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Second Quarter.

Lesson I. April 4.

John 1: 1-18.

### THE WORD MADE FLESH.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.—John 1: 14.

I. THE DIVINE NATURE OF JESUS.—Vers. 1-4. *In the beginning.* In the ages of eternity when only God existed. *The Word.* That the WORD was Jesus Christ is evident from ver. 14. He is called the Word of God because through him is revealed to us the thoughts and feelings of God, as our words express our thoughts and feelings to others.

*And the Word was with God.* The Word existed in the eternal period before all creation, naturally and essentially ONE BEING with the Deity, yet possessing some species of relative distinction from the Father.—*And the Word was God.* This statement annihilates two errors that might arise: (1) That the Word being with God, might be inferior. (2) That if equal to God, there might be two Gods.

3. *All things were made by him.* Came into being through him, by his agency. The thought to be brought out is that of the vast multiplicity of created things (spirits, matter, etc.). Of all these no one came into being without the Word. *And without him,* apart from him. *Was not any thing Not, not one (not even one):* stronger than "nothing." This denies the eternity of matter.

4. *In him was life.* The Word is (1) the principle who brings beings out of nothingness into existence; (2) he is also the source of life to them all when they have been once created.

*And the life was the light of men.* The intimation is that all the light of Old Testament prophecy and instruction, if not all that dim religious light which has illuminated even heathen nations, came through the Word.

(III). *How does Christ the life give light?* (1) By giving spiritual life, by renewing the soul; and then it sees, by experiencing, the blessedness and glory of spiritual and eternal things. (2) He gives light his teachings. (3) He gives light by all his example. Only a living person could do these things. (4) He gives light by all his manifestations in works and word, of the nature and heart of God. (5) He gives light by the revelations and experiences through the Spirit whom he sends.

II. THE MANIFESTATION OF THE DIVINE WORD TO MEN.

5. *The light.* That which reveals God, and heaven, and truth, that which shows the way. *Shineth in darkness.* The darkness of sin and ignorance, with no presence of God, no vision of heaven or the way there, no hope, no peace, but only wretchedness, sin, and despair. *And the darkness comprehended it not.* Did not receive the light so that the darkness would be removed.

6. How did the rejection of the revealing light which shines in Jesus come about? John answers this question in the verses which follow. *There was* (arose) *a man, whose name was John.* John the Baptist, a cousin of Jesus.

7. *The same came..... to bear witness of the Light.* (1) by showing men their needs; (2) by awakening them to repentance; (3) by proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the light foretold; (4) by pointing him out to men as the promised redeemer. *That all men through him might believe.* That is, through John might believe in the Light.

8. *He was not that light.* He was not the Messiah himself.

9. *That was the true light.* The "true light" in this sense is not opposed to a "false light," but to an imperfect, incomplete, transitory light. *Which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.* This clause describes the universal extent of its action. The words must be taken simply as they stand. No man is wholly destitute of the illumination of the "Light."

10. *He, the Light.* Here the figure passes imperceptibly away, giving place to the thought of the person. *Was in the world.* In all the past ages, in every manifestation of God, in the history of the chosen nation, but especially when he appeared as the man Christ Jesus, the Saviour of the world. *And the world was made by him.* This is the second reason why the world ought to have received him. *And* (yet) *the world knew him not,* Did not recognize him as their Saviour and creator and king.

11. *Unto his own.* His own possessions, his inheritance, his peculiar people, the Jews. *And his own,* although bound by such ties. *Received him not.* The nation as a whole did not receive him as the Son of God, their promised Messiah, their King, their Redeemer.

12. *But as many as received him.* Although the Jews as a nation did not receive him, nor the world as a whole, yet many individuals, both Jews and Gentiles, did receive him. *To them gave he power.* The original word combines two ideas. He confers the *power* to become the sons of God, and confers the *right* to claim that privilege. *To become the sons of God.*

13. WHAT IS INCLUDED IN BEING CHILDREN OF GOD? (1) We are born again into the nature and character of God, the same kind of spiritual life that he has. (2) We are members of God's family, the holy of all ages and all worlds. (3) We are under his peculiar loving care, dwelling under the shadow of his almighty wings. (4) We have a share in his beautiful home. (5) We are heirs of all things through him, his joy, his love, his character, his blessings. *Even to them that believe on his name.* This explains who are the sons of God, and how they become such.

