

Sunday School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. IV
APRIL 22, 1906.

Jesus the Sinner's Friend.—Luke 7: 36-50.

Commentary.—I. Jesus anointed in Simon's house (vs. 36-39). 36. One of the Pharisees—Simon by name. This was a common Jewish name. There were two by this name among the apostles, nine are mentioned in the New Testament and twenty in Josephus. There must have been many, probably thousands, by that name in Palestine. This man seems to have been of the better class, and was evidently partially open to conviction, but his treatment of the Saviour shows that he was unwilling to be recognized as one of his disciples. Sat down to meat.—Reclined at table. The custom was to recline on a couch, on the left side, the head toward the table, and the feet outward. But Simon omitted the usual ceremonies of respect which Jesus might well have expected.

37. A woman.—A sinner.—There is a difference of opinion as to the character of this woman. Some think that she was a notorious woman of the street, while Clarke, Whedon and others think the term "sinner" is used here, as in many other places, merely to designate a heathen. There is no evidence to prove that this woman was Mary Magdalene or that she was a grossly immoral character. When she knew—She had heard Christ preach and knew where he had gone to dine. She was confident that his heart would beat in sympathy for her; she had faith enough in Christ to come to him for help. She came in a respectful, humble manner. Brought.—In the east there is not the exclusiveness there is in this country. Meals are often taken in the court, with one side perfectly open, and it is not uncommon for persons to come in uninvited and enter freely into conversation. Alabaster box.—A sort of stone of fine texture, nearly allied to marble. Of ointment—Probably spikenard, very precious and odorous.

38. Stood.—behind.—The knees were bent and the feet turned outward behind. The sandals were put off on entering the house. Wash.—wipe.—She wept profusely; her hair was flowing loosely about her shoulders as a sign of mourning, and with this she wiped his feet. Kissed.—The kiss is an emblem of love, submission and supplication. In Ps. ii. 12, "kiss the Son," means to embrace affectionately the offers of salvation made unto you through Christ Jesus; which commandment this woman was obeying, both in the literal and spiritual sense.—Clarke. Anointed.—then—She did not think herself worthy to anoint his head. "The woman's kissing his feet was no impropriety. A woman in that country would do the same to a judge, or to an official from whom she expects or has received a great favor. It was a mark of respect."

Isaac Hall, 39. Pharisee.—saw it.—The first feeling of Simon was that of displeasure that a heathen sinner had ventured to pollute his pure threshold. Within himself—He has doubt with reference to his guest, but he dare not speak his thoughts. A prophet.—The idea prevailed among the Jews that "a prophet must know everything secret." That toucheth him—Simon, if she had touched him, would have said, "Stand by thyself, come not near me, I am holier than thou," and he thought Christ should say so, too. One thing we know, that Christ permitted nothing improper or unbecoming his divine character. Let Simon and all of his followers take notice that the woman went into the house to speak with their criticisms, as on the outside.

II. Jesus speaks a parable (vs. 40-43). 40. Jesus said.—Simon probably expressed his displeasure by his looks. "Simon did not see through him,"—Van Doren. Somewhat to say.—A courteous way of asking permission to speak. "Those Christ hath somewhat against, he hath somewhat to say unto." Master, say on.—Although not believing him to be a prophet, yet he recognizes him as a teacher. 41. A certain creditor.—The creditor is (two debtors) Simon, the Pharisee, and the woman. Our Lord handles this subject with great skill; he causes the creditor to appear as witness against himself, he explains his deficiency in love, and gives him to feel that his sin is unforgiven; and yet he is not severe in his censure.—Lange. Five hundred pence.—Or denarii. Silver denarii were worth from fifteen to seventeen cents. But the exact sums specified are unimportant. "Measuring their by their equivalents in labor, we shall not err far from the intention of the Saviour if we substitute dollars in place of pence."—Bliss. The emphasis is on the contrast between 500 and 50; one debtor owed ten times as much as the other. In the application the woman owes the five hundred pence and Simon 50. 42. Nothing.—Simon, the Pharisee, was in debt and without the means of paying. He could no more pay his fifty pence than the poor woman could pay her five hundred, and if both be not freely forgiven by divine mercy both must perish. Forgive them both.—No righteousness of ours can merit his pardoning love. Salvation is the gift of God. Will love him most.—Neither of them would love him before he had forgiven them. An insolvent debtor, until he is forgiven, does not love, but shows his creditor.—Benson.

