

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson XI, September 10, 1916.

The arrest of Paul.—Acts 21, 17-40. Commentary.—I. Reception at Jerusalem (vs. 17-29). Paul and his company were accompanied by friends from Caesarea on their way to Jerusalem, and upon their arrival met with a cordial reception. They lodged with Manes, of Cyprus, James, who had charge of the Jerusalem church, and the elders received Paul and his company, and Paul declared the great work of grace the Lord had wrought among the Gentiles. Although James and his associates were at the very centre of Judaic influence, and they would be liable to be prejudiced in favor of Christians observing the great features of the law of Moses, yet they rejoiced to know what had been done among the Gentiles.

II. Respect for Jewish Law (vs. 21-26). While James and his associates rejoiced with Paul and trusted him fully, there were great numbers of Jewish Christians who served the law and who had been informed that Paul was teaching the Jews not to observe the law of Moses. James desired to have this misapprehension removed and suggested that Paul go through the ceremony of purification in company with four men who were completing Nazirite vows. James made reference to the decision of the council at Jerusalem a few years previously, in which it was decided that the only requirement to be laid upon Gentiles as touching the law of Moses was "that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood; and from strangled, and from fornication." Paul adopted the plan suggested by James in order that he might be set forth in the right light before the church at Jerusalem.

III. A mob aroused (vs. 27-31). 27. When the seven days were almost ended—during the final seven days of the period for which the vow was taken, those taking it were careful not to become ceremonially unclean and, in order to avoid pollution, they often remained in the temple the greater part of the time. Jews... of Asia. This was the feast of Pentecost and many Jews were present from distant places. The Asia here mentioned is the Roman Province in the western part of Asia Minor, of which Ephesus was the chief city. They had seen Paul at Ephesus and recognized him at Jerusalem. They had opposed him at Ephesus and were still opposed to him. Stirred up all the people.—The enemies of Paul seized upon this occasion to destroy the influence of Paul by exciting the people to oppose him. Laid hands on him.—Seized him. 28. Men of Israel.—The Jews were addressed by a dignified title. This is the man Paul's enemies spoke as they were moved by prejudice rather than by righteous principles. They misrepresented the teachings of the apostle, brought Greeks also into the temple—Paul had not brought Greeks or Gentiles into the temple. Those who were there with him completing their vows were Jews. Paul's accusers were unscrupulous. Polluted this holy place.—There was a court of the Gentiles into which those who were not Jews were allowed to enter, but the place in which Paul and his companions were would be profaned if a Gentile should enter it. 29. For they had seen... Trophimus.—This verse explains how Paul's accusers had reached the conclusion that he had brought Gentiles into the temple. Because they who saw Paul in company with Trophimus, a Gentile of Ephesus, in Jerusalem, they concluded that it was Trophimus who was with him in the temple. 30. All the city was moved.—The temple was the chief place of interest in the world to the Jew, and the report that it had been polluted would stir every Jew who heard of it. Drew him out of the temple.—The language indicates that they used violence in removing Paul, and it is clear that the mob intended to put him to death. They did not wish to do this in the temple. The doors were shut.—We need not suppose that any of the Levites, the gatekeepers of the temple, were of the same mind with the rioters. Their action in closing the gates was only to prevent any profanation of the building by the uproar which they saw to be beginning.—Cam. Bib. 31. As they were about to kill him.—As they were seeking to kill him.—V.

IV. Paul rescued (vs. 32-40). 32. Immediately took soldiers.—The captain quickly ordered out his soldiers with their officers to quell the disturbance, they left beating Paul.—The officer was none too quick in his movements to rescue the apostle, and he must have reached the scene of the riot with almost incredible swiftness, for he saved him from the raging mob. The Lord had further work for Paul to do. 33. Bound with two chains.—The chief captain knew nothing of the case, but it was his duty as a Roman officer to see that justice was done to everyone, hence the arrest of Paul and the protection given him that he might have a proper hearing. He was probably bound by chains to a soldier on either side, who he was... what he had done.—The captain, being wholly ignorant of the case, desired to know why Paul was thus used. 34. could not know the certainty.—No intelligible explanation could be given by the excited mob commanded. The officer proposed to have Paul placed where he would be safe, hence his order was that he be put in the tower of Antonia, and then the case could be disposed of in a lawful manner. 35. borne of the soldiers.—The crowd was so great and so violent that the soldiers lifted their prisoner and carried him beyond the reach of the mob. 36. away with him.—Paul had come to Jerusalem to worship a certain Jew. He had undertaken to show special regard for the law. Because of his devotion to the gospel of Jesus Christ a mob was trying to take his life and were saying of him as they had said of his Master a few years before in the same place, "Away with this man" (Luke 23:14).

