; yet it is evident that Jesus was giving her the promise of raising Lazarus to life. 24. I know that he shall rise again—Martha did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, for she believed in the resurrection of the dead. She was assured that Lazarus would be raised "in the resurrection at the last day." That did not satisfy her present desire. She longed for his restoration to life at once.

25. Jesus said unto her—Life recognized the deep agitation of her soul and spoke the word that must have moved her deepest moral and spiritual nature, as it has moved hearts all down the ages. I am the resurrection, and the life. I am the resurrection, and the life. In connection with the words resurrection and life, Jesus is the only source of life. He is the giver of life and the restorer of it. Jesus employs the present tense, saying, "I am," not, "I will be." He gave Martha to know that he had, at that very instant, power to restore Lazarus to life. He that believeth in Me—To have life in Jesus then was to accept Him as the Messiah, to acknowledge His divine power and to receive Him as Saviour and Lord. To believe in Jesus now means the same. The believer submits fully to the divine will and becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus. Though he were dead—Though he die.—R. V. Jesus did not assure men that they would not die physically. Yet shall he live—Believers in Jesus did not die physically. Yet shall he live—Believers in Jesus are not subject to eternal death. They are spiritually alive and He who is the source of all life dwells in them. 26. Whosoever liveth—Physically, shall never die—Believers in Christ shall never die eternally. Believers in Jesus had given utterance to most profound truths, applicable to individuals, and He asked Martha, to whom he was speaking, if she believed what he had said. The importance and efficacy of faith can not be overestimated. 27. Yea, Lord—The question Jesus put to Martha was direct and pointed, and the reply she gave was no less so. The blessing that comes to the soul that thus implicitly believes in Jesus is inexpressibly great. It is when one becomes thoroughly submissive and trustful that this heart cry, "Yea, Lord," is uttered. Then art the Christ—Which or not Martha had fully grasped the sublime truths which her Lord had spoken, she grasped the thought of His Messiahship and declared her faith in Him. 28-32. Martha's interview with Jesus was deeply comforting to her. From it she returned to her sister and told her that the Master was calling for her. She went quickly to meet Him and when she saw Him, she made the same statement that Martha had made before her, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." Jesus was soon to disclose to her and Martha and to all the world His power over death. Such a manifestation

of His power would have been a testimony to His disciples in His lifetime, and would have declared His deity to all the ages. III. Lazarus raised to life (vs. 33-44). 33-42. Jesus saw Mary weeping, and the Jews who came with her were also weeping in sympathy for her. He was deeply moved, and we have an exhibition of his sympathy for the sorrowing. "Jesus wept," and the Jews were convinced of his love for Lazarus. They asked among themselves if he who had given sight to the blind could not have kept Lazarus from dying. Upon his arrival at the cave which formed the tomb of Lazarus, he ordered that the stone which covered the entrance should be taken away. Martha's objection that the body had already become decomposed was met by the words of Jesus. "Said I not unto thee that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God?" When the stone was removed, Jesus offered a prayer of thanksgiving to the Father for hearing him. 43. When he had thus spoken—With the Father. He cried with a loud voice—it was unusual for Jesus to speak in loud tones, but he spoke thus on this occasion that all the people assembled might hear. Lazarus, come forth—The voice of Jesus reached the ears of the living about the tomb and it reached also into the abode of the dead. It was a commanding, authoritative voice. The call was for Lazarus to come forth from the state of death into life—from the tomb to the realm of the living. 44. He—Lazarus—came forth—"He who utter the command, 'come forth,' imparted the life that enabled the dead to obey. Bound with graveclothes—His hands and feet were probably wrapped separately with strips of cloth, holding the spices in place. Face was bound about with a napkin—The cloth was placed under the chin and fastened over the head. Loose him—Jesus gave directions to have the grave clothes removed from the living Lazarus, for they were no longer needed. Questions.—Where was the home of Lazarus? Where was Jesus when word came to him that Lazarus was sick? Why did not Jesus go at once to him? Relate the conversation between Jesus and Martha. What did Mary say to Jesus? Why did the Jews conclude that Jesus loved Lazarus? Describe the raising of Lazarus to life. What effect did it have upon the opposers of Jesus?

PRACTICAL SURVEY. Topic.—A sympathizing Saviour. I. Sounded the depths of human woe. II. Established faith in himself. I. Sounded the depths of human woe. As soon as Martha and Mary apprehended danger, they sent for Jesus. Two sharply contrasted types of natural character are exhibited in these two sisters. Martha's creed was sound, but not complete. She thought clearly, professed her faith with boldness, with no hesitation or qualification. Jesus did not minister to Mary by discourse as he did to Martha. He dealt with her according to her nature and temperament. Martha had fully grasped what Jesus was in relation to God, but not what he was in himself, the Source and Giver of life. Her faith had not risen to the divinity of his Person and mission. Her love was stronger than her faith. She did not see the connection between Christ's delay and the good of all concerned. Jesus did not try to annihilate Martha's grief, but to infuse it with another spirit. The death of Lazarus had spread a dark shadow over the hearts of many. Jesus beheld death in all its dread significance as the wages which sin had wrought. Humanity in all its sin and misery was portrayed in that gathering; at the grave of Lazarus. Jesus knew how much the darkness and sorrows of death were intensified and aggravated by the state of ignorance and unbelief in which the world lay. His grief was connected with man's misery. While in his divine thought and sorrow Jesus penetrated to the root and source of all evil, the mighty attendant suffering awoke in him the truest and deepest compassion and tenderness toward all men. His tears were human, but his compassion and sympathy were divine. By his example he gave sanction and limit to sorrow, the limits in which sorrow is sacred and hallowing, and beyond which it is harmful and weakening. The peace which found expression for its woe in tears found expression for its sympathy and pity in the reaching out a hand to help.

