

The Sunday School

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubets' Notes.

First Quarter.

JESUS TEMPTED.

Compare Luke 4: 1-13; Hebrews 4: 14-16.
Commit verses 4-11.

Lesson II. Jan. 9.—Matt. 4: 1-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted.—Heb. 2: 18.

EXPLANATORY.

I. THE INITIATORY BATTLE AND TESTING.—V. 1. "The story of our Lord's temptation, as we have it recorded in detail both in St. Matthew and in St. Luke, is almost certainly a fragment of autobiography. I do not mean, of course, written by our Lord, but it must have been related by him to his disciples. There was no human witness.

2. THEN, immediately after his baptism (Mark) and while he was "full of the Holy Ghost" (Luke), WAS JESUS LED UP (by) THE SPIRIT. Under some constraining influence that showed him what he ought to do. He did not run into temptation, but did his duty. TO BE TEMPTED OF THE DEVIL. This was the divine reason why he was led up. The temptation was not merely one assault, but lasted during the forty days (Luke). The three temptations described were either the final attack or a summary of the whole experience. THE DEVIL.—The devil in the original is always with the article, and always in the singular number. Whenever the plural "devils" is used, it is the translation of another word, "demons." It is no more unreasonable to believe in a personal devil than in bad men, bad leaders on earth. To deny the existence of the devil is to lay much heavier charges of evil on the nature of man than does the belief in Satan. But this temptation was real. It was no sham fight.

II. SOME INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS.—First. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THESE TEMPTATIONS? They proved that he was worthy to be the Messiah, as a battleship is tested before it is sent to war.

Second. HOW CAN A HOLY BEING BE TEMPTED? Simply because every living being has appetites, desires, avenues of pleasure and pain; and the fuller and more perfect he is, the stronger and more sensitive are these feelings. These make temptation possible, but are neither holy nor sinful. Sin is the yielding to a wrong gratification of these right things. Jesus was tempted through the good that was in him.

Third. IN WHAT FORM DID THE TEMPTATIONS COME? They must have come from without, and not from within.

There are three questions that must be answered concerning each temptation, in order to understand it.—(1) What made the act desirable, so as to become a temptation to an innocent being; (2) What was the wrong in doing it; (3) How did Jesus gain the victory?

III. THE TEMPTATION THROUGH THE BODY AND ITS APPETITES.—Vs. 2-4. First. The attraction; the allurement.

2. FASTED FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS. Both Mark and Luke say he was tempted all these forty days, probably in the same general way as the last three great assaults now to be described.

HE WAS AFTERWARD A HUNGERED. When the reaction has begun, hunger asserts its claims with a force so terrible that (as has been shown again and again in human experience) such moments are fraught with the extremest peril to the soul.

3. THE TEMPTER CAME TO HIM. Satan made his severest assault in the time of Jesus' greatest weakness. He still watches his time, and attacks us when weary, sick, troubled, disheartened, nervous and weak. IF THOU BE (art) THE SON OF GOD, if you really are God's Son, and hence are possessed of miraculous powers, COMMAND THAT THESE STONES, probably pointing to one of the small round, flat stones lying near him, which looked like their loaves, BE MADE BREAD, and thus satisfy your hunger, and at the same time prove that you have the powers of the true Son of God. The temptation was very intense. And the desire was wholly innocent.

Second. THE WRONG IN GRATIFYING DESIRE. For unless it was wrong, there was no temptation. The wrong was not in turning stones into bread, but in doing it when he ought not to, at the instigation of Satan, at the expense of higher things. It would have destroyed his power and mission as a Saviour of men. He could not then be tempted like as we are, if he used his supernatural power to save himself from hunger, for we have no such power.

Third. THE VICTORY came through the truths and promises of God's Word.

4. IT IS WRITTEN, in Deut. 8: 3, quoted from the Greek translation. Jesus meant

(1) that God could feed him in other ways than by his doing wrong, as indeed he did soon after, for the angels ministered unto him; (2) that there was something higher, better, more needful than earthly food, even obedience, faith, love, character, righteousness. "He that would save his life shall lose it."

IV. THE TEMPTATION TO GAIN GOOD THINGS BY A FALSE AND PRESUMPTUOUS FAITH.—Vs. 5-7. First, the temptation. 5. TAKE HIM UP INTO THE HOLY CITY. Jerusalem, literally, or in spirit. ON A (the) PINNACLE, or rather, wing, OF THE TEMPLE. The roof was flat and surrounded by a balustrade. From it one looked down 600 feet into the valley of Hinnom.