*Which were born.* Received the new, divine life. *Not of blood.* Not by parentage, nor natural generation. The best of parents cannot bestow it upon their children. *Nor of the will of the flesh.* Not by their own efforts or exertions. *Nor of the will of man.* Not by or in consequence of the advice, wisdom, or highest power of man, or anything that man by wisdom and intellect could do. *But of God.* He alone can impart the new life, for it is a spiritual divine life, like his own.

III. THE METHOD OF MANIFESTATION OF THE WORD.—Vers. 14-18. 14 *Was made:* became. *Flesh.* Became human. *And dwelt among us.* "Tabernacled" among us, dwelt as in a tent. *And we beheld his glory.* Glory in the manifestation of those qualities which deserve honor and praise, of the excellency and splendor of his own nature. *As of the only begotten.* The glory worthy of the only son of God. *Full of grace and truth.* This phrase describes the *Word* above. *Grace,* God's tender mercy and loving favor, might suffer us to continue in sin were it not joined with truth,—the true view of our duty, the evil and danger of sin, the justice and holiness of God, and the purity of heaven. Jesus is *full* of grace and truth. They are complete; no alloy of imperfection is mingled with them. He overflows with them.

12. *John* (the Baptist). *Bare* (beareth) *Witness of him.* Of the Word made flesh. *And cried.* Implying earnestness and emotion.

15. This verse is not a continuance of the witness of John, but the words of the evangelist. *And of his fulness.* The inexhaustible riches of his grace and truth. *Have all we.* All men, but especially those who are born of God. *And grace for grace.* Is literally, *grace* in the place of *grace,* one grace succeeding another, and, as it were, taking its place. [Either [1] grace given in fresh measure, as former grace is improved, or *grace* to his children, corresponding to each grace in his own nature.

17. *For the law.* Both the moral and the ceremonial. *Was given by Moses. But grace and truth* came by Jesus Christ. The *grace* is the favor of God; [shown in higher degrees in the gospel, coming with new power], the *truth* is the clear revelation of the divine character and will, seen only dimly under the old covenant.

18. *No man hath seen God.* Men see only partial manifestations of God. But we need to know the real spiritual nature of God. *The only begotten Son.* Who being like God, partaking of his nature, would know God perfectly. *Which is in the bosom of the Father.* In the most intimate relations close to his heart, familiar with his nature and purposes. *He hath declared him.* For he only could declare him. He has done this by his teachings, by his love in coming, by his perfect example, by his atonement, by his resurrection.

### That Clerk.

"Only think of it! A clerk! A saleswoman!"

"It seems to me I'd have worked my fingers to the bone in some other way, before I would have come to that," said Lizzie Doyle, going to the mirror and re-adjusting a twenty-dollar hat.

"So would I. But then, what could she do?"

"At least, she might have made herself a little less public. If there is anything I despise, it is these saleswomen!"

"So do I. How much better it would have been to have gone into dress-making, or millinery, or something of that sort. But to stand behind a counter like a man!"

"Papa always did like those Stanleys," said Lizzie Doyle, petulantly.

"Yes, we all liked them well enough until Mr. Stanley failed, didn't we?"

"No, not I, for one. Laura was always too independent in her notions. Don't you remember how hard she studied at school? It does seem as if she forsaw her father's failure."

"I wonder she didn't try for some better position then. She is surely capable of being something better than a shop girl."

"Oh, I believe father intends to promote her when Mr. Jobley goes West. She will then take Mr. Jobley's place as junior bookkeeper. Think of that for a woman!"

"That would be better than selling goods, I don't see how she can do that with her refined tastes. Why don't she give lessons, I wonder? It might not bring her in quite so much money, but it would be a deal nicer."

"Yes, and then we could recognize her," said Lizzie Doyle.

"That's what I was coming to," was the quick reply of her companion, a small, sallow faced-girl, elaborately trimmed and flounced. "How are we to treat her now? We have been great friends you know—that is, when she was in our set," she added, seeing Lizzie's brow darken.

"I'll tell you how *I* shall treat her," responded Lizzie, slowly drawing on a pair of perfumed, three-button kid gloves; "precisely as I treat all of papa's clerks. And I should like to see any of them presume!"

"O, but Laura won't presume! You needn't be afraid of that; she's to proud."

"She must be," said Lizzie sneeringly, "to take that position! *I* shall not notice her."

"But how can you help it when you go to the store or to church? She sits so near to us, you know."

"Of course she'll give up that pew. She can't afford that."