37. As Paul was to be led into the castle.—The soldiers had evidently taken their prisoner beyond the reach of the rioters, canst thou speak Greek.—"Dost thou know Greek?"—R.V. The chief captain believed Paul was an

Egyptian who had caused a disturbance some time before this, and who he knew could not speak Greek. 38. that Egyptian.—Such a person as is here described would be likely to cause the chief captain much apprehension, having at his command four thousand desperate characters. 39. I am a Jew (R.V.).—Paul argued his right to speak from the fact that he was a Jew, inasmuch as the Jews are making this uproar on his account, no mean city—Tarsus was the chief city of Cilicia, of great commercial importance, and a centre of culture. 40. on the stairs.—Of the tower of Antonia. Here he was in full view of the crowd. Hebrew.—The fact that Paul spoke Hebrew would at once attract the attention of the people.

Questions.—With whom did Paul confer at Jerusalem? What had he brought with him for the church? Why did he consent to purify himself in the temple? What charge was brought against Paul? Why did they desire to kill him? Who was the chief captain? How many soldiers did he command? Why did he bind Paul? What did the multitude cry? Who was the Egyptian alluded to?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—The ministry of witnessing. I. Embraced Paul's report to the church.

II. Embraced Paul's example of devotion.

III. Embraced Paul's defense of the gospel. I. Embraced Paul's report to the church. The historic sketch which Paul presented to the Jerusalem church concerning the early conquests of the gospel, served to demonstrate the amazing force of Christian truth and the zeal with which the apostles undertook their ministry. It was cause for rejoicing to know that through Paul's instrumentality men and women had turned from dumb idols to serve the living God. There was no demand made upon Paul to renounce his advanced position. The council held to their early decision concerning Gentile converts. They resisted the extreme Judaic party in the acquiescence with Paul. Their brotherly salutation was a victory of Christian love, a triumph of the wonderful ways of God in the spread of his kingdom and the realization of his plan of salvation. The address of Paul contained a faithful report of his own mission to the Gentile world. His single aim and purty of mind and his fidelity to his original call appeared in bright and bold relief in all this.

II. Embraced Paul's example of devotion. When Paul reached Jerusalem he found he had been preceded by the report that he was opposed to allowing Jewish Christians to observe any of the old usages. He was suspected of irregularity because he insisted on adapting his labors to the exigencies of the work where he found to do in the fields where he went to preach the gospel. Paul's position had such complex relations that it was difficult to be understood and almost certain to be misrepresented. Undoubtedly he had more really sympathy with Jewish religious ideas than many who condemned him. Paul denounced bigotry and exclusiveness, but never the Jewish race with its distinctions. He preached salvation by Jesus Christ alone as contrasted with the principle of salvation by local observances. James and the elders perceived that a schismatic spirit was rife and they were anxious to promote concord. If they had simply and firmly given their public testimony to their confidence in Paul and explained the relations in which the Gentile churches and their teachers, stood to the Jewish churches and their teachers, mistakes could have been corrected, opposition prevented and make a party. They tried to master the difficulties by compromise, which only left the old difficulty to find another expression. The conciliatory spirit of Christianity was evidenced in the conduct of Paul. He took his place among the Nazirites, not as a slave of human ordinances, but in the night of evangelized liberty; not as a dissenter before the people, but in the ministry of brotherly love which bears with the infirmities of the weak. His design was entirely honorable and kind. The Jews of Asia judged Paul's teaching by their own narrow standards.

