

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Commentary.—I. Sick people at the pool of Bethesda (vs. 1-4) . . .

Commentary.—I. Sick people at the pool of Bethesda (vs. 1-4) . . . After these things (R. V.)—After the healing of the noomisman's son and other events of that time. Feast of the Jews—This has been spoken of by scholars as the "unknown feast" because there is given no information as to what feast it was. Early writers thought it was the Passover and that opinion is still held by some. Many suppose that it was the feast of Purim, held in commemoration of the escape of the Jews from slaughter in the time of Queen Esther. If it had been the Passover, it seems almost certain that John would have mentioned the fact. Jesus went up to Jerusalem—There were two motives that Jesus had in attending the feasts at Jerusalem. 1. He was careful to observe the Mosaic law. 2. On such occasions he would have an opportunity to reach great numbers of Jews from various regions. At Jerusalem he had previously met with opposition and that opposition had not ceased, but he had a mission there and unhesitatingly went to fulfill it. As the city is situated on much higher hills than Galilee, it is proper to speak of going up to Jerusalem. 2. By the sheep market—"By the sheep gate"—R. V. As there is no word in the text for market, it is as allowable to supply "gate" as "market"; and, as in Nehemiah's time there was a gate that was called the sheep gate (Neh. 3: 1, 32; 12: 39), it is reasonable that it was the sheep gate. Bethesda—The name Bethesda is Aramaic, the form of the Hebrew language then used, means "house of mercy." Sick people received benefit here. The exact location of this pool is uncertain. The traveler is shown a large pool near St. Stephen's gate, which is declared by the priests in charge to be the pool of Bethesda. It is reached by a descent of thirty feet from the present level of the street at that point. Some believe that the pool of Siloam, which is fed by the Fountain of the Virgin, east of the walls of the city, is the pool in question. Having five porches—These were shelters constructed about the pool for the sick who came to the place. 3. A great multitude—The curative power of the water of the pool was supposed to be great. Then, as now, there were great numbers of sick people in Jerusalem. Impotent folk—Disabled persons. Halt—Lame. Withered—Afflicted with paralysis. Waiting for the moving of the water—The Revised Version omits this phrase and the following verse because these sentences are not found in some of the best ancient manuscripts. It is possible that some copyist inserted this portion as an explanation of v. 7. The moving of the water indicated that at that instant the pool had special curative powers. 4. A nangel—Or messenger. Troubled the water—The messenger, or agency for troubling the waters may have been the intermittent character of the springs which fed the pool. First—Not the first one only was healed, but as many as stepped into the water at once after the moving of the waters, were made whole, or sound. This was the belief of the people held in the virtues of the pool of Bethesda. II. An afflicted man healed (vs. 5-9). 5. A certain man—Neither his name nor his family connection is given. There is nothing in the narrative to show the social position of this man. He was afflicted with a bodily weakness of thirty-eight years' standing. From v. 14 it might be inferred that his infirmity was induced by his own sins. 6. Saw him lie—We are not told expressly why Jesus was at the pool of Bethesda, but it is natural to conclude that he was there for the purpose of performing the cure here described. There were many sick persons there, but the record speaks of his noticing the condition of this man only. A long time—He had been lying by the pool thirty-eight years, but we are not told how long he had been lying by the pool. Will thou be made whole?—Would you like to be made well? It is not often that a sick person is found who is not desirous of being made well; but the cases are many of those who are morally diseased who prefer to remain in that condition. 7. Sir—The sick man did not know Jesus, but he answered him respectfully, and doubtless hope began to arise in his breast. I have no man—He put me into the pool—The curative power of the water lasted but a few minutes after being "troubled," and haste was necessary to enter the pool. He could go but slowly, unaided, and he had no friend to help him quickly into the water. 8. Jesus saith unto him—Jesus singled out this man, as we view the cure, for two reasons. 1. He had been seriously afflicted for nearly forty years and he had lain by the pool thus at the pool, hence his condition was known to very many in Jerusalem. 2. Jesus saw that he was in a condition of soul to accept his ministry and to exercise the necessary faith. Arise, take up thy bed and walk—Jesus spoke directly to the impotent man, giving him a command that he of himself could not obey, and yet a command that he would gladly obey. The command came to him from Jesus with such force and assurance that he saw a new world opened before him. He was to arise, take up his sleeping mat and walk. It does not require much effort on our part to imagine the thrill that went through his entire being at the words of Jesus. This is one of the few recorded instances of healing that Jesus performed without a request to that effect by the afflicted one. 9. Immediately the man was made whole—The cure was wrought instantaneously. The man responded in desire and faith, and the power of Jesus wrought the cure. More than half a full lifetime had been spent in physical affliction, but now the man was completely restored to health. Took up his bed, and walked—This man who had been afflicted for thirty-eight years may have been told many times before this to take up his bed and walk, but was never able to do so until Jesus gave him the order. He acted his faith by taking up his sleeping-mat and walking.

