

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson X. March 11, 1917. Jesus the Bread of Life.—John 6: 22-44.

Commentary.—I. Seeking for Jesus (vs. 22-29). 22, 23. On the day following the feeding of the five thousand, a part, at least, of the multitude desired to see Jesus again. They saw that he did not enter the boat to go across the sea with his disciples, and they expected to find him on the east side. 24. They also took shipping-boats to come across the sea from Tiberias, a city built by Herod Antipas on the west side of the Sea of Galilee, and made by him the capital of his province. These boats were used by the people in going to the west side of the sea in their search for Jesus. They landed in the plain of Gennesaret, a few miles south of Capernaum. Seeking for Jesus—Their search was to be richly rewarded, but not in the manner they were expecting. 25. Rabbi—Master, teacher. When earnest thou hither—Their seeking for Jesus was prompted largely by curiosity. This question shows that they were living upon a low plane. They expect something miraculous. Christ does not gratify their curiosity, if the feeding of the five thousand, which they had witnessed, taught them nothing, what good would it do them to hear of the crossing of the sea?—Cam. Bib. 26. Verily, verily—This word repeated has the effect of a solemn oath. Jesus is about to rebuke them for their unworthy motives, that he may lead them to something vastly higher. Not because ye saw the miracles—The miracle had been wrought primarily to convince the people of the Messiahship of Jesus and secondarily to relieve hunger. They who had asked Jesus a question were not affected by the first consideration, but were by the second. The sign, the miracle, in itself had not appeared to them, but the plentiful supply of food had. Because ye did eat of the loaves—This would be a severe charge for one who was merely hungry to make, but Jesus, the Son of God, saw clearly the motives of those who had questioned him, and his judgment of them was absolutely correct. They were seeking for material benefits. There are multitudes in that class to-day. If there is any material advantage to them in being religious, they are ready to be known as Christians. They have no conception of spiritual blessedness. They mind earthly things and are wholly unconcerned respecting spiritual values.

27. Labor not for the meat which perishes—Jesus would not have us indifferent or neglectful of our physical needs. He would have us diligent to provide for our households, but this should not be our chief concern, that meat which endureth unto everlasting life—He urged upon the people the necessity of giving first attention to the interests of the soul. This is in full harmony with his words recorded in Matt. 6: 25. The meat which perishes is here spiritual as compared with the material. He who the Son of man shall give life—The benefit which Jesus urges his hearers to seek would come through him alone. Him hath God the Father sealed—The Father attested, or authenticated, the Messiahship and Sonship of Jesus by the prophecies of the Old Testament, by the voice from heaven and by the miracles which were wrought by him. The recent miracle of the sea, which they had witnessed, sealed this great truth. 28. What shall we do?—The attention of the people had been drawn from the material to the spiritual, to some extent at least. They wished to know what works they might perform to secure the "meat" that would endure to everlasting life. 29. This is the work of God, that who ever doeth the work of God shall have eternal life. This should attract your interest and employ your energies. Believe on him whom the Father sent—The work of God is to believe on his Son. To do this one must turn away from his sins, admit himself guilty to the divine will and receive Jesus by faith into his heart and life. This will accomplish such a change in one that he becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus. This faith will free him from condemnation, and as he walks in the light, it will bring to him the cleansing of his heart from all sin (1 John 1: 7). This is by a steady and constant faith in Christ that one is kept pure in heart.

30. Asking for a sign (vs. 30-34). 30. What sign wilt thou give us, O Jesus?—The Jews understood from what he had said that he claimed to be the Messiah, and they asked for a sign as a proof of his Messiahship. Their attitude was not one of faith, but of unbelief. They did not believe in the miracle of feeding the five thousand and sufficient to believe in the sign of the bread of life. Jesus claimed the right of teaching them, and it was admitted that he was a prophet. They did not believe in him, but they were not willing to believe in him. He gave them bread from heaven—Messiah was divinely appointed to feed Israel as manna, and through him he communicated with the people, but it was the Father who gave the manna, and not Jesus. Jesus gave you not that bread, but heaven's. Their statement was wrong in two particulars. In the first place, it was the Lord that gave the supply of food. In the second place, it was food for the body that was given in the wilderness; while the Father was offering the world that which would nourish the soul. "The true bread from heaven" is the bread of God that is given to the world that which feeds the soul, imparting and sustaining spiritual life. It is the bread of life, but the direct statement is not made until a little later. 34. evermore give us this bread—This petition was based on a low conception of