III. Embraced Paul's defence of the gospel. The storm of passion threatened to swallow up the servant of God. Paul was the most helpless man in the crowd, yet he was the most tranquil. He was calm in his conscious apostleship. He was engaged in his Master's work and could not therefore have cause to despair whatever the crisis or obstacle. When the mob had beaten Paul with intent to kill, the tidings speedily reached the Roman officials. The Jews did not count upon God as a factor at work in Paul's behalf by using the Roman captain as a safeguard until his work was done. Paul stood before the chief captain with true dignity, despite his chains. He knew how to command his respect. He knew how to avail himself of the resources for safety. Paul measured the deadly purpose of his countrymen far more adequately than the Roman captain could have done, but he faced the throng and heroically tried to gain their attention and esteem. Roman discipline, as before, was called upon to suppress mob violence and thus give freedom to the gospel. Paul showed remarkable tact in addressing a frenzied mob. An immediate result for good was brought about in Paul's opportunity to address the multitude. Paul possessed heroic courage, self-possession and patience. Above all there was the light of divine Guidance.—T. R. A.

The Demon of the Desert. It is not generally known how a devil rides a camel, but Mr. Hans Vicher acquired the information and imparted it in his volume, "Through the Sahara." One night a camel suddenly ran amuck. Other camels followed suit, and a general panic ensued. "The frightened yells of my escort told me that a ghoul, a wicked demon of the desert, had seized the camel. I was told how these evil spirits sometimes took a fancy to mount a camel; the camel would then look to see who was digging it in the ribs, and, perceiving no one, fear would grip its heart, for then it knew that the devil was on its back."

CULTIVATION IN THE FALL

After Harvest Cultivation Destroys the Weeds—Land Should be Plowed in the Fall Whenever Possible.

Fall cultivation should be carried on not to take the place of spring cultivation, but rather supplement it. If land is properly cultivated in the fall it is safe to say that about three quarters of the preparation of the seed bed required in the spring will be eliminated. An additional advantage is that there is a good deal more time in the fall to do the work and make a good job of it. In the spring there is a rush to get in the crops. Often, as happened this year, on account of the lateness of the spring the land cannot be worked until almost a month after the usual time. This means that the seeding of the oats, and barley, and spring wheat (if any is grown) encroaches serious-

large portion of the surface of the soil to the weather and the few weeds that have not been killed by the cultivation the land has received will be killed by the frost. Moreover, by riding up the land in this way it will dry out earlier in the spring and it will be possible to work it about a week sooner than would otherwise be the case. Whether or not the chief object of cultivating in the fall is the destruction of weeds it is not always advisable to do so much plowing in the fall as possible. This applies with especial emphasis to clay land. If clay land is plowed in the spring when it is the least bit wet it will bake into hard lumps, and it is practically impossible to work it into a nice fine seed bed. By plowing in the fall it does not matter so much whether the land is a little wet or not. The frost during the winter will pulverize and loosen up the soil so that it can be disced and harrowed and worked into a nice firm mellow seed bed. It does not matter so much whether sandy loam is plowed in the fall, as it dries out quickly in the spring, and even if it is a little wet when it is plowed it does not bake into hard lumps. Where sod land has to be plowed however, no matter whether the soil is sandy or clay, it is practically imperative to plow in the fall so as to give the sod time to become properly rotted before the crop is put in.

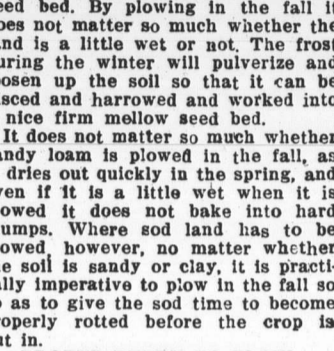


Twitch Grass.

ly on the time usually allotted for the seeding of the corn, with the result that all the work is rushed and none is done properly. In the fall, however, there is usually plenty of time between the harvesting of the grain and the harvesting of the corn and roots to plow and cultivate. Often, indeed, the land does not freeze up until near Christmas time, so that from the point of view of saving labor and doing efficient work, the fall is the time to plow, cultivate and prepare the land for the crops that are to be sown the following spring. Quite apart from the fact that fall cultivation saves time in the spring it should be practised, because it is a very cheap and effective way of killing weeds.

If one lets the weeds get too firm a hold it may be necessary to allow the land to lie fallow and cultivate it all summer. This means that a year's crop is lost and if the acreage is at all considerable entails a serious financial loss. Where a proper rotation of crops is followed, however, and a hoed crop sown once every three, four or five years, and the land is cultivated in the fall as soon as possible after the crops are harvested weeds can be kept in check with a minimum of expense.