III. The Jews finding fault (vs. 10-15). 10. The Jews therefore said unto him, etc.—There is no record that the Jews congratulated the cured man upon his restoration to health and strength or that they praised God for what he had done. Apparently all they could see was what they considered a violation of the law regarding the observance of the Sabbath. His bed was simply a heavy blanket, or a thin mattress, that he could roll up and carry easily under his arm. The following are a few passages bearing upon Sabbath observance among the Jews: Exod. 20: 8-16. Neh. 13: 15; Jer. 17: 21, 22. What man is that which said unto thee. The Jews first criticized the man for carrying his bed on the Sabbath and then inquired who told him to do it. They would have been more reasonable if they had made the inquiry first. 13. Wist not—Knew not. Jesus had conveyed himself away from the pool and Jesus moved away in the crowd before the healed man learned who he was. It is not improbable that Jesus wished to pass unnoticed from the place lest he should be thronged and great opposition should be raised against him. 14. Jesus findeth him in the temple—The man seems to have gone at once to the sanctuary, perhaps a privilege of which he had long been deprived. They who are healed from sickness should seek the sanctuary of God, and give him thanks for his mercy. There is nothing more improper when we are raised up from a bed of pain than to forget God, our benefactor, and neglect to praise him for his mercies.—Barney. Thou art made whole; sin no more—Jesus had a further word to say to the man whom he had healed. Health had come to his body and Jesus exhorted him to sin no more, indicating that his bodily affliction may have been caused by sinful indulgence. There came spiritual blessing to him in connection with his physical healing. He was warned against falling again into sin. 15. The man . . . told the Jews that it was Jesus—He promptly testified to the mercy and power of Jesus in healing and saving him. This stirred up the Jews to persecute Jesus, and Jesus delivered to them his remarkable discourse on his Sonship with the Father. Questions.—From what place did Jesus go up to Jerusalem? For what purpose did he go? Whom did he find at the pool of Bethesda? Describe the scene at the pool. What criticism did the Jews offer? Where did Jesus next meet the healed man? What did he say to him? What testimony did the healed man give? What was the effect upon the Jews?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic—A miracle of mercy.

