

how much knowledge the pupil acquires, but more on the use he makes of it, and on what he is. Let knowledge be translated into reverent conduct.

"Let knowledge grow from more to more
And more of reverence in us dwell."

Sydney Mines, N.S.

The Preparation and the Presentation of the Lesson

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Suppose that the lesson has to do with a scene in the life of a Christian hero. To be specific, suppose that the subject under consideration is Peter's Denial. How is the lesson to be studied and presented?

First of all the teacher will make himself acquainted with the facts by reading the narrative in the several Gospel stories, and will read reference books of various kinds in order that he may picture the exact happenings on that eventful occasion. He must be able to sketch the rooms and to arrange the stage-setting for every act in the drama. The outline of pictures might appear somewhat as follows:

- a. The open court of the hall of Caiaphas, early Friday morning. Crowd of officers, servants, Levites, and loafers-in-general. A fire of charcoal burning in brazier.
- b. John goes into the judgment hall, but Peter stays without, in shadow, probably looking up at windows of the hall.
- c. Peter comes forward to the fire, and mingles with coarse men and women. Up above and behind in the judgment hall Jesus is being tried. A maid accuses Peter. He denies. The cock crows.
- d. Peter leaves the fire and seeks the shadow in the porch. Here he is again accused and denies.
- e. Another bystander,—a friend of Malchus—next accuses him. He denies with an oath. The cock crows while he is speaking. Jesus coming out of the hall into the court turns and looks at Peter. Their eyes meet.
- f. Peter rushes out into the night, weeping bitterly.

Next, the teacher will reflect upon these pictures in order to get for himself some spiritual lessons. Here, there will be a difficulty if the lesson is considered as a complete unity in itself. The Peter who denied can be understood only in relation to the impulsive Peter, who, up to that time, had

dominated the little band, and to the repentant Peter, who afterwards was so signally honored and who became such a power in Christian service. Some of the lessons for the teacher might be:

1. Enthusiasm and open confession need to be buttressed by prayer.
2. Following afar off may lead to disloyalty.
3. A follower of Jesus should not be found among his enemies.
4. The sins and habits of youth assert themselves in old age. At best regeneration is "a new life in the old channel."
5. The first step to restoration is repentance.
6. Christ remembers first those who cost him most trouble.
7. A blotted life is not necessarily a useless one.

Now, having the truths in his own soul, the teacher will proceed to arrange it in a form that will appeal to children. Here he falls back upon the descriptive story, and the lesson-period slips away as he presents:

1. *Peter, the impulsive disciple*
 - a. Accepting the call
 - b. Confessing the Christ
 - c. Walking on the water
 - d. Refusing to have feet washed
 - e. At the transfiguration, etc.
2. *Peter, the perplexed coward*
 - a. Coming into the room
 - b. Denying his Lord
 - c. Shrinking into the darkness
 - d. Denying his Lord again
 - e. Still shrinking and cowering
 - f. Denying a third time as the cock crows
 - g. Meeting the Lord's gaze
 - h. Rushing into the darkness
3. *Peter restored and triumphant*
 - a. "And Peter"
 - b. Peter at the tomb
 - c. Peter in Galilee
 - d. "Feed my lambs"
 - e. The Peter of Acts

This is a long, long story, but it is better to present it as a series of pictures, allowing them to do their own preaching, than to dwell upon one small picture, coupling with it a sermon. It is the life of Peter which counts, and not the moral reflections of the teacher.

A sample of presentation of these pictures is roughly indicated by the following outline:

The call of Peter:—A great crowd surrounding Jesus. He sees two boats. Enters one of them and asks the owner, Simon Peter, to move out a little. Preaches to people. Asks Simon to go out further. The conversation about the catch. The command to