PLOW SHALLOW FOR WEEDS. Where after-harvest cultivation is practised to destroy weeds, as soon as the crop is taken off, the land should be plowed. The plowing should not be deep—more than three or four inches. If the crop just harvested is corn and particularly if the soil is sandy, plowing will not be necessary. It will be sufficient to give the land a good discing, care being taken that the discs are so set that they will go fairly deep into the soil. After plowing or discing the land should be harrowed and as soon as the weeds begin to sprout a broad-share cultivator should be put on the land, and the soil thoroughly cultivated. Care should be taken that the shares overlap sufficiently so that all the weeds will be cut or uprooted and none missed. The land should be harrowed again so as to pull up and expose the plants that have been cut. As soon as more weeds appear the cultivation should be repeated. By thus repeating the cultivation almost until the time of the freeze-up most of the weeds will be killed. Last thing should be ridged up with a double-board plow. This will expose a



Canada Thistle.

large portion of the surface of the soil to the weather and the few weeds that have not been killed by the cultivation the land has received will be killed by the frost. Moreover, by riding up the land in this way it will dry out earlier in the spring and it will be possible to work it about a week sooner than would otherwise be the case. Whether or not the chief object of cultivating in the fall is the destruction of weeds it is not always advisable to do so much plowing in the fall as possible. This applies with especial emphasis to clay land. If clay land is plowed in the spring when it is the least bit wet it will bake into hard lumps, and it is practically impossible to work it into a nice fine seed bed. By plowing in the fall it does not matter so much whether the land is a little wet or not. The frost during the winter will pulverize and loosen up the soil so that it can be disced and harrowed and worked into a nice firm mellow seed bed. It does not matter so much whether sandy loam is plowed in the fall, as it dries out quickly in the spring, and even if it is a little wet when it is plowed it does not bake into hard lumps. Where sod land has to be plowed however, no matter whether the soil is sandy or clay, it is practically imperative to plow in the fall so as to give the sod time to become properly rotted before the crop is put in.

PROPER DEPTH TO PLOW. The proper depth to plow is a debatable question. It depends on such a variety of factors that no hard and fast rule can be given. Where the land is full of weeds and weed seeds plowing should be shallow. If the plowing is deep the weed seeds and root stalks of the weeds bearing the buds are transferred to a greater depth and it is consequently harder to get them to sprout and to kill them by cultivation. This searchlight is focussed on the Son of Mary, and a thousand facets sparkle with the pose, and smile, and dignity, and from and far-reaching lessons of the ever-increasing Kingdom. And this is not future, but now and here and full of living. This gift is complete in its first reception, offered to us entire and at once, susceptible of being embraced at a single glance or imbibed at a single inspiration; it is, nevertheless, progressive. Look at the pilgrim at his tent door; his great need is an approver, and that approver must be not a proposition, but a person! He is free, simple, clothed, the visions are secret, sacred and severe. He knows how to be abused, the beauty of humility is his, the riches of poverty adorn him, it is his destiny to serve, and his service knows no Sabbath. H. T. Miller.

LIFE OF A SHIP. The war has disintegrated plenty of old hulks that we thought had passed away for good—hulks philosophically. Last year two old sailing ships, the one built in 1776 and the other in 1788, pitched up and put overboard in Denmark to reap the high carrying rates of the cumulated age. This feat sounds like robbing the grave-yard, and it is unusually enough in the merchant trade, but it is not exactly amazing as ships go, and these heavy old Danish bottoms can undoubtedly give you good account of themselves. It is hard to say just what the record of long-lived ships. A few years ago the oldest vessel afloat was said to be another Danish vessel, a hull sloop named the Constance, laid down in no less distant a year than 1723. Next in point of honor stands the Victory. Laid down in 1809, she was not put in middle age when Nelson commanded her at Portsmouth, flying the flag of the commander-in-chief of the British navy, even if she changed science of war has made her unwanted in the North Sea. A recent Lloyd's Register gave one merchantman built in 1838, two in the '30s and twelve between 1839 and 1840. According to American records, we are told of one of our old ships on this side of the Atlantic. The fate that nearly befell the Constitution years ago comes to warships, yachts and merchantmen rather early in life. On the roster of the navy department, the oldest ships that appear are the Constellation and the Constitution, both laid down in 1792. Next in line is the Portsmouth, built in 1843. The old America, built in 1851, Rebecca was built at New London, Ct., in 1857. There may well be older craft off the record, yet still minding the helm as well as ever. For steam vessels, the old Kankakee of Boston bay fame, built in 1837, was only lately doing service on the Hudson under another name. Of course, these oldtime wooden craft have all been repaired and repaired until it is hard to say to just what year they should be ascribed. Nobody ever thinks of letting a boat go to pieces like the one-hoss shay. It is usually a change of fashion in model, that eventually lands a sailing craft on the mud bank to await whatever last trump there is for boats that have done their best. Those two old Danish craft of the eighteenth century will look as obsolete as last year's automobile when they put out to sea. They are both old enough to have heard the guns of Nelson—one might even remember the work of John Paul Jones. Let us hope it is not their fate to be catapulted into the hereafter on the nose of a wily Tirpitz torpedo.—New York Tribune.

