

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

LESSON VIII.—February 19.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I am the bread of life.—John 6: 35.

THE SECTION

includes the whole chapter, the miracle of the loaves, and the discussions which grew out of it.

PLACE IN THIS LIFE OF CHRIST.

In the third year of His ministry. A little beyond the middle of the great Galilean ministry, nearly all of which is omitted in John.

HISTORICAL SETTING.

Time—Just before the Passover, April, A. D. 29. The Passover began that year April 16, about a year after the last lesson.

Place.—The plain of Bethsaida, belonging to Bethsaida (Luke 9: 10), a "desert," i. e., an uncultivated, uninhabited place, a short distance south-east of Bethsaida, on the north-east shore of the Sea of Galilee.

John the Baptist had been beheaded a short time before, in March.

CHRIST FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND.—John 6: 1-14

Compare Matthew 15: 32-39; Mark 6: 31-41; Luke 9: 10-17.

Commit versus 9-11.

1. After these things Jesus (a) went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.

2. And a great multitude followed Him, because they (b) saw His miracles; He did on them that were (c) diseased;

3. And Jesus went up into (d) a mountain, and there He sat with His disciples;

4. And the Passover, (e) a feast of the Jews, was (f) nigh.

5. When (g) Jesus then lifted up His eyes, and saw a great company come unto Him, He saith unto Philip, Whence (h) shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

6. And He said to prove him: for He Himself knew what He would do.

7. Philip answered Him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for these men; every one of them may take a little.

8. One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto Him,

9. There is a lad here which hath five barley loaves and two small fishes; but what are they among so many?

10. And Jesus said, Make the (i) men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So, the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

11. And (j) Jesus took the loaves; and when He had given thanks, He (k) distributed to His disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

12. When they were filled, He said unto His disciples, Gather up the (l) fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

13. (m) Therefore they gathered them (n) together, and filled twelve baskets with (o) the fragments of the five barley loaves which remained over (p) and above unto them that had eaten.

14. Then (q) those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that (r) Prophet that should come into the world.

REVISION CHANGES.

Ver. 1. (a) Went away to sit other side of.

Ver. 2. (b) Behind the signs, (c) Stick.

Ver. 3. (d) The mountains.

Ver. 4. (e) The feast. (f) At hand.

Ver. 5. (g) Jesus therefore lifting up,

— seeing that a greater multitude cometh. (h) Are we to buy.

Ver. 10. (i) The people.

Ver. 11. (j) Jesus therefore. (k) Distributed to them, that were set down.

Ver. 12. (l) The broken pieces that remain over.

Ver. 13. (m) So, (n) Up. (o) Broken pieces from. (p) Out and above.

Ver. 14. (q) When therefore the people saw the sign which He did, they said. (r) The Prophet.

LIGHT ON THE TEXT.

About a year of the ministry of Jesus intervenes between the last lesson and this, the events of which are recorded in the other Gospels. Towards the last the apostles were sent all over Galilee to preach and to heal. Then suddenly, like a flash from a far-distant cloud, came the news that John the Baptist had been beheaded by Herod Antipas at Machaerus Castle. This was in March. The disciples hastened to Jesus (Mark), probably at Capernaum.

1. After these things Spoken of in our last lesson. The interval was about a year. Over the sea of Galilee.—From the western side, probably near Capernaum. He had just heard that Herod, to whose dominion He was, had beheaded John the Baptist (Matt. 14: 13). There was danger to His disciples, possibly of revolt, and they needed rest and strength.

3. Into a mountain—the mountainous region that bordered the plain. There He sat with His disciples. The usual nature of teaching. Here they could rest, and report more fully what they had done on the evangelizing tour from which they had just returned; could talk over their plans, their successes, their mistakes, and receive the instruction they would soon need as to the true way of preaching the gospel to the world. We learn from the other Gospels that He taught the multitudes and healed the sick.

4. The Passover was nigh—Which accounts for the multitudes.

5. Saw a great company—Five thousand men (v. 10), besides women and children (Matt. 14: 21). They came by land from all parts.

7. Two hundred pennyworth—About \$300.00. A penny denarius is fifteen cents, the price of a day's work.

8. Eat loaves—The food of the poorest. Fishes salted, and eaten as a relish, like sardines.

12. Gather up the fragments—(i) The design is to bring out the pre-

ousness of the food which Jesus had given. (2) It completes the proof of the miracle, for more remained than there was to begin with.

GUIDING QUESTIONS.

(For home study and for oral and written answers. Do some work daily).

Subject:—Jesus the Bread of Life.

Scene I. The Gathering Multitudes (v. 1, 2, 4)—For what two reasons did Jesus leave Galilee? (Matt. 14: 13; Mark 6: 31). Who followed Him by land? For what object?

Scene II. What Jesus Did on a Busy Day (v. 3)—What did Jesus do for His disciples on the mountain side? How did He feel toward the multitudes? (Mark 6: 34). What two things did He do to help them? (Matt. 14: 14; Mark 6: 34).

Scene III. The Hungering Multitude Fed (v. 5-14)—How many people were there? How much food was available? What did Jesus do with it? What was this miracle meant to teach? Show how Jesus is the bread of life. Why were the disciples gathered to gather up the fragments?

FIRE IN CITADEL.

Halifax Citizens Got Somewhat of a Scare Early This Morning.

The Well Known Fortress Damaged and Regimental Papers Destroyed.

The Hydrant Frozen and the Soldiers' Fire Engine Was Not Workable.

HALIFAX, N. S., Feb. 9.—Fire has just been discovered in the citadel, and its extent is not definitely known. Clouds of smoke overhang the city and some people entertain fears for the magazine, which however is not yet exploded. A general alarm has been rung on the city fire service, and the soldiers have been pipped out and are working with the city department. The fire is difficult to extinguish, as the water pressure is low, and the firemen are unable to get a hold on the hydrant.

HALIFAX, Feb. 9.—Shortly after noon a fire was discovered in the citadel. There is no direct communication with the fort, but it was once telephoned by the military to the fire department, asking them to call for help. The alarm was given in the hope that prompt work might avert disaster. At the same time, an alarm was sent to the central engine house, probably by a messenger despatched direct from the fort. The firemen were sent to the fort, and the soldiers were sent to the fort to assist. All that the soldiers could do, therefore, was to shatter impatiently the glass window of the arrival of smoke from the fort. The people in the citadel were connected with the fort, and the fort was also connected with the fort. The fire was caused by a spark from a gunpowder box.

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