II. Established faith in Himself. As it regarded the manifestation of the glory of God, the arrival of Jesus was neither too early nor too late. By His delay Jesus tried the character of all who knew the case. The restoration of Lazarus from death was more beneficial to faith than His presence and growth in it would have been. This growth and confirmation of their faith involved their greatest good. This alone could bring them into closer union with Christ and with the Father and open to them the door of the spiritual kingdom and fully present to their view the grand and real visions of Jesus as their King in all his beauty. Martha set a practical example to Jesus' words. She set her promise in the remote future and made it impersonal, placing Lazarus with all the other dead. That which lifted her beyond the atmosphere of doubt was Jesus' exposition of the things concerning Himself. His first purpose was to get their minds away from death. His next purpose was to get them to identify Himself with the resurrection. Jesus set before Martha a specific fact and challenged her faith on definite teaching about Himself. He called upon her to believe in His personal, present power and the union of His people with Himself. Jesus connected the seeing of God's glory with the exercise of faith. The words of Jesus at the grave expressed His recognition of God as His Father, his consciousness of the Father's regard and His consideration of the people in His devotion. By a natural, filial instinct his heart rose out of its depression into confident communion with His Father. His solemn thanksgiving expressed gratitude for the assurance of power to accomplish the miracle, confidence that as the Son He always stood within the Father's favor, care for the multitude that they might be prepared to believe

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BEEF CATTLE SITUATION—DURING WAR AND AFTER

Holdings Are Badly Depleted, European Herds are Decimated, and Demand Will Soon be Satisfied—Breed Well, Feed Well and Weed Well is One Expert's Advice.

During the last five years there has been a marked decrease in beef cattle holdings in Canada—some 600,000 fewer cattle being held now than in 1912. In all provinces except Saskatchewan and Alberta this decrease has been general, but was far more marked in Ontario than in any other. We find, moreover, that there exists a great shortage of beef the world over. When the war is ended this shortage will be felt very keenly, not only in this country, but all over the continent of Europe as well. Therefore we are safe in saying that there never was a time in the history of the country when it was of as great importance as it is at present for the people of Canada to think, and think most seriously, of the position this country is likely to be in with reference to the future supply of beef producing animals. HOW CANADIANS MAY BENEFIT. We are now in the third year of the greatest war the world has ever known, and which has in several ways had its effect on the beef supply of the world. In consequence, we find that breeding operations are completely disorganized, especially in the countries where the war is raging. It will be impossible in those countries, even under the most favorable conditions, to get back to the breeding of anything like a reasonable supply of good beef cattle for some time after the cessation of hostilities; and that points out the road to opportunity to Canadians. Most of the European countries will have to get part of their breeding stock at least from this North American continent in order to build up their herds again, and may be compelled to buy large stores of the beef which will be required in those countries as well. There is no reason why Canadians should not secure an important part of this trade, providing we breed and feed the proper type of animal. I know I am safe in saying that it is most important from the standpoint of the individual farmer and of the nation as well, that a solid foundation should be laid by the conservation of all good breeding females possible. As a war measure the British Government has already imposed restrictions against the slaughter of calves and females. I am afraid that a measure of this kind, even in war times, would not be advisable in this country. Yet we have only to visit some of the live stock markets to find that even at this time a great many calves of the beef breeds, and large numbers of useful heifers and cows, which should be spared, are finding their way to the block. We continually face the danger involved in the loss of such large numbers of good beef bred calves, and in the slaughter of very many bred and serviceable cows and heifers, many of which are in calf when slaughtered. This is certainly short-sighted practice—to say the least—on the part of those who sell them, and is a most serious loss to the country at large. EXPORTATION OF FEEDING CATTLE. In the matter of exportation of our stockers and feeders we find as a result of this business, that large numbers of young, unfinished stuff have been dumped on the market at a time when prices are ordinarily the lowest. In 1915 there were exported from Western Canada to the United States 96,499 head, and of this number probably 70 per cent. were stockers and feeders. And, as you will no doubt remember, there was an abundant supply of all kinds of feed for live stock at that time. Fortunately we find that the recent campaign carried on by the Live Stock Branch, Ottawa, to conserve as far as possible the breeding stock, has had a very beneficial effect. In spite of the fact that the census of June 20th last shows a heavy decrease in the total number of beef cattle within the Dominion, the marketings at the different stock yards in Canada during the past year have



For profitable feeding we must have animals that are "good doers." Breeding the cows to the right kind of bull, therefore, is more than half the battle.

reason to believe that the trade for commercial stock will be maintained, at very profitable rates. With so many men taken from the land by the war, including experts in breeding and feeding, it is perhaps more than ever necessary that careful attention should be given to the breeding and feeding of the right type of animal, as it is only by maintaining animals in a thoroughly healthy condition, that the best and most profitable results can be secured. I trust that those who remain at home will render no less valuable aid by helping to maintain and increase, in every way possible, not only the live stock of the country, but the yield from the land as well. The importance of renewed exertion on the part of every Canadian farmer and live stock man cannot be overestimated.