"That's precisely what she does not mean to do. I heard her say that the family must economise somewhere else, and keep that pew. Her mother is hard of hearing, and could not enjoy the service further back. The children, too, must go to church. That is the last, thing she said, one ought to give up. I heard her say this to your father last Sunday."

"How provoking!" said Lizzie, impatiently. "She will be always in our faces. But I shall have nothing to do with her. I know what its for the artful minx!—it's to keep near us. She knows she has got into papa's good graces; and Al, too, admires her. I don't see what there is though to admire. She's very plain."

"Laura is no beauty," was the reply, "but I don't think she's so very plain. She certainly has lowered herself, though, by going into a store." And thereupon the two girls went out for their walk.

It was near twilight of the same day when Laura Stanley walked briskly home and entered the neat, two-story house to which her mother had lately removed such of her household effects as had been spared by the auctioneer.

"This is really pleasant," she said, sinking into a chair that had been drawn near to the glowing grate. "I had no idea mother, that you would so soon make the house so homelike and comfortable."

"Are you very tired, my dear?" asked her mother, a pretty, refined-looking woman, as she helped her daughter to take off her cloak and hat.

"Rather, but I like the business; and it's fine place for the study of character," she added, with a curl of the lip which her mother noticed.

"I wish you had chosen something else, my dear. I was sure your feelings would be hurt."

"I don't wish so," said Laura, briskly. "There is nothing else would have brought a salary at once, and as for my feelings, it don't hurt me a bit to find out the hollowness of society. I used to wonder what certain persons would be to me if I were not the rich Harvey Stanley's daughter, and now I know. It's a knowledge worth gaining."

"Do you meet many persons you are acquainted with?" asked her mother, busying herself in getting the tea.

"O yes! and it's amusing when they come upon me suddenly. Oh!—it's—Really!— is this Miss Stanley? And sometimes up go the eye-glasses! Then I feel—well, as if I should like to freeze somebody, if I could, for a minute.

"Others see me and make believe they are examining goods; so absorbed are they that they go clear by me without looking up, and pass out in the same way. But such slights don't trouble me. I find out how much true friendship is worth, and who, out of all the seeming ladies I have been in the habit of meeting, are true and who are false."

"Then you meet some who are true?"

"Yes, indeed! Judge Agate's wife, who always seemed to me so proud and distant, came up to me with a glowing face and fairly congratulated me. She did it like a lady, too, and like a friend. There was nothing patronizing about her. And there were several others to whom I know my position makes no difference. They prize me for what I am. Yet what a price to pay for learning the value of true friendship!" added Laura, with a deep sigh.

"I met Aggie Doyle to-day, and she wouldn't speak to me," said Alice, Laura's sister, who had come into the room and overheard the last remark. "Why shouldn't she speak to me, I wonder?"

"Because your sister is a clerk in her father's store," said Laura, somewhat bitterly.

"That's no reason why she should treat me so," the child replied.

"Of course it is not; nor is it any reason why Lizzie, her eldest sister, should utterly ignore me. I always liked her so much, too. But to-day she came into the store and passed me with such a sweeping glance, after I had prepared a smile and a welcome for her. Mr. Doyle has been so kind since papa's death that I looked for better treatment from Lizzie. That, I confess, has wounded me; and I shall have to meet her so often!

"But never mind. I must remember my place," she added, rather bitterly. "I have to work for my living now—but I will be proud of it! Good-by, old life of lazy ease! Good-by, old worthless friends! Your coldness cannot hurt the real me; it is only the worthless young lady of fashion who feels it, and she is slowly departing this life."

So saying, she sat down gaily to the teatable, and soon forgot all about the toil and the slights of the day.

"Have you filled out all your invitations?" asked Lizzie's brother, one of the firm of Doyle & Co., some days after the preceding conversation took place.

Lizzie was arranging a hundred or more tiny, cream-colored envelopes, which she tied together with some pretty, bright-hued ribbons.

"I believe so," she replied, with a smile. "I have asked every young lady of my acquaintance, and I think our party will be the finest of the season—if papa will only have the carpets taken up in the west rooms and the floors chalked. Rutger will do them for fifty dollars, and you have no idea how beautifully he works!"

"I think father will not refuse you that," her brother replied. "I'll speak to him about it."

"Oh, thank you, Al! Then I'm sure he will have it done. I have asked him for so many things that I was almost afraid to ask for more."

"By the-way, have you invited Miss Laura Stanley?" her brother asked, as he was going out.

"Of course not!" said Lizzie, with assured emphasis.

"Of course not? And pray why not?" he asked, standing still.