43. I suppose.—With greater modesty than that with which he had just murmured in secret does he give his opinion, and Jesus proceeds to turn his answer immediately as a weapon against him.—Lange. Jesus asks the privilege of speaking, puts his reproach into a parable, and thus makes Simon administer his own reproof. When he forgave most.—This one would be under greater obligations than the other, and would rather be expected to have greater affection.

III. Jesus reproves Simon (vs. 44-47). 44. Scow.—thou.—Simon—Afflicted and distressed and burdened with sin, but longing to be delivered. Do you see the tenderness and affectionate regard she is manifesting toward me?—entered.—As a guest, by your invitation. No water for my feet.—Simon was greatly deficient in not performing the common civilities to Christ. The custom of providing water to wash the guests' feet was very ancient. It was "one of the rites of hospitality." With tears.—Tears of sorrow for sin and of love for me her Saviour. 45. No kiss.—A kiss on the cheek from the master of the house, with

the invocation, "The Lord be with you," conveyed a formal welcome.—Gleikie. A kiss was an expression of a hearty and affectionate welcome to a friend. This woman—That you consider so far beneath you. Hath not ceased.—Hath again and again in a most humble manner kissed my feet. 46. Head with oil.—Anointing the head with oil was as common among the Jews as washing the face with water is among us. See Ps. xxiii. 5. To anoint the head of a guest was another mark of hospitality. Simon had omitted all of these. My feet with ointment.—This woman had not forgotten any of these marks of respect that were generally shown to guests.

47. Her sins, which are many.—If we come to Christ in the right spirit, confessing our sins, he is as willing to forgive many, as he is only a few. Are forgiven.—What precious words! They are all forgiven, never to return; the Lord will remember them no more, forever. For she loved much.—Or, therefore she loved much. Her great love was the effect of her being forgiven. To whom little is forgiven.—A man's love to God will be in proportion to the obligations he feels himself under to the bounty of his Maker. Loveth little.—What Simon lacked was a deep sense of his sinful heart and life. The one who thinks his debt is small feels but little gratitude when it is forgiven. Those forms of theology which treat sin lightly always belittle Christ's divine nature and the necessity of the atonement.

IV. Jesus forgives the woman (vs. 48-50). 48. Said unto her.—Jesus now for the first time speaks directly to the woman. Forgive thee.—A precious word of sin-burdened soul, and doubly so when spoken by Christ. While the self-righteous Pharisee murmured the poor penitent rejoiced.

49. Who is this, etc.—We need not credit them with unbelief; they were amazed at a claim which doubtless many of them soon came to see was fully justified.—Willcock. 50. They faith hath saved thee.—Christ ascribes to faith those benefits which are due to himself as the meritorious cause. Faith is the instrument on our part by which His benefits are supplied.—Wordsworth. We are justified by faith. It is not our humility, or our prayers, or tears, or even a thorough repentance, that saves us; but faith is always "the instrument of receiving salvation;" and the peace of God in the soul always follows a living personal faith in God. Go in peace.—Literally, "into peace"—the state of mind to which she might now look forward.—Alford. Peace is one of the marks of pardoning grace.

I. Be in the world, but not of it. "He went into the Pharisee's house and sat down to meat" (v. 36). Jesus could dine at the Pharisee's house because He went there not from personal preference but for the glory of God. In Jesus' most wonderful prayer for His own (John 17), we get the seven-fold life of the believer in His relation to the world. I. Emphasize Bible pronouns. "I have somewhat to say unto thee" (v. 40). Accept the words of Jesus as written personally to you. Hear him say, "Your sins are forgiven you" (I John ii. 12). "Let not your heart be troubled" (John xiv. 1).