MUST CONSERVE GOOD FEMALES. Considering that there are not enough beef producing animals to supply the normal demand, the following facts stand forth clearly: 1st. Prices will continue high; as long as the supply is not equal to the demand cannot expect anything but high prices. 2nd. The high market prices are bound to continue to have the effect of drawing from the breeder many good cows and heifers which should be retained for breeding purposes. 3rd. The fact that so many good females find their way to the block will have a tendency to keep the supply down for perhaps a number of years. 4th. It is well to keep in mind the length of time it requires to produce a good beef bullock. 5th. Looking to the future, with the evidence we have before us, we may safely predict that for some years to come, beef cattle will be scarce and high, and it will be good business, both from the standpoint of the breeder and farmer, as well as of the nation, to breed all good cattle possible, retain the females, and feed and care for them well. —The Canadian Countryman.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

Table of Toronto Markets including Farmers' Market, Dairy Produce, Turkeys, Poultry, Fruits, and Vegetables with prices.

Table of MEATS—WHOLESALE, including Beef, Pork, and other meats with prices.

TORONTO CATTLE MARKETS.

Table of Toronto Cattle Markets showing prices for Export cattle, Butcher cattle, and other categories.

OTHER MARKETS.

Table of WINNIPEG GRAIN EXCHANGE, showing prices for Wheat, Oats, and other grains.

Table of MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET, showing prices for Minneapolis wheat and other grains.

Table of DULUTH GRAIN MARKET, showing prices for Duluth wheat and other grains.

Table of CHICAGO LIVE STOCK, showing prices for Cattle, Hogs, and other livestock.

Table of BUFFALO LIVE STOCK, showing prices for Buffalo live stock.

A DARING FEAT.

Marvelous Swordsmanship of an Indian Sergeant. Indian swordsmen are acknowledged to be unrivalled. An extraordinary performer, who was a sergeant in one of the native regiments is thus spoken of in Colonel Barras' book, 'India and Tiger Hunting': 'He was a fine-looking fellow, in the prime of life, and notwithstanding the frightfully critical nature of what he was going to do, he moved about with perfect ease and calmness. In one hand he held a very long double-edged sword, sharp at the point and with edges like razors. With the other hand he led his little son, a child aged about six years, who was also clearly accustomed to what was about to follow.'

LITTLE HELPS.

Get a Needle Threader and Save Your Precious Eyes. If you find it difficult to thread a needle, don't strain your eyes get a magnetic needle threader and save your eyesight.

For your clock there is a silver ink well with a clock attachment—probably intended to save your time and space.

An electric flashlight, small and inexpensive, is a handy possession when your buttons roll under the bureau—and there is a saving of time and temper.

More than one good pen has been spoiled by neglect—get a little cap, filled with shot, to dry your pen on—and see how much longer your pen lasts!

Observant Kiddy—Oh, look at that funny man, mother! He's sitting on the sidewalk talking to a banana-peel.

'It isn't wise to trust a secret to the mails,' cautioned the Wise Guy. 'How about the females?' asked the Simple Mug.

Camels and Dromedaries.

No matter to what extent the railway may be constructed in certain parts of the world, the camel will probably never cease to be the principal means of transportation in the desert, over the greater portion of Egypt and the Sudan. The desert would, of course, be absolutely impossible without this animal. He was created for it and thrives in it better than anywhere else. His broad, soft foot enables him to traverse deep sands where the horse would sink to its knees and quickly perish. The camel lives on almost nothing, the scanty herbage of the desert and the twigs of the thorny mimosa being his favorite food; but, as everyone knows, his most valuable quality in this relation is his ability to travel many days during the hottest days of summer without drinking. The African camel is a native of Arabia and has only one hump. The camel and the dromedary differ only in breed, just as the draught horse differs from the racer. The burden camel, called gamal by the Arabs, never changes his regular walk of two and a half miles an hour under a load which never exceeds 300 pounds for a long journey, for his strength must be estimated by what he can carry after exhausted by hardship and privation. The dromedary or riding camel, is much swifter. With no other load than a skin of water, he can accomplish 100 miles a day in an emergency. 'Pride goes before a fall, you know.' 'Maybe it does; but it goes a lot quicker after one.' —Boston

Camels and Dromedaries.

Before they are married he tells her she's as light as a fairy when she sits on his knee, and after they are married he asks her where'd she get the notion a man could hold up 150 pounds on one knee for half an hour without his leg going to sleep.—Macon Telegraph.