"Why, Al, what an idea! She wouldn't expect it. Our shop-girl!—father's clerk! I wouldn't have her for the world!"

"Then if you are sure she wouldn't come, you might have sent her an invitation out of compliment," her brother replied.

"I don't consider her an acquaintance," said Lizzie, loftily; and Al walked out of the room with an aburpt shrug of the shoulders.

Presently her father came in.

"Lizzie," he said, "I particularly wish you to send a note of invitation to Miss Laura Stanley."

"Papa, you don't mean it!" exclaimed Lizzie, chagrined.

"Indeed I do mean it. What, slight the daughter of one of my most cherished friends, because she has come down in the world in a money point of view! I should despise myself for it."

"But, papa, she won't come," said Lizzie.

"Never mind whether she will come or not. Write an invitation. I will take it to her."

Lizzie sat down, pale and angry, to write the note. After all her boasting of having "cut the Stanley's," it was very hard to be obliged to invite Laura. Her cheeks grew hot as she indited the polite little missive, while she remembered the many times she had openly ignored her to whom it was addressed. She would have disobeyed had she dared—would even have withheld the note after it was written, had her father not stood by to take it himself. It was indeed humiliating.

Later, her brother Al came to her.

"I should like an invitation, Lizzie, for a young lady of my acquaintance," he said in a quiet voice.

"Who is she?"

"The young lady whom I have asked to be my wife," he said, smiling.

"O Al, of course you shall have it! I am to have a sister then? I'm so glad! What is her name? Is she in the city? Will she be sure to come? I'm sure I can't think of anybody!" And then she paused, puzzled at his shrewd smile.

"Do I know her?" she asked.

"You used to," he answered. "It is Miss Laura Stanley."

"O Al!"

She sank down, covering her face with her hands.

"I was afraid she might feel the slight so keenly," he said, softly, "that I hurried matters a little. So you need not be afraid now that she will not come. Will you not prepare an invitation?"

"I have. Papa has carried it to her. But oh, Al, a clerk!"

"A noble woman," said her brother, "who dares face the sneers of 'her set,' and take an honest position for the sake of those who are dependent upon her, rather than whine about her former dignity, and live upon charity! I wish there were more like her."

So Lizzie was forced, for once in her life, to eat humble-pie.—*Youth's Companion.*

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## Notice of Sale.

TO WILLIAM C. RYDER, of the City of Saint John, in the City and County of Saint John and Province of New Brunswick, lately Sergeant of Police, and all others whom it may concern:

TAKE NOTICE that there will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION, on THURSDAY the TWENTY-SECOND day of APRIL next, at twelve of the clock, noon, at Chubb's Corner (so called), on Prince William Street, in the City of Saint John, in said Province, all that certain leasehold lot of land and premises, with the Buildings thereon, situate, lying and being in the said City of Saint John and described in a certain Indenture of Mortgage dated the seventh day of October, A.D. 1881, and duly recorded in the office of the Registrar of Deeds, in and for the City and County of Saint John, in Book R., No. 8 of Records, pages 1, 2 and 3, and made between the said William C. Ryder of the first part, and the Saint John Building Society of the other part, as follows, that is to say:

"That lot of land situate, lying and being in the said City of Saint John, and described and bounded as follows: Beginning on the Southern side line of Hanover Street at the Eastern side line of lot numbered one hundred and fifty-one, thence running Southerly along the said eastern side line and a prolongation thereof one hundred and twenty-five feet; thence Northerly and parallel with the said eastern side line one hundred and twenty-five feet to the Southern side line of Hanover Street and from thence easterly by the same twenty-five feet to the place of beginning. The lot of land hereby leased being and comprising the eastern half of the said lot Numbered one hundred and fifty-one, fronting on Hanover Street and twenty-five feet of the eastern end of the northern half of the lot numbered one hundred and forty-eight fronting on Brussels Street, as by reference to the plan of the said City will fully appear."

The above sale will be made under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in the above mentioned Indenture of Mortgage, because default has been made in the payment of the money or contributions secured by said Indenture of Mortgage, and by virtue of an order of the Board of Directors of the said the Saint John Building Society, made for that purpose.

Terms and particulars made known at the time of sale, or on application to the undersigned.

By order of the Board of Directors of the Saint John Building Society.

Dated the 3rd day of March, A. D. 1886.

R. CHIPMAN SKINNER,
WILLIAM PUGSLEY, JR.,
Solicitors for the saint John Building Society.
td the above Mortgagees.


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19-2