II. Commend others. "She hath washed my feet" (v. 44). Jesus was not afraid to enumerate to Simon in the presence of the woman, the good she had done from the love of her heart. IV. Love much. "She loved much" (vs. 47). Think how much Jesus loves you. Remember what He has forgiven you. Recount His gifts to you. Study His life of sacrifice for you. Tell others how He died for you. Appreciate that He lives to intercede for you.

V. Forgive. "He said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven" (v. 48). Forgiveness is in God. It is His nature to forgive. "There is forgiveness with thee" (Psa. cxxx. 4). Forgiveness is from God. "Who can forgive sins but God only?" (Mark ii. 7). Forgiveness is like God. He is "merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression" (Exod. xxxiv. 6-7). A statesman came to Sir Eardley Wilmot in great excitement over an injury just inflicted. He told the story with warmth, and used strong epithets. "Is not my indignation righteous?" he asked impetuously. "Will it not be manly to resent such an injury?" Yes," was the calm reply. "It will be manly to resent it, but it will be godlike to forgive it." The answer was so unexpected and convincing the statesman had not another word to say. His anger suddenly departed.

VI. Accept forgiveness. "Go in peace" (vs. 50). Peace comes with acceptance. Only he who knows God can rest in God.—A. C. M.

ABDUCTS REGENT.

Deposed Chief Makes Sudden Raid and Carries Off His Uncle.

Durban, April 9.—Bambata, the deposed chief of the Greytown district, who had fled, has made an incursion into his old territory and carried off his uncle, Magwababa, who has been appointed regent in his stead. A local farmer states that the regent's wife came to his house last night, knocked at the door and told him that her husband had been carried off by Bambata's men, who asked her, "Where are your small white men now?" adding, "We swear by Colwayo, not your King."

Natives say that Bambata is moving within twelve miles of Greytown with an armed force, probably consisting of a few hundreds of the scum of the country.

SURRENDER TO LABOR.

British Government Grants Full Immunity to Union Funds.

London, April 9.—The Government has surrendered to the Labor party on the Trades Dispute Bill, and Premier Campbell-Bannerman himself announced in the House of Commons this afternoon that he would support the bill introduced by the Labor party in opposition to the Government. He advised the House to accept the bill of the Labor party, which then came up for its second reading. It provides complete immunity for trade union funds, but otherwise is practically a duplicate of the Government's measure.

After some Opposition twitting of the Government for its "cowardly surrender to the clamor of the Labor party," the bill passed its second reading by 446 to 66 votes.



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HORRIBLE CRIME IN MONTREAL; LITTLE GIRL STRANGLED TO DEATH.

Her Body Found in a Clump of Bushes Behind a Church—Was Seen With a Drunken Man.

A Montreal, Que., special despatch: After a search extending over 24 hours, the body of Ida May Ahern, the little 4-year-old girl, who was missing from her home in St. Cunegeon, was found this forenoon by Constable Tourangeau, in a clump of bushes behind the Cote St. Paul Church, near the aqueduct.

The little girl had been strangled to death, and there were other marks of

violence on the body. Her cloak and dress were found last night in a shed near the church. All last night and this forenoon a detachment of police patrolled the canal and river bank in that vicinity, believing the body had been thrown into the water to conceal the crime.

The little girl was last seen alive in the company of a drunken man. The police are trying to locate him, but up to now no trace of him has been discovered. The police believe he is the murderer.

CHURCH UNION.

REPORT DISCUSSED BY WESTERN CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Public Meeting at Guelph.—The Officers Elected.—Reports Received From the Churches and the Foreign Missions.—Committees Appointed.

Guelph, Ont., despatch: The principal business at to-day's session of the Western Association of Congregational Churches was a report on church union and affiliation of officers. Rev. J. K. Unsworth, of Hamilton, presided. Those elected were: President, Rev. J. P. Gerrie, Stratford; Secretary, Rev. D. S. Hamilton, of London; Treasurer, Rev. W. H. A. Claris, London. Home Missions representative, Rev. M. Kelly, Watford.

Rev. J. K. Unsworth, of Hamilton, reported for the committee on church union. The discussion centered on union as proposed with the United Brethren churches and the wider union proposed with the Methodists and Presbyterians. These were discussed at length and generally favorably. The proposed basis for the latter was objected to by some on two points, viz. the method of appointing ministers, and the statement of doctrine, which was considered too exhaustive.