I. Performed for bodily healing. II. Included the saving of a soul. I. Performed for bodily healing. Attention is directed to a man who had been a great sufferer for half a lifetime, a friendless outcast, touching the lowest depths of human wretchedness; for years a disappointed seeker after health, misery, helplessness and hopelessness were combined in his life. Jesus understood the man and his malady. His first words were an affectionate inquiry, the extending of a gracious invitation with the expression of conscious power. His question was designed to shake off the apathy of years and to revive hope in the afflicted man. It was intended to draw his mind from Bethesda waters and to bring him into touch with himself. The question brought from the sufferer a sad tale of human helplessness on his part and human selfishness on the part of others. The most helpless one and the one farthest from the reach of human assistance, answered well the purpose of Jesus in revealing himself as the Son of God, in his command was the voice of divine power, mercy and mercy. He brought healing when the arm of flesh had failed. The cure was perfect and immediate. He touched the chord that needed to vibrate. He aroused a dormant faculty, whose exercise was essential to a cure. The word of healing was also a word of command. The sick man's healing depended on his turning from the pool to Jesus, though Jesus would help him into the waters of the pool. The command to arise and leave the place required faith, which proved itself by practical activity. II. Included the saving of a soul. The pitiable condition of the suffering cripple, the prolonged duration of his distress, his utter helplessness and despondency enlisted no help from the Jews. They had no true sympathy with suffering, neither had they any true conception of the nature of the Sabbath. They were prone to observe any violation of rabbinical dictation or the letter of the scriptures, as they defined them. The healed man was censured and charged with obeying a Sabbath-breaker, thus making his physician a great sinner than himself. It was a serious charge, that involved the punishment of death by stoning. The healed man could not defend his action for his enemies were learned in the law, while he was not. His only argument was that the cure made the healer an authority above the greatest rabbi. He emphasized the miracle rather than the Sabbath-breaking, while his accusers passed unnoticed the great gift of restored health, and magnified an imagined infringement of Mosaic law. They sought to weaken and undermine any influence which Jesus had exerted over the cripple whom he had healed. This miracle marked the beginning of the angry unbelief on the part of the Jewish rulers. It was the occasion for that great utterance which Jesus gave concerning his Sonship and his divine working. He put his own work side by side with the Father's, as the same in principle, the same in method, the same in purpose, the same in its majestic repose and energy. He repudiated the ordinance which rendered criminal a natural and necessary action. His vindication was based on three facts: the supreme Lawgiver ceased not from Sabbath activity; he stood toward that supreme Sabbath worker in the relation of Son; as such he was co-worker with God in all that God did. He held that the law of the Sabbath is a law of a Being who never rests from doing good. The miracle had a beneficial effect upon the persecuted man, for he went to the temple, thus indicating his desire to worship.

CANADIAN RANGE CATTLE TOP U. S. A. MARKETS

Choice Steers Knowing Not the Taste of Corn Bring \$11—A General Review for Breeders and Feeders of American 1916 Markets—by Paul D. Hammett.

During the first ten months of 1916 Canada took 4,592 head of cattle, valued at \$178,898 from the U. S., as against 249 head, worth \$11,921, in 1915, and 5,156 head, worth \$229,292 in 1914. Horses to the number of 10,486 and worth \$1,661,097, were taken by Canada as against 89,092 head, worth \$12,143,449 in 1915. Canadian also took a large number of sheep from the border markets, and they did cattle, principally from the plains states in the West.

Records during the coming year will be measured by 1916, for in every branch of the food animal industry new marks were hung up. The highest prices on the Chicago market were established as follows: cattle, \$12.60 for "regular" market; beefs, fancy stock fed with show animals for the International selling to \$13.25, the premier load at the exposition making \$28 a hundred, and the individual champion selling for \$1.75 a pound; hogs topped in September \$11.60 and sheep and lambs sold to \$10.25 and \$13.65 respectively. The highest price for range cattle was \$11 paid by Canadians.

Records for averages also went by the board during this year of prosperity. Fat steers averaged \$9.50, rangers \$8.40, calves \$10.65, hogs \$9.50, sheep \$7.85 and lambs \$10.75, while horses averaged \$181. The broadest demand in history was made upon the American live stock producer all through the year at highest wholesale and retail prices on record, the consumers' purchasing power being expanded to meet the high cost conditions. The demand from the warring nations also furnished an enormous outlet for American meats, and this tended to raise the prices. Packers alike had their greatest year of profit-making, and the reports from the leading packing companies showed their earnings to be far and away above all former years, although the percentage of profit on the business turnover was held to a slim margin. Shipper demand at all the markets was a strong factor in price making, and of the total receipts at the Chicago market there were sent out 701,672 of which 258,696 were feeders. Thus the crop for slaughter elsewhere was 445,976, an increase of approximately 64.273 over last year, when no feeders left the market. Eastern states' fat cattle shipments were by no means of volume sufficient to have effect during any part of the year in restricting shipper demands and especially was this true in the trade in choice steers. The enormous world demand for beef, North America being the only continent economically fitted to materially increase production, is stimulating beef production. Europe's depleted live stock herds since the war started have made that continent logically a large buyer of American beef, and while South America has shipped some carcasses, drought in the southern countries has materially curtailed shipments. The ending of the great war is bound to bring about some price adjustment, but the disturbance of this transition period cannot seriously handicap beef growers' prosperity, since domestic orders in the American and Canadian industries are sufficiently large to keep the plants running at full time for months after the war demands have ceased. And then the rehabilitation of the farms of Europe is not a matter that can be taken care of for months and years, and during that time Europe must continue buying her meat, or a very large share of it, from the continent. The general prosperity of the country is reflected to a very large degree in the buying of beef. Despite the highest prices for the consumer in history of this country and with shortage of long-fed steers in the market in fall high prices in retail trade during the summer months, there was no abatement in the demand. It is an old axiom that high priced corn makes high priced beef, and this was never proven more satisfactorily than in the year just closed. Prices of corn, starting at a high level, increased during the first six months of the year, and although lower in the summer, when prospects for a new