6. IF THOU BE THE SON OF GOD. Thus planting a doubt in his mind. CAST THYSELF DOWN. Not into the valley of Hinnom, but into the court of the temple among the crowds. For what purpose? It was presented as showing his faith in God, and giving the assurance that he was the Son of God, if God sent his angel to care for him. Then, too, the people, seeing him coming down safely from the height, would hail him as prophet and make him king, as they tried to do after he fed the 5,000. FOR IT IS WRITTEN (Psa. 91: 11, Septuagint version).

He quotes this passage, and misapplies it, to show that Jesus could do it safely, and succeed in proving his Messiahship.

Many a temptation has come from misapplying Scripture.

Third. The means of victory was a right use of the weapon Satan had used against him. 7. IT IS WRITTEN (Deut. 6: 16) AGAIN. On the other hand, as explaining the words you quote. THOU SHALT NOT TEMPT THE LORD THY GOD. That is, "distrust God or test his power presumptuously. Put him to trial to see whether he can and will fulfil his promises."

V. THE TEMPTATION TO GAIN SUCCESS, EVEN GOOD OBJECTS, BY WRONG DOING.—Vs. 8-11.

First. The temptation. 8. THE DEVIL TAKE HIM UP INTO AN EXCEEDING HIGH MOUNTAIN. Probably in spirit, in vision, for there is no mountain so high that all the kingdoms of the earth can be seen by the bodily eye. ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD, AND THE GLORY OF THEM. The kingdom of power and law in Rome, with its splendid court and triumphant armies; the kingdoms of literature, art, and culture in Greece; the "barbaric gems of gold" of the Orient; and possibly a vision of the future with its glorious civilizations, with its redeemed peoples, fulfilling all that the prophets foretold, or John on Patmos saw of the new heavens and the new earth. "It was Satan's masterpiece."

9. ALL THESE THINGS WILL I GIVE THEE. In a measure Satan did have these things. Christ later called him the "prince of this world." On everything he had stamped his seal. "The trail of the serpent was over them all."

Thus Satan appealed to the noblest feelings and purest aspirations of Jesus, offering him, apparently, the very things he had come to this world to bring. This method of gaining the kingdom was the one the Jews desired and expected.

Second. The wrong. IF THOU WILT FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP ME. Satan does not mean a bald act of worship, a bending in outward reverence to the grim King of Darkness. It may have meant, as Bp. A. C. A. Hall suggests, "Flatter the people; be more politic in your teaching. Lower your standard a little, don't have so much to say about the cross, about self-denial. Do not tell the people they are to leave everything if they are to be your disciples; compromise, concede, win the people," or, "Place yourself at the head of an insurrectionary movement. Upset the Roman usurper. Lead us on to victory." Christ was to give up his spiritual kingdom for a temporal; his spiritual power of love, for armies, and palaces, and outward honors; his converting the world, for a ruling of the world,—a real worship of Satan; practically acknowledging him as supreme, and really leaving all souls unconverted, and therefore under the dominion of Satan.

Third. The victory. 10. GET THEE HENCE, SATAN. It was by this proposal that Satan revealed himself. FOR IT IS WRITTEN (Deut. 6: 13). THOU SHALT WORSHIP THE LORD THY GOD. The first and great commandment. There is none other worthy of worship. And so long as God rules the world, there can be no lasting good, nothing truly happy, nothing successful, no kingdom gained, except by making God first and chief,—a real worship of God as supreme.

11. THEN THE DEVIL LEAVETH HIM, vanquished. Luke adds, "for a season." The great assault was over, but Satan did not give up his hopes, as was seen at Gethsemane, at the cross, and at the feeding of the 5,000 when the people would make him king. AND BEHOLD, ANGELS MINISTERED UNTO HIM. Gave him food, as in the case of Elijah (1 Kings 19: 5); and at the same time, companionship, sympathy, and the assurance that God and heaven were on his side. Dr. Schaff well says, "He who would not turn stones into bread was now

fed; he who would not call upon angels to uphold him, in rash confidence, was now sustained by them; he who demanded worship for God alone received homage from these servants of God."

SURE CURE FOR ALL SKIN DISEASES



During
seventy
years
NY-AS-SAN
has never
failed in
any case.

Wanted—The address of
every sufferer in America.
Nyassan Medicine Co., Truro, N. S.
Mention this paper when you write.

Make No Mistake.

DO NOT DESPAIR
Until You Have Tried What
SMITH'S...
Chamomile Pills
Can Do for You!