Rev. J. K. Unsworth reported concerning the jubilee fund, showing that over \$182,000 had been raised by the Canadian Congregational Churches and individual subscribers, in addition to which \$200,000 was subscribed by the English Congregational brethren, making a grand total of \$382,000. About \$8,500 was still needed by the central fund to complete the work of clearing the churches of debt.

Committees were appointed as follows: Business, Rev. Messrs. Unsworth and Hamilton, and Messrs. Scott, J. A. Ramsome and P. Kelly; Membership, Wm. Foster, Rev. W. H. Claris, I. Bower, R. Y. Blyth.

THE WHALERS.

NEWS FROM THE FLEET IMPRISONED AT BAILEY'S ISLAND.

San Francisco, April 9.—The first advices from the whaling fleet imprisoned in the ice at Bailey's Island, were received in this city yesterday. The fleet consists of the steamers Beluga, Herman, Narwhal, and Belvedere, and all but the Belvedere were to winter this season in the Arctic, there is no danger of starvation. The men are in good health and though it is an extremely cold winter no great hardships have been recorded.

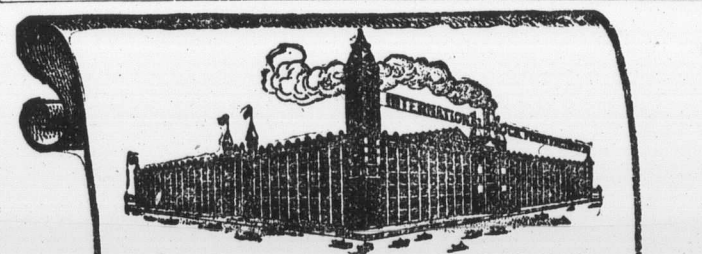
Bailey's Island is about 250 miles to the eastward of Herschel Island. The letters are dated October 25, last. The mail was brought out by a relief detachment of the Canadian mounted police.

HELD UP STUDENT.

Nervy Highwaymen Near Belleville Try to Get a Little Easy Money.

A Belleville despatch: A daring hold-up occurred near here early this morning. William Carnitte, veterinary student with Dr. Purvis, with a young man named Peter Purvis, were called to attend a sick horse six miles this side of Picton. They left about 11:30 last night. At 1 o'clock, when in the middle of what is known as Long Swamp, three men jumped from behind a tree. One grabbed the horse's head, while the other two came up with clubs, ordering the occupants to hold up their hands and to hand out their valuables. Carnitte happened to have a revolver, which he took from his pocket, and pointing at the men, threatened to shoot.

They all took to their heels through the swamp and disappeared. Carnitte fired several shots after the men, but does not know whether they took effect. The men were tall, wearing black overcoats, and were hard-looking characters.



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Market Reports—OF—The Week.

Toronto Farmers' Market.

The offering of grain to-day was moderate, with prices generally unchanged. Wheat steady, with sales of 200 bushels of Fall at 70c, and 100 bushels of spring at 71c. Barley unchanged, 200 bushels selling at 52c. Oats are steady, with sales of 200 bushels at 38½ to 39c.

Hay in fair supply, there being sales of 30 loads at \$10 to \$11.50 a ton for timothy, and at \$8 to \$9 for mixed. Straw sold at \$10 a ton for one load.

Dressed hogs, are unchanged, with light quoted at \$9.50 to \$9.75, and heavy at \$9.25 to \$9.50.

