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BEREAN NOTES.

Dec. 5. LESSON X. [John 20, 11-18. JESUS AND MARY. HOME READINGS. MONDAY—John 20, 11-18. TUESDAY—John 20, 1-10. WEDNESDAY—Mark 16, 1-11. THURSDAY—Acts 13, 23-37. FRIDAY—1 Cor. 15, 1-20. SATURDAY—Psa. 16, 1-11. SUNDAY—Rev. 1, 4-29.

TOPIC: The Risen Christ Comforting a Weeping Disciple. GOLDEN TEXT: Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene. Mark 16, 9.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

Our last lesson presented Jesus on the Cross. Its final statement was: "And he bowed his head and gave up the ghost." This event occurred Friday, March 18, A. D. 29. (See Chronological Outline, SUNDAY-SCHOOL JOURNAL, 1875, page 199. On the following Sunday, March 20, the events of this lesson took place. Its scene was some unknown spot near Golgotha. Between the last lesson and this we must insert the events connected with the burial of Jesus, the sealing of the stone, the setting of the guard, his release from the tomb, the coming of the women to the sepulchre and their surprise, the coming of Peter and John, to whom Mary had carried word, and finally, the return of Mary after Peter, John, and the others had all left, at which time she met the Lord, as this lesson shows. In this interview between Jesus and Mary we see The risen Christ comforting a weeping disciple. The fact of his appearance to Mary, and the priority of this to other appearances, are both asserted in the GOLDEN TEXT: "Now when Jesus was risen," etc. In the OUTLINE we see: 1. MARY LOOKING FOR JESUS; 2. MARY TALKING WITH JESUS; 3. MARY TELLING OF JESUS. Before attempting to teach this lesson, teachers should become imbued with the spirit of the occasion. The sorrow for his death; the active love coming to complete the burial rites; the lurking fear of his cruel foes; the burial hopes; the vague expectations; the surprise; the bewilderment; the hasty message; the anxious return; the solitude at the grave; and then the wonderful interview. May each teacher be as near to Jesus in this day's work as was Mary according to the lesson.

[See LESSON COMPEND. FREEMAN'S HANDBOOK. White garments, 472; Rock sepulchers, 501; Rabboni, 699. FOSTER'S CYCLOPEDIA OF PROSE ILLUSTRATIONS: 2701, 2806, 717, 5034, 5041.

Where in this lesson do we see— 1. That Christ has special honor for those who seek him earliest and persistently? 2. That the resurrection of Jesus was a matter of joyful interest even to angels? OUTLINES, NOTES, AND LESSONS.

1. OUTLINES. 1. Jesus sought by those who love him; 2. Jesus found by those who seek him; 3. Jesus praised by those who find him. 1. Sowing in tears; 2. Reaping in joy. 1. Anxious seeking; 2. Joyous finding; 1. Sorrow without Jesus; 2. Joy with Jesus. 1. Mary disconsolate; 2. Mary comforted. 1. Mary with the angels; 2. Mary with the Lord; 3. Mary with the disciples.

2. NOTES. THE MARYS. 1. Mary, the mother of Jesus; 2. Mary, wife of Cleophas, and sister, or cousin, of Jesus' mother; 3. Mary Magdalene, the one of our lesson. Spoken of by the poet as the one who "While apostles shrunk, could dangers brave; Last at the cross, and earliest at the grave." 4. Mary, sister of Lazarus; 5. Mary, the mother of Mark, Acts 12, 12; 6. Mary, saluted by Paul, Rom. 16, 6.

THE APPEARANCE OF JESUS. The order of Jesus' appearances after his resurrection, and the authorities therefor, may be succinctly stated as follows: 1. To Mary Magdalene—John and Mark; 2. To the other women—Matthew; 3. To Peter—Luke and Paul, (1 Cor. 15, 3-8); 4. To two disciples—Luke and Mark; 5. To the ten, Thomas absent—Mark, Luke, John, and Paul; 6. To the eleven—John; 7. To the seven at Galilee—John; 8. To the apostles and five hundred others—Matthew, Mark, and Paul; 9. To James—Paul; 10. To the apostles—Luke, Acts, and Paul; 11. At the ascension—Mark and Luke; and some add, 12. To Paul—1 Cor. 15, 8. Strong's Harmony gives a slightly different order.

MARY STOOD WITHOUT WEeping, etc., verse 11. She had been there before, but had run to tell Peter and John; they had come, and like the women, had gone again, and Mary now is there alone. As SHE WEPT, SHE STOOPED DOWN, AND LOOKED INTO THE SEPULCHRE. Love lingering and looking at the place where the Lord lay.

TWO ANGELS, verse 12. Heb. 1, 4. "Are they not all ministering spirits?" etc. Matt. 4, 11. "Behold, angels came," etc. "The party of women.....saw, first outside the tomb, an angel sitting on

the stone, (Matt. 28, 2;) afterward they entered into the tomb and 'saw a young man sitting,' etc. (Mary 16, 5-7.) These together Mary saw when she stooped down and looked."—Mim-pria.

WOMAN, WHY WEEPEST THOU? verse 13. Ministering even to heirs of salvation. BECAUSE. She knew why she wept. No vague sorrow filled her soul. Jesus was gone, and she knew not where, therefore she wept.

SHE TURNED AND SAW JESUS, verse 14. Blessed vision, but she "knew not that it was Jesus." She supposed him to be "the gardener." His radiant glory awaited him, but did not yet rest upon him. He asks: WHY WEEPEST THOU? WHOM SEEKEST THOU? verse 15. She had but one answer. It was Jesus she sought, and Jesus only.

MARY, verse 16. Jesus spoke the name. A name capable of tenderest utterance. In that address she recognized the Lord, and cried: RABBONI.

"It is not now the distant, though respectful 'Woman.' It is the oft-repeated name, uttered, no doubt, with all the wonted manner, and bringing a rush of unutterable and overpowering associations."—David Brown.

TOUCH ME NOT, etc., verse 17. Very many explanations of these words are given. Their true aim is, however, not far from this, namely: Do not catch at my visible presence as though it were to continue here; I am not yet ascended, but I am to ascend, and spiritual communion, rather than tangible embrace, behooves my followers. But go, etc. Work remains for you, rather than personal indulgence of joy. He commissions the faithful woman to first proclaim his resurrection. No wonder that she CAME AND TOLD THE DISCIPLES.

3. LESSONS. 1. Many disciples weep because they do not know the truth as it is in Jesus. 2. Angels minister to Jesus, and to his saints; 3. Sympathy with the sorrowing is both angelic and Christlike; 4. True piety cannot be comforted when Jesus is absent; 5. Jesus draws near its unexpected forms; 6. A single word from Jesus can dispel the deepest darkness; 7. Duty before even spiritual enjoyment; 8. Christ's disciples are his brethren; 9. Our brother has ascended; 10. His God and father is the God and father of each saint; 11. Tell what you know of Jesus; 12. Woman's sad part in the fall simply compensated by her glad part in the resurrection scenes.

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