crop were bright advanced speedily netted owners less money, carrying again when drought hit the corn belt, effecting a serious shrinkage in the yield, and when the demands from Europe for this cereal kept up. The 1916 beef crop was made at a high cost and record prices were necessary for the feeder to emerge from the year with a margin on the right side of his ledger. The feed bill, which in the face of bounteous yields and lighter demands in former years, appeared almost mountainous finally was paid, and many were the shippers that returned to their homes with profits of 90c to \$1 on their corn for short feed—PROFITS DESPITE HIGH FEEDS. The grand average of \$9.50 for fat steers stands against \$8.40 in 1915, and \$8.65 in 1914. The receipt of 2,730,176 cattle during the year in the Chicago yards is an increase of nearly half a million over 1915, and shows an increase in production that plainly is not spasmodic, but an evidence of stability in the industry. During each month of the year new records were hung up for the respective periods, and coming down the home stretch in December prices mounted to dizzy heights never dreamed of in previous years.

The average weight of 1916 steers was 987 pounds, as against 1,046 in 1915, and 1,002 in 1914, and stood the lightest since 1912. The troubles and losses for the feeders during the last two years were wiped out during 1916. Prices were high and the first of the year, and from March to June climbed fast, receding slightly in summer months, some into the final months with seasonal advances. The steers passed the \$10 mark in March, and thereafter in only two weeks, late in April and early in May, did tops sell below \$10, June marking the first \$11 sales, and before the close of that month \$11.50 was paid. Drought unloaded southwestern pastures of tens of thousands of cattle, and the same conditions was true in Nebraska and South Dakota, but expanding demands for beef, millions of pounds of which went into the freezers, provided the outlet for the great runs without seriously impairing values. Cattle which would have been fed out to maturity had corn prices remained normal, came trooping into the markets in an immature condition by thousands in fall months. The effect of this liquidation will be a severe strain upon the late winter and early spring fat beef supplies. With the feeders it was a question of taking a profit while a profit was very plainly in sight, and thousands of cattle purchased in the fall months as feeders were fed 90c and \$1 corn for thirty or fifty days and rushed back to the market, attracted by the high prices in vogue. Information which has come from all parts of the corn belt shows the feeders determined to get rid of cattle as fast as they were ready for beef. Unlike 1915, when by reason of supplies of big steers in excess of trade demands, these grades had rough sailing in comparison with the handy and yearling classes, the heavy beefs of 1916 were premium getters, by no means overdone, and yearlings of choice grades, always sold within a fair range of the prime heavies. The high price of feed accounted for a too liberal percentage of yearlings, and the same is true of the middleweight steers while scarcity of the big beefs of choice quality put these classes in keen favor with the slaughter, and they made strong price advantages over the yearlings. Evidence was not lacking in any part of the country that the conservation of calves that had been urged by many, both practically and theoretically inclined, persons, has been carried to an illogical conclusion. The trade of 1916 had many thousands of cheap quality steers, half blood, dairy cattle, and whites, and Jerseys, offspring of dairy stock, which had run in the fields and pastures since calfhood. Tens of thousands of these were shunted into the market in late summer and fall months from all parts of the country, the greater percentage from Wisconsin, northern Iowa and Minnesota, and the prices they brought charged, and they would have netted owners less money, carrying