Wheat, white bush.	70 75	0 00
Do, red bush.	70 00	0 00
Do, spring bush.	71 00	0 00
Do, goose bush.	71 00	0 00
Barley, bush.	52 00	0 00
Peas, bush.	0 61	0 00
Beans, bush.	0 77	0 00
Hay, timothy, ton.	10 00	11 50
Do, mixed, ton.	8 00	8 00
Straw, per ton.	10 00	0 00
Dressed Hogs.	9 25	9 75
Apples, per bbl.	3 00	0 00
Eggs, new laid, dozen.	21 00	0 00
Butter, dairy.	0 25	0 00
Do, creamery.	0 30	0 00
Light, per lb.	0 13	0 15
Pow, per lb.	0 10	0 12
Turkey, per lb.	0 17	0 20
Geese, per lb.	0 10	0 14
Cabbage, per doz.	0 40	0 50
Cauliflower, per doz.	0 75	1 00
Potatoes, per bag.	0 75	0 85
Onions, per bag.	0 90	1 00
Celery, per doz.	0 40	0 45
Beef, hindquarters.	6 00	6 25
Do, forequarters.	5 00	5 25
Do, choice, carcass.	7 00	8 00
Do, medium, carcass.	6 00	6 00
Mutton, per cwt.	9 00	10 00
Veal, per cwt.	8 00	11 00
Lamb, per cwt.	10 00	12 00

Leading Wheat Markets.

	May.	July.
New York	88 3/4	84 1/2
Chicago	78 3/4	78 3/4
Duluth	78 3/4	78 3/4
St. Louis	78 3/4	78 3/4
Detroit	80 3/4	80 3/4
Toledo	84 3/4	80 1/2

Toronto Live Stock.

Trade was not as good, and with the exception of a few prime Easter cattle prices were from 10c to 15c per cwt. lower.

Exporters.—Prices ranged from \$4.80 to \$5.15; export bulls sold at \$3.50 to \$4 per cwt.

Butchers.—Medium butchers sold at \$4 to \$4.40; common and mixed, \$3.75 to \$4; cows at \$3 to \$4 per cwt.

Stockers and Feeders.—Mr. Murby reports a fair trade in stockers and feeders. There were quite a sprinkling of good feeders on the market, which were easier to-day, as the butchers got what they wanted without having to buy feeders. The highest Mr. Murby paid for any feeders was \$4.00, but only in a few instances, the general price being from \$4.40 to \$4.50. The run of light stockers was light, but there was enough hold-overs to fill the demand.

Milk Cows.—Only a limited number was offered, few of which were good enough to command good prices, which ranged from \$30 to \$55 each.

Veal Calves.—Veal calves, or, we should have said, that class known as "hobs," were plentiful. Prices ranged from \$3.50 to \$6 for the bulk, but there were two calves sold at \$7.25 and one at \$7.50 per cwt.

Sheep and Lambs.—Receipts were light, with prices firmer. Export ewes sold at \$5.25 to \$5.75; hucks, \$4.50 to \$5. Hogs.—Prices have again advanced 25c per cwt. and Mr. Harris quotes select at \$7.25 per cwt. and lights and fats at \$7 per cwt. Sows are worth \$5 and stags \$3.50 per cwt.

FAILURES IN CANADA.

Commercial insolvencies in the Dominion of Canada, as reported by R. G. Dun & Co., were 387 in number and \$2,919,720 in amount of defaulted indebtedness during the first quarter of 1906, slight increase compared with the 357 failures for \$2,805,870 in the corresponding three months last year. Failures this year compare very favorably with the average for a series of years back to 1899, in which year there were liabilities of \$4,241,411. Manufacturing defaults numbered 80 and involved debts of \$1,172,157, but this is really a good showing in view of the notable broadening of manufacturing activity. Trading failures were 257 in number and \$1,435,225 in amount, against 255 for \$1,797,422 in 1905. Other commercial insolvencies were 10 in number and \$313,900 in amount against 4 for \$9,300. This increase was located in the Province of Ontario. No banking or other fiduciary failures were reported. Examination of the Canadian failures by Provinces discloses the fact that Ontario and Quebec alone reported heavier losses than in the same months of last year, improvement being notable in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, while liabilities decreased moderately in Manitoba and Prince Edward Island. The heaviest increase was about \$500,000 in Ontario, more than half of which was provided by two brokerage failures, although there were increases in both manufacturing and trading liabilities. A small net increase occurred in Quebec, although trading losses were much smaller than last year, but an increase of \$350,000 occurred in the manufacturing class; a linen mill and a clothing manufacturer supplying most of this increase.

AGRICULTURE.

