

SUNDAY  
SCHOOL

## The Quiet Hour

YOUNG  
PEOPLETHE MIRACLE OF THE LOAVES  
AND FISHES.Lesson John 6: 1-14. Golden Text—  
I Am the Living Bread Which  
Came Down From Heaven.

John 6: 51.

By Rev. W. J. Clark, London, Ont.

After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, v. 1. It is the great army of the world's toilers who know the true sweetness of the evening's repose after the work of the day. The highest enjoyment of the Sabbath rest is for those who can look back on tasks cheerfully undertaken and faithfully accomplished during each of the six working days. We never know the real pleasure of a vacation unless we earn it by diligence in our vocation. The Lord Jesus Christ knows how to sympathize with us in our labor and in our rest. For he toiled and felt the need of repose.

And a great multitude followed him, v. 2. The majority is not always right. It is not always safe or wise to follow the crowd. But when we find that the best people in the community, speaking generally, take the same side in regard to any practice, we should not reject their views without some very good reason. Take the question of temperance. On this there is no doubt as to the opinion of the most thoughtful and high-minded amongst us. Is our individual opinion to be set up against theirs? Surely not without much consideration. Or take the character and claims of Jesus. Here, too, we know the judgment of "a great multitude." Has any of them been disappointed in following Him? Shall we be?

And Jesus went up into a mountain, v. 3. Travellers through the Rockies are familiar with the torrents that rush down the mountain sides. These streams are fed by the eternal snow on the lofty summits. Away below, it may be barren desert. But along the irrigating ditches is drawn the water of the mountain streams, and the desert becomes a garden. The quiet and solitary mountain top of fellowship with God is the source of those streams that make our lives glad and fruitful.

Saw a great company come unto him, v. 5. How often, when we have made some plan for ourselves, and people break in upon us and thwart our plan, do we grow angry and impatient. What a rebuke there is for us here! Our Lord had been giving of Himself to the people, till He was worn out and sought a little rest; but when they followed Him and He saw His peace was to be disturbed He did not grow angry, but thought rather of their weariness and sore need. He teaches us that by continual practice we should form the habit of thinking of others first, and of

putting their interests before our own.

There is a lad here, v. 9. One wonders what brought this lad with his slender provision? Was it for himself and his friends, or had he some hope of making a sale? One thing he never dreamed—the use that would be made of his basket's contents. The lesson here is never to despise the little. We do not know what use God may make of the little that we have. Only let us be sure that we are ready to place it at His disposal. In the history of the church, God has often chosen the "weak things" by which to do wondrous works.

What are they? v. 9. The same question might have been asked concerning the apostles themselves. Not to the conquering Romans, or the cultured Greeks, or the scrupulous Pharisees, did our Lord entrust the mission of winning the world for Him. He chose, rather, a few obscure and unlearned fishermen. But these men now rule in the education, politics, literature and religion of the world. Whence their power, if not from a divine source?

He distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down, v. 11. The source of blessing for the world is Christ Himself, but Christians are His followers. It is our business to see that the channel is free and open, so that the life-giving stream shall not be obstructed. It is a glorious thought, that when the Lord has given us life, we may give life to many others. Does it seem to us that we have little power for this work? Let us use what we have, and it will be multiplied, in the using of it.

When therefore the people saw the sign (Rev. Ver.) v. 14. Not by deeds of might does Jesus desire to win people to Himself, but by love. And how love shines out in all that He did while on earth! Providing for the needs of men, bearing their burdens, sharing their sorrows, at least dying for their sins—is not this a Saviour whom we can love and trust with all our hearts? It is an irresistible argument that He addresses each of us when he says, "I have loved thee, and therefore I seek thy love."

## VALUE OF TEMPTATION.

Temptation tests and proves us. If our hearts are fully set to obey God, it will but drive us closer to Him; and he is faithful and will not suffer us to be tempted above that we are able, but will, with the temptation, also make a way of escape. As we put forth our strength to resist he will energize us and help us to come off conquerors. When we fail it is commonly because of a divided heart. Our purpose to follow God is lacking in integrity or wholeness.—The Lutheran Observer.

## PRAYER.

O God, be merciful unto us sinners. If we have escaped public accusation, yet do our hearts convict us of a thousand transgressions. If our hand cannot be impeached by the social justice of the world, yet in our spirit have we hidden sin. We have gone astray from God in our heart; our motives have often been mixed, and often impure. And if thou wert strict to mark it, if thou didst take hold of thy sword when we gave the occasion for judgment, behold we had not lived in thy sight today. But thou art merciful; thou hast sent thy Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour, to offer a sacrifice for sins, and because of his work we have hope in God that our sins shall be remembered no more. Lord, help us, in the delight of pardon, to triumph over the tormenting memory of our conscience, and to have peace through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.—Selected.

## YET I KNOW.

"And where is God?" the doubter asked.  
"I do not see him anywhere—  
Behind what creature is He masked,  
In sea, on earth, in clouds, in air?"

"And where is death?" the mourner sighed.  
"And yet I know that he is near;  
There lies my dearest friend that died—  
Nor voice, nor footsteps, did I hear."

"Where are violets?" asked the child.  
"I do not see them; yet I know  
Although the winds are blowing wild,  
They are alive beneath the snow."  
—Maurice Francis Egan.

Goodness has ever been a stronger guard than valor. It is the surest policy always to have peace with God.—Bishop Hall.

Not a day passes over the earth but men and women of no note do great deeds, speak great words, and suffer noble sorrows. Of these obscure heroes, philosophers and martyrs, the greater part will never be known till that hour, when many that were great shall be small, and the small great.—Charles Reade.

There is a bit of comfort for us commonplace, humdrum people, to whom God has only given one or two talents, and who can never expect to make a figure before men. We may be little violets below a stone, if we cannot be flaunting hollyhocks and tiger lilies. We may have the beauty of goodness in us after Christ's example, and that is better than to be great.—Anon.

Paul's tact was a bold, not a timid quality. Among the cultivated and corrupt Corinthians he resolved to preach only the simplest Gospel, "Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." To be "all things to all men," never meant to Him to yield one syllable of truth or soften one commandment of righteousness. The more we study Paul's winsome tact, the more we see the rock of conviction that backed it.