A Fine Judge of Eggs. The Ichneumon is an animal that every housewife should possess. There is no finer judge of eggs in existence. The Ichneumon, in fact, makes a study of eggs all his life, and he is not particular whether they are hen's eggs or turtle eggs so long as they are eggs. It is impossible to describe the animal with regard to their freshness. If a dozen fresh and partly fresh eggs are mixed up together the wily little animal will pick out the fresh ones with a certainty and quickness that is positively amazing. At the zoo he is provided only with the genuine new laid. He would have to be in a very bad way before touching an egg that was "shak laid."

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS

Table with columns for various market items and prices. Includes items like Butter, creamery prints, Eggs, Turkeys, etc.

Table with columns for various market items and prices. Includes items like Beef, forequarters, Pork, hams, etc.

Table with columns for various market items and prices. Includes items like SUGAR MARKET, Quotations on Canadian refined sugar, etc.

Table with columns for various market items and prices. Includes items like LIVE STOCK, Export cattle, etc.

Table with columns for various market items and prices. Includes items like OTHER MARKETS, WAGNIPPEG GRAIN EXCHANGE, etc.

Table with columns for various market items and prices. Includes items like MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET, Duluth, etc.

Table with columns for various market items and prices. Includes items like BUFFALO LIVE STOCK, Cattle, etc.

Table with columns for various market items and prices. Includes items like MONTREAL MARKETS, Butcher's steers, etc.

Table with columns for various market items and prices. Includes items like LIVERPOOL MARKETS, Wheat, etc.

You Write It. How would you set down in figures the number eleven thousand eleven hundred and eleven? About half of a class to which the teacher put the question wrote the answer 1111. The other half wrote it 11111.—Youth's Companion.

Thornton.—That's one thing I can't understand. Rosemary—What's that? Thornton—Why the waves lash the beach when they hug the shore.—Stray Stories.

ALASKA'S COAST LINE.

Longer Than the Distance Round the World at the Equator.

Have you any idea of the extent of the Alaska coast line? The shores of the territory are washed by three great oceans. These are the Arctic ocean on the north, Bering Sea on the west and the Pacific ocean on the south. The Aleutian Islands, off the Alaska peninsula, are separated from each other and the mainland by a network of rocky straits, and much of the southwestern and southeastern Alaska is made up of mountainous islands that have rocks of all shapes and sizes. The islands are really the tops of mountains half lost in the waters. They rise in spires and cathedrals, some of which are thousands of feet above the water and others hidden beneath it, lying there concealed and ready to rip open the hulls of ships as the icebergs of the Atlantic ripped the Titanic.

The extent of the Alaska coast with its windings surpasses that of the United States proper. It is greater than that of all our states on the Pacific coast of Mexico added to that of our states on the Atlantic, including the gulf. All told, it is more than 26,000 miles long, or longer than the distance around the world at the equator, and in proportion to its length it has perhaps more dangers than any other coast line on earth. Nevertheless not one-half of it has yet been sounded by the coast survey vessels, and more than half of the general coast line is not marked by lights or by any aids to navigation.—Christian Herald.

THE Quiet Hour

FOR THOUGHTFUL PEOPLE

THE BUTTERFLY. I hold you at last in my hand, Exquisite child of the air; Can I ever understand How you grew to be so fair? You came to this Linden tree To taste its delicious sweet, I sitting here in the shadow and shine Playing around its feet. Now I hold you fast in my hand, You marvelous butterfly, Till you help me to understand The eternal mystery.

LABOR TO ENTER INTO REST. Enter ye in at the straight gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction; straight is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. Labor not for the meat which endureth unto everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. So run, that ye may