The following table shows the area of land used for agricultural purposes in Canada: Land occupied . . . 62,422,338 acres. Land owned . . . 57,322,441 " Land leased or rented . . . 5,099,897 " Land improved . . . 20,198,033 " Land unimproved . . . 23,226,205 " Land in forest . . . 16,701,386 " Land in field crops . . . 19,783,749 " Land in pasture . . . 12,755,656 " Land in orchard . . . 334,545 " Land in vegetables and small fruits . . . 115,517 " Land in vineyards . . . 5,600 " Land in nurseries . . . 1,561 " Land in forest plantations . . . 2,321 "

There are 41,833 occupiers of farms, of whom 18,331 are from five to ten acres; 11,242 from 11 to 50 acres, 156,778 from 51 to 100 acres, 150,825 who held from 101 to 500 acres, and 44,645 who held 501 acres and over. The number of owners was 416,228, of tenants 33,253, and of owners and tenants, 2,617. There were 72,000 persons who occupied farming land of less extent than five acres.

The land areas of the provinces and territories included in the census of agriculture is estimated at 88,617,837 acres. The extent of farms and lots occupied was therefore only 7.38 per cent. of the whole.

To Continue as Before.

(Scraps.) She—Of course, Bertie, when we are married you will not expect me to give up all my girlish habits. Bertie—Certainly not, dear; for instance, I should like you to still continue receiving you there's—Lorraine.

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A gang of thieves looted the Troitz Warniski monastery at Rostoff, Province of Yaroslavl, Russia, during the night of April 3rd, and got away with \$25,000 and a quantity of valuable articles.

The funeral of General Blanco, the former Captain-General of Cuba, who died at Madrid yesterday, was held to-day with the highest military honors. The royal family and the diplomatic corps were represented.

The extra financial burden caused Russia by the war with Japan will be borne in part by tobacco consumers. A project to increase the internal revenue tax on an average of 30 per cent. has been approved for submission to the approaching national parliament.

Major Moses W. Jenks, of Evanston, Ill., 86 years old, died yesterday as a direct result of his efforts to go to the polls Tuesday. Three times he tried to make his way to a carriage, but was too feeble. He invented and patented the rubber clothes wringer, which was patented in 1849.

Fire to-day completely destroyed the plant of the Hallack Lumber & Supply Company at Denver, Col., entailing a loss of \$300,000. The plant covered an area of twenty acres, and was swept clean of millions of feet of lumber and several buildings.

When the chief of police of Toulon, France, visited a meeting of strikers last night, for the purpose of bringing about a reconciliation, he was seized and locked up in a dark room. The strikers then announced that they were holding the chief as a hostage. The prefect finally intervened and secured his release.

The Los Angeles, Cal. Times to-day says: Immense new coal fields, comprising 600,000 acres, in Colfax county, New Mexico, have been bought by the St. Louis, Rocky Mountain & Pacific Railway Company from the Dutch syndicate which owns the old Maxwell land grant of 1,570,000 acres in Colfax county. The price paid is said to be \$15,000,000.

Scarlet fever and diphtheria in the province for the month of February this year show a marked decrease from the number of cases and deaths of February a year ago. Typhoid fever and tuberculosis, however, show an increase, according to the records of the provincial board of health.

RAILWAY TENDERS.

Are Hogan & Macdonald's Figures Too Low?

Ottawa, April 9.—It turns out that the report of the Transcontinental Railway Commissioners on tenders for the two sections of the eastern division of the railway was not placed in the Government's hand until this afternoon. From reports that Mr. J. D. MacArthur, Winnipeg, is the lowest tenderer for the section from Winnipeg to Superior Junction. For the other section, from Quebec to La Tuque, Messrs. Hogan & Macdonald are said to have made the lowest bid. The Grand Trunk, however, are reported to come nearest to the estimate of the Government engineers. If rumor be correct, Messrs. Hogan & Macdonald's figures are below the amount the Government engineers consider the work can be done for. In such cases there are numerous precedents for not accepting a tender below the estimate. And there is a proviso that contracts involving an expenditure of \$10,000 and upwards must be sanctioned by the Governor-in-Council.

