

The Model Teacher.

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The artist seeks and carefully studies the best and most perfect models. The Sunday-school teacher may well imitate the example of the artist. We want the very best model we can obtain. Where shall we find the ideal teacher? In Jesus alone can the perfect standard be obtained. He stands forth before us as the Prince of teachers.

1. He was a *patient* teacher. How often He had dull pupils! His chosen disciples often failed to understand His meaning. This is shown by the fact that after His death they gave up all their hopes and went back to their original pursuits. They were completely taken by surprise when He rose from the dead. Yet He had been their teacher and guide for three precious years. Still how gentle and kind His rebuke, and how patiently He instructed them in the mysteries of His kingdom!

2. He was a *wise* teacher. He led them along step by step. "Many things" He deferred until they were better able to understand and bear them. He did not put the new wine into old wine-skins.

3. He was an *illustrative* teacher. He taught in parables, in tender and beautiful similes. He drew his illustrations from nature, from the most familiar scenes and occupations of life. The hen gathering her brood under her wings, the fox gliding through the thicket, the fisherman drawing in his net, the woman kneading her dough, the shepherd seeking afar his lost and wandering sheep—these and kindred subjects furnish him with abundant and beautiful illustrations. Not from love known only to the few, not even from art or profane history, but from the ever open volumes of nature and of life did Jesus gather His illustrations.

4. He was a *faithful* teacher. He kept back nothing that His hearers at that time ought to have known. He gave ample attention even to a single auditor. Many teachers feel but little inspiration when called upon to teach a small class; but see Jesus in the night interview with Nicodemus, and the noon-tide conversation with the woman at the well.

Patience, illustrative power, wisdom and fidelity: these were the conspicuous traits in the teaching of Jesus. These are the elements of power in the successful teacher of to-day.

That we cannot combine these elements in our work, so as to reach the dazzling perfection of the Divine Teacher, is no reason why we should be satisfied with any lower standard. It is a trite observation that he who aims his arrow at the sun shoots higher than he who aims at some object upon the surface of the earth. We cannot afford to have a defective model, an imperfect standard, and any other model than the Divine Teacher will, of necessity, be imperfect. It would be well for all Sunday-school workers especially to study Jesus as a teacher.

Better than all, the school of Jesus has never been closed. All teachers may sit at the foot of the Great Teacher. What an inspiration in our work! Not only may we learn of Jesus in His word, but His spirit, ever present and ever active, will take of the "things of God" and show them unto us.

Myself; My Work; Now.

AN immense host of Sunday-school teachers will be at work next Sunday. We shall be of the number. We are the successors of a much larger host; we succeed men and women whose work in the schools has ended, for they have gone into the grave, where no one can work. They had their short season, but it is over. We are the predecessors of a still greater host, myriads of whom are yet unborn. Our season will soon be over, theirs will soon begin. The generations sweep forward with the speed of waters pouring over a precipice; but each has its function, and so has each member of the uncounted multitude. The great work is done by individuals, who toil only for a little while and then give place to others.

"Onward storms my strong-limbed race,

Pause for me is nigh;

Long on earth will men have place,

Not much longer I;

Thousand summers kiss the lea,

Only one the sheaf;

Thousand springs may deck the tree,

Only one the leaf;

One, but one, and that one brief."

If each teacher will calculate how few at most, when all are told, will be the number of hours he can possibly spend in his class in the whole of his life; if he will remember for how much shorter time each separate scholar will remain under his influence; and if he will also remember that the golden opportunity for this particular sort of service will never recur again, it will surely stimulate him to consecrate more fully to God and the school his time, talent, energy and love. Let any one Sunday, any one lesson, any one opportunity be unimproved, and none can estimate the calamity, and few can realize how large a proportion of the entire total of our possibility of service will have been lost for ever. Well for us all, well for the Church, well for the nation and the world, if every one of the tens of thousands of toilers in our schools will in each hour of service just now sow some blessed seed of holy truth in young hearts. We may live to gather some of the fruit; but if not, others will; and though our season may end before the produce of our toil is very rich, the seasons of God are eternal, and in them the results of devoted work done this year by servants unnoticed by the crowds, but rewarded by the Master, shall be plenteous and blessed.—*S. S. Record.*