been had by vealing them in season. A dairy calf under no conditions will make a satisfactory beef critter, and the longer he is held on the farm the dearer property, from a beef stand point, he becomes. Rarely would country buyers take them for stock purposes, and the majority of them went into the canner trade at prices of \$4.50 to \$6.50. The feeders who matured cattle at the distillery sheds had a more prosperous year than for a decade, this grade of cattle making advances in keeping with the grain fed stock. A new top of \$10.95 was made for this grade because of the prohibition wave, while the feed and mouth disease during 1915 caused many feeders to shorten the crops they put in the sloop sheds. The new top and average for the range cattle has been mentioned, the majority of this grade of steers coming from the Canadian, Montana, Wyoming and other western states. The quality was good, although the marketing at the first of the year showed soft flesh. Plentiful rains in the spring and again in the summer made grass bountiful, but the failure to cure grass in seasonable time accounted for the late shipping from most range sections.

VEAL THE DAIRY CALVES. Cows and heifers followed the upward turn of beef steers to new records. Record prices for hides was another factor in pushing the prices upward since the hide of a cow or heifer brought a price which tended greatly to reduce the cost of carcass. Well-bred heifers and cows were retained on the corn belt farms to a very great extent to breeding purposes, the incentive to grow beef being accentuated by the high prices of beef. Dairy farm cast-offs comprised a large proportion of the year's supply of the female stock, and with the small receipts of female stock from the rangers this only tended to enhance the value of the cow and heifers. The year's average for the female stock was \$6.75, an advance of 65 cents over 1915 and comparing with \$6.55 in 1914. The fancy yearling heifers had broad and urgent demand and the Christmas yearlings cashed in load lots at \$10 to \$10.60. Breeding and feeding calves for maturity as yearling beef bullocks is increasing at a fast pace with the growth of silage feeding. And this was a strong factor in reducing beef-bred calves in the market. First purchasers of feeding cattle from Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania were on the markets in great numbers. An average price of \$7.20 was made for the year, and this stood against \$7.35 in 1914 and \$7.05 in 1913 and \$5.70 in 1912. The high point was \$9, paid in May, June and December. Fewer range feeders were marketed than in recent years, good range grass being responsible for this and likewise the inclination of rangersmen to hold back yearlings and thin two-year-olds for maturity. Many corn belt feeders went direct to the rangers to satisfy their wants for the range feeders.

HOGS SHARE THE PROFITS. Despite a run larger than ever was known in the history of the hog trade, growers were well paid for the crop. Packers were the life of the market most months, and as a general rule prices were higher than anyone predicted. The general average for all grades, pigs excluded, figured \$9.60, standing \$2.50 higher than 1915 even showing 70 cents gain over 1910 the highest priced year since the early '70s. The prices paid showed the packer responsible for this great output. It did not err in its judgment in the first months of the year, and then showed a gradual rise to May, when after a short reaction another climb to records was started. The \$11.60 top, which was made in September, the average price of light weights was \$9.45—\$2.25 higher than 1915. The average of the butchers \$9.60, an increase of \$2.49, and heifers averaged \$9.65, an increase of \$2.65. Fresh pork joints were obtainable in January at 11 1/2 to 12 cents, but in September they sold up to 23 cents, and during December they usually cleared at 14 to 15 cents.

CANADIAN COUNTRYMAN.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

Table with columns for various market items like Butter, Eggs, Cheese, etc. and their prices.

MEATS—WHOLESALE.

Table with columns for meat items like Beef, Pork, etc. and their prices.

Local wholesale quotations on Canadian refined sugar.

Table with columns for sugar items like St. Lawrence, etc. and their prices.

TORONTO CATTLE MARKETS.

Table with columns for cattle items like Cattle, Hogs, etc. and their prices.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Table with columns for Chicago live stock items like Cattle, Hogs, etc. and their prices.

BUFFALO LIVE STOCK.

Table with columns for Buffalo live stock items like East Buffalo, etc. and their prices.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

Table with columns for Liverpool market items like Flour, Hops, etc. and their prices.

Optimists.

Optimists. "With out my legs. Are puttin' said Reed; 'I'm glad I'm not a cripple.'" —Luke McLuke. "My nose hurts so," said Willie Kane; "I'm glad I'm not an elephant." —Houston Post. "My arms are tired," said Abner Huss; "I'm glad I'm not an octopus." —Birmingham Age-Herald. "My stomach aches," said Willie Hays; "I'm glad I'm not an Arab's camel."