what Jesus was offering them. "What ever miraculous supply he has at command, they would like to receive, not transiently, like the great repast, but permanently—evermore."—Wheeler. This request reminds us of the water that Jesus offered her. She would be glad to have it, so she would not be obliged to come to the well to draw (John 4: 15). 35. I am the bread of life (vs. 35-40). 35. I am the bread of life—in v. 33 he spoke of himself in the third person, and now he speaks unmistakably of himself, using the first person. Jesus is the bread of life, not only because of his life-sustaining power, but also because he gives life. The manna of which his hearers had spoken satisfied only bodily needs temporarily, but Jesus satisfies spiritual needs eternally. He that cometh—he that believeth—The conditions upon which Jesus gives himself to the individual are that he leave all other systems of religious trust and come to Jesus as his only support and believe in him with all his heart. Soul hunger and soul thirst are fully met in Jesus. 36. Ye also have seen me, and believe not—Their opportunities had been great, for they had heard his instructions and had seen the miracle which he wrought on the other side of the sea. "They had even seen him, and yet did not believe on him," is the sense of the passage. 37. All that the Father giveth me shall come to me—Those who come at the call of God, he is representing here as giving to Christ, because it is through his blood alone that they can be saved. God, by his spirit, convinces of sin, righteousness and judgment; those who acknowledge their iniquity, and their need of salvation, he gives to Christ, that is, he points out to them the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.—Clarke. I will in no wise cast out—This is a precious promise and it has comforted myriads of sin-burdened souls as they have looked to Jesus. 38-40. It is clearly the will of the Father that all shall come to his Son, and to those who thus come he will impart life, spiritual life; and those who receive and retain this life shall be raised up at the last day and shall be forever with the Lord. He wills the highest good of all. Questions.—Who were trying to find Jesus?—What reason did Jesus give for this desire to see him? To what did Jesus seek to call their attention? Why did they ask for a sign? What did Jesus tell them to do if they would please God? What did Jesus mean when he said that he was the bread of life? Quote a rich promise contained in the lesson. On what conditions will Jesus become the bread of life to us?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—unperishable food. I. The gift of God. 1. Received by faith. II. The gift of God. Christ's knowledge of the human heart was shown in exposing the false motives of those who followed him. He did not profess to know the hearts of the multitude to feel the cravings of nature or to rejoice in the miraculous supply of food, but he knew the hearts of the people. He was in their hearts of spiritual perception and the desire for eternal life. They were moved by their stimulated appetites without any gratitude or devotion. They did not recognize the gift of God. The Father, nor the Bread of Life in the giver. Jesus received excessive attention to the body to the neglect of the soul. He claimed the essential superiority of the food which endures, he gave a striking and just representation of Himself. He revealed Himself plainly as the Bread of Life. He intimated that there was in Him that which if properly received, would communicate eternal life. He passed gradually from figure to reality. From the miracle of the loaves the multitude would gladly have received Him as their King. They would have headed an uprising to make Him such, but on being informed directly of His divine origin and His mission to earth, and that they must believe on Him as their Saviour from sin, they demanded further evidence. The difficulty was not that the Messiah's origin would be mysterious. The popular opinion was that when Christ came to one would know from whence he came. The Jews supposed they knew exactly who Jesus was, the son of Joseph and Mary. His miracles could not undo the impression made on their minds by the circumstances of His life at Nazareth. He was still but the carpenter's son. He did not utter His words to meet the difficulties present in their minds. He pressed His claim, not of having been sent into the world by the Father to perform a specific work. He asserted that it was not Moses, but God who fed the people with manna. Hence there could be no comparison between Moses and Jesus. The word of God was not sent to be obeyed, but offered to the world's enjoyment. Jesus presented the people with His Father's plan of salvation in the care of His Son as the Mediator. God the Father was declared to be the Author of the plan of salvation. Jesus claimed a power within Himself to constrain wanderers to return to God. III. Received by faith. Jesus urged the supreme importance of motive in religion. The transcendent value of the salvation of the soul and that faith in himself which would lead to eternal life. He declared that believing in him is the greatest of all works, the comprehensive summary of all true work. The requirement to believe on him comprehended a full consent to be saved by him. It was this simple and implicit trust which created the difficulty. They imagined there was some higher work yet to be done than, as commanded by the law of Moses, they believed themselves to be prepared to do whatever he needed to be done. Jesus saw the spiritual nature of man in all its priceless capacity, and to this he addressed himself when he bade his hearers eat of his flesh and drink of his blood. He would have them understand that the true aim in life is not the attainment of material good, but the attainment of spiritual life in him. To feel his love, to do his will, was the aim in life worthy of their pursuit, worthy of the nature with which their Creator had endowed them. The very purpose of Christ's mission to earth, his teachings and miracles, his sufferings and death,

