

* The Sunday School *

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubets' Notes.

Second Quarter.

JESUS APPEARS TO MARY.

Lesson II. April 14. John 20: 11-18.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Behold, I am alive forevermore.—Rev. 1: 18.

EXPLANATORY.

MARY AND THE ANGELS IN THE TOMB.—Vs. 11-13. 11. MARY STOOD (was standing) WITHOUT AT THE SEPULCHRE. The story implies that she was standing for some time, weeping in sorrow over the great loss which was yet pierced by no ray of hope. AND AS SHE WEPT, SHE STOOPED DOWN, AND LOOKED INTO THE SEPULCHRE. Because she was anxious to see whether she might not, after all, be mistaken about the absence of the body. "She stooped" because the top of the entrance was so low that she could not otherwise get a near view of the inside of the tomb.

12. AND SEETH TWO ANGELS IN WHITE. In white raiment "White" signifying the purity of their character. Matthew speaks of the angel's raiment being white as snow, and his countenance like lightning. THE ONE AT THE HEAD, AND THE OTHER AT THE FEET. The idea is apparently that of sitting and watching the body. The angel's presence showed the divine hand and care. They were ministering spirits to comfort those who were in such great sorrow and need; and they gave explanations of what had been done, no one else being able to give them.

13. SHE SAITH UNTO THEM. While the other women were terrified, Mary seems to have had no fear, so wholly was she taken up with the desire of finding her Lord. THEY HAVE TAKEN AWAY MY LORD, AND I KNOW NOT WHERE THEY HAVE LAID HIM. This has been applied typically to those who have tried to take the divine nature of Jesus from the Scriptures, and left them but an empty tomb.

JESUS APPEARS TO MARY.—Vs. 14-16. 14. SHE TURNED HERSELF BACK. She was outside the cave, looking in, and now she turned away, perhaps hearing footsteps behind her. "We can imagine also that she became conscious of another Presence, as we often feel the approach of a visitor without distinctly seeing or hearing him. It may be, too, that the angels, looking toward the Lord, showed some signs of his coming." AND SAW JESUS STANDING, AND KNEW NOT THAT IT WAS JESUS. "Why did she not recognize him at first?" (1) She had her eyes dimmed with tears, and (2) her mind occupied and excited with other thoughts; besides, (3) she was not at all expecting to see him alive; (4) his garments certainly must have been changed, as the soldiers had those he was accustomed to wear, probably the simple dress of a gardener; (5) she may not have looked up to his face, perhaps hardly looked at all; (6) the long agony on the cross must have made some difference in his appearance.

15. SHE, SUPPOSING HIM TO BE THE GARDENER, and therefore a servant of Joseph of Arimathea, who owned the tomb, and, of course, friendly. No other person would be likely to be there at so early an hour, unless it were the Roman guard, of which she probably knew nothing. AND I WILL TAKE HIM AWAY. See that it is done. She would take the care and responsibility on herself.

16. JESUS SAITH UNTO HER. MARY. This word, spoken in the old, familiar

tones and showing that Jesus knew who she was, led her instantly to recognize him. SHE . . . SAITH UNTO HIM, RABBONI. Hebrew for "my master" or "teacher." This was Mary's answer of recognition.

JESUS SENDS A MESSAGE TO THE APOSTLES BY MARY.—Vs. 17, 18. 17. TOUCH ME NOT. The verb primarily means "to fasten to"; hence it implies here, not a mere momentary touch, but "a clinging to." Do not stop to embrace me now, but hasten on with my message. It could not be that he objected to her touching him, for he let Thomas do it.

FOR I AM NOT YET ASCENDED TO MY FATHER. This is the reason given why Mary should not cling to Jesus at this time. How is it a reason? (1) Since he has not yet ascended, there will be time enough for expressions of affection, and she will not lose the opportunity by going now quickly in his service. (2) You need not touch me to learn whether it is really myself in the flesh, for I am the same as ever. I have not yet ascended. BUT GO TO MY BRETHREN. "Here, for the first time, Jesus spoke of his disciples as brethren." In spite of their failures the disciples were his true brethren in love, and service, and fellowship with God, being sons of the Father. I ASCEND. The next step in the work of redemption, the completion of his earthly intercourse with them, was at hand. MY FATHER, AND YOUR FATHER. The same God. Father would watch over them and work in them, who had watched over him and worked in him.

18. MARY . . . TOLD THE DISCIPLES, but they were unable to believe; her words "appeared in their sight as idle talk."

WHY HE WAS ADVANCED.

A business firm once employed a young man whose energy and grasp of affairs soon led the management to promote him over a faithful and trusted employee, says a writer in the Popular Science Monthly. The old clerk felt deeply hurt that the younger man should be promoted over him, and complained to the manager.

Feeling that this was a case that could not be argued, the manager asked the old clerk what was the occasion of all the noise in front of their building.

The clerk went forward, and returned with the answer that it was a lot of wagons going by.

The manager then asked what they were loaded with, and again the clerk went out and returned, reporting that they were loaded with wheat.

The manager then sent him to ascertain how many wagons there were, and he returned with the answer that there were sixteen. Finally he was sent to see where they were from, and he returned saying they were from the city of Lucena.

The manager then asked the old clerk to be seated, and sent for the young man, and said to him:

"Will you see what is the meaning of that rumbling noise in front?"

The young man replied: "Sixteen wagons loaded with wheat. Twenty more will pass to-morrow. They belong to Romero & Co., of Lucena, and are on their way to Marchessa, where wheat is bringing one dollar, and a quarter a bushel for hauling."

The young man was dismissed, and the manager, turning to the old clerk, said:

"My friend, you see now why the younger man was promoted over you."

General Gordon once said that the reason why he did not marry was that he had never found a woman who was prepared to accompany him to the ends of the earth. Such a woman Sir Henry M. Lawrence did find. She went with him, says his biographer, into every difficult and dangerous place where his great work for India called him.

One day Lord John Lawrence, Sir Henry's younger brother, was sitting in his drawing-room at Southgate, when, looking up from the book in which he had been engrossed, he discovered that his wife had left the room.

"Where is mother?" he asked one of his daughters.

"She's up-stairs," returned the girl.

Lord John went back to his book; but, looking up again a few moments later, he put the same question, and received the same answer. Once more he returned to his reading; once more he looked up, with the familiar inquiry upon his lips. Thereupon his sister broke in:

"Why, really, John," she said, "it would seem as if you could not get along five minutes without your wife!"

"That's why I married her," the old statesman replied.—Sel.

John Anketell and J. Forsyth, Moncton, were fined \$50 each Saturday for killing deer out of season.

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