A WINTER PUDDING.

Though the Name of It is Fig Pudding.

Here are the articles required for a fig pudding: One cup of suet. One pound of figs. Three eggs. Two cupsful of bread crumbs. One cupful of sugar. Two cupsful of milk. Wash, pick over the figs and chop. Chop the suet. Beat the eggs light without separating. Mix all the ingredients thoroughly, turn into a well-greased mould, cover and boil three hours. Serve hot.

There he came to understand who had restored him to health, and from him learned the need of divine grace. Being healed, Jesus bade him be holy. It was he who had relieved him of his infirmity, who met him in his attempt at worship, who gave him direction to his powers. Prompted by gratitude to Jesus, with a desire to make him known to others in distress, and with the hope of bringing the Jews to recognize him in his true character, the enlightened and restored man left the temple to declare openly that Jesus was his benefactor and Redeemer. While he stood as a living witness to Jesus as the Messiah, the enmity of the Jewish rulers increased and their designs against Jesus took made decided shape. T.R.A.

All New.

Paisley cotton lands, made in France, and useful for trimming collars, or making borders, covers and so forth. New spring hats entirely of narrow ribbons, and faced with straw of the same color. One in rose hue was charming. New English cotton voiles in pleasing dark colorings, with all-over designs, will make attractive little dresses. Smart new stockinette suits in plain colors—one with belt and collar of shepherd's check cloth. Quite new is a perfume idea—the perfume is a solid cake, which may be slipped into one's bag. There is violet, lily or lavender, and the price is nominal.

HIMALAYAN BEARS

Are Trapped by Means of Their Obstinate Rage.

"Most wild animals are stupid as well as greedy, but for sheer brainless obstinacy in the face of opposition," writes Prince Sarato Ghosh in his book, "The Wonders of the Jungle." "There is no animal like the Himalayan bear. If he finds a thing in his way he will always push it aside, if he can, even though it would be easier to go round the obstacle. 'Why natives of India have observed that a bear will not give up a piece of honey, or a piece of fat, or a piece of meat, until he has selected a tree with a suitable horizontal bough. At a point on the bough above the bear's head he fastens a trap to catch the bear—honey, for example, or a piece of fat. The bear, when he comes above that one they suspend a tough stick of stone. The rope is so attached to the upper part of the tree that the bough between the bear and the fork of the tree. The bear scents the bait from a distance, comes to the tree, sees the food on the bough and climbs up the trunk of the tree, reaching the bough, he walks along it to get at the bait. But suddenly he notices the obstacle in the way and pushes it aside with his paw. The stone swings out of the way of the bear and he swings back and hits the bear on the paw. With a growl of irritation the bear pushes it aside more violently. The stone swings away again, then it returns with greater force and hits the bear's chest. 'With a snarl of rage the bear gives the stone a tremendous thrust and sends it up into the air in a wide curve. Then the stone comes down in a similar curve and hits the bear a thumping smack on the head. 'Most animals would desert after that third blow; not so the bear. He is now in a perfectly mad rage, and a bear is a good bear. He hits out with his paws

right and left and sends the stone hurtling forward in a still wider curve. The bear hits the stone and comes back to the tree and he is determined to reach that enemy. 'But, alas, the bear never went to school and learned the law of gravity! Every blow he hits the stone is returned to him. And as the stone has no brains to be knocked out it is the bear that gets knocked out at last. He will never get up until he is knocked out-of-the-tree. 'When the vally natives hiding below rush in with a net and throw it quickly over him. 'And that is how many menagerie and zoos get their Himalayan bear.'"

CHINA'S COURSE

In Break With Germany, Caused by Young China.

Pekin Cable.—President Wilson's invitation to China to sever relations with Germany created great excitement here. A deputation of the older military men urged the Prime Minister to refrain from action for fear of German retribution in the future. The revolutionary military leaders of the young China party, however, vehemently advocated the opposite course. The balance was turned to this side by the view of the better informed officials, who regard the present opportunity as unlikely to recur for China to associate herself with the other neutral powers and secure a place in the peace conference.