Do you have pains about the chest and sides, and sometimes in the back? Do you feel dull and sleepy? Does your mouth have a bad taste, especially in the morning? Is your appetite poor? Is there a feeling like a heavy lead upon the stomach? Sometimes a faint, all-gone sensation at the pit of the stomach, which food does not satisfy? Are your eyes sunken? Do your hands and feet become cold and clammy? Is there a giddiness, a sort of whirling sensation in the head when rising up suddenly? Are your eyes sunken? Do your hands and feet become cold and clammy? Is there a giddiness, a sort of whirling sensation in the head when rising up suddenly? Are your eyes sunken? Do your hands and feet become cold and clammy? Is there a giddiness, a sort of whirling sensation in the head when rising up suddenly?

Smith's Chamomile Pills
FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS.
FRANK SMITH, DRUGGIST,
ST. STEPHEN, N.B. and CALAIS, Me.
PRICE 25 CENTS. FIVE BOXES \$1.00.
If your local dealer does not sell these Pills Mr. Smith will send a box by mail on receipt of price.

WANTED.

A Christian man with Three Thousand Dollars in cash to invest with first-class security and a permanent position.

Address—P. O. Box 217,
Worcester, Mass.

FOR SALE.

One Smith American Cabinet Organ, in perfect repair, at a great bargain. Chapel style. A rare chance for a church to obtain a fine organ very cheap. Enquire of

PASTOR B. H. THOMAS,
Digby, N. S., Box 115.

Pure
Blood first of all; that is the starting point on the road to health. Without it Dyspepsia, Constipation, Biliousness, Headache, Liver and Kidney Complaints, Scrofula, Ulcers and Abscesses thrive and increase in the human system. But with pure

Blood
circulating freely these diseases cannot long remain. There is nothing to keep them there—no impurities for them to feed on. Burdock Blood Bitters purifies the blood, and drives out all impurities, waste and effete matter more quickly and surely than any other remedy. If you want pure blood and good health take

Burdock Blood Bitters.

Sea Foam It Floats

A Pure White Soap
Made of the Finest Grade
of Vegetable Oils.
Best For Toilet and Bath
Saint Croix Soap Company,
Saint Stephen, N. B.

Wolfville Real Estate Agency

Desirable Residences and Building Lots for sale in the town of Wolfville, N. S. Also a number of Farms in the vicinity. Properties secured for persons wishing to purchase or rent.
Address: AVARD V. PINRO,
Barrister, Real Estate Agent, &c.
Wolfville, N. S.

EQUITY SALE.

There will be sold at public auction on Saturday, the 29th day of January next, at 12 o'clock noon, at Chubb's Corner (so called) in the City of St. John pursuant to the directions of a certain decretal order of the Supreme Court in Equity made on the nineteenth day of October, A. D. 1897, in a certain cause therein pending wherein Mary Blanche Williams is Plaintiff and William Holman is Defendant, with the approbation of the undersigned Referee in Equity, the land and premises mentioned in the said Plaintiff's bill and in the said decretal order, and therein described as follows: All the right, title and interest of the Defendant in and to certain Indenture of Lease bearing date the first day of March, A. D. 1887, and made between the Rector, Church Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, in the Parish of St. John, of the first part, and William Holman, Junior, of the second part, and by the said William Holman assigned to John M. Robinson (which said Indenture of Lease by certain assignments and the land thereby demised and all the buildings thereon have become vested in the defendant) and in and to the lands and premises therein and in the Plaintiff's bill described as "all that certain lot, piece and parcel of land situate, lying and being in Duke's Ward, in the City of St. John, bounded as follows, namely, beginning at the South Eastern corner of a lot of ground, formerly leased by the said Rector, Church Wardens and Vestry to one, Caleb Radcliffe, the said corner being on the western side of Charlotte Street, thence running along the southern boundary line of said Radcliffe's lot the extent thereof eighty feet, thence southerly on a line parallel with the said street thirty-three feet four inches, thence easterly on a line parallel with the said Radcliffe's southern boundary eighty feet to the said street and thence northerly on the line of the said street to the place of beginning with all the privileges and appurtenances to the same belonging. For terms of sale and other particulars apply to the Plaintiff's Solicitor or the undersigned Referee.

Dated at the City of St. John this 16th day of November, A. D. 1897. E. H. McALPIN,
SOLICITOR ALWARD, Referee in Equity.
W. A. LOCKHART, Auctioneer.

We Make a Line of Cheap BEDSTEADS WASHSTANDS TOILET STANDS, CRADLES, Etc.

Write for Catalogue and Price List.
J. J. D. HOWE,
Furniture Manufacturers,
Factory: East end of Union Street,
ST. JOHN, N. B.

Manchester Robertson & Allison

SAINT JOHN, N. B.
DRY GOODS, MILLINERY,
CARPETS, CURTAINS,
HOUSE FURNISHINGS,
READY-TO-WEAR CLOTH-
ING for Men and Boys.
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE of every
Description.
MANCHESTER, ROBERTSON and ALLISON.