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HOW TO FEED FARM POULTRY FOR PROFITS

Egg Production Depends Largely Upon Proper Methods of Feeding, and Upon Egg Production, Especially Winter Egg Production, Depends the Profits—Any one Can Follow This Practical Advice.

One of the leading principles in poultry keeping is successful feeding for egg production. The number of eggs laid by a farm flock depends to a very great extent upon whether the flock is a source of profit or loss to its owner. To obtain the best results from successful feeding the flock must be composed of well matured birds. These birds should be strong, healthy and vigorous when put in the laying pen in the fall of the year. Any birds that contract colds or other ailments should be removed from the flocks. This is essential to prevent disease from spreading. Experiments have shown that birds lay more eggs during their pullet year than during any other year of their life. The pullet year is composed of pullets, to be exact, the flock of one hundred hens should consist of seventy-five pullets and twenty-five yearlings. The yearlings should be kept primarily for breeders, and the pullets maintained to serve as winter egg producers. The twenty-five yearlings should be selected during the laying season of the pullet year and, if possible, during the winter months. Those birds which are winter egg producers should be selected and leg banded, and the remainder sold in June or July.

STIMULATING EGG PRODUCTION. The pullets should be forced to lay a large egg production, but the yearlings should be fed rather sparingly during the early part of the winter. High feedings would tend to stimulate egg production, and this is not desirable as it affects the fertility of the eggs and also weakens the vitality of the chickens. The breeding yearlings should be fed liberally before the breeding season opens, to stimulate egg production. Hatching eggs should be available about March 15th, and mating should be done at least ten days before that date.

Egg production is largely controlled by the method of feeding. Abundance of litter should be scattered on the floor of the hen house. Even as much as ten to twelve inches is often advisable in order to prevent exercise for the birds. The grains should be scattered in the litter, water should be given in a trough, and a good practice to stir the straw or chaff with a fork directly after feed. By such practice being followed the litter can be kept from forming into a compact state and the grains given become incorporated readily in the loosened material. To secure her food the hen must work, and this is the best possible way of making the birds take their daily exercise.

The laying hen must have an abundance of good, palatable, nutritious food. A variety of feeds should be fed, as each kind of grain serves a different function in the production of eggs. Certain grains are known as heat producing foods, others serve to maintain and build up tissues and organs of the body, others furnish energy to carry on the various functions of the body, and still others to supply material for egg production. When it is understood that each kind of grain performs its special duty, the importance of variety can be readily appreciated. It is a well-known fact that fowls prefer whole to ground grains. The larger part of the ration, however, should consist of whole grains. Such grains as corn, wheat, oats and buck-

wheat are used to a very great extent to supply the whole grain ration. Corn is an excellent winter feed, being a great heat producing food, and very appetizing. It has great fat producing qualities and should be fed with judgment. As the weather becomes warm in spring the amount of corn in the laying ration should be gradually decreased. Wheat is undoubtedly one of our leading poultry feeds. While good, sound wheat is preferable to any other grade, good results can be obtained by feeding shrunken or frozen wheat, provided the grain is not too badly damaged. It is often more economical to feed slightly damaged wheat than when of good milling qualities. Oats make a good poultry feed when they are of good quality and contain a low percentage of hull. Poor oats should never be used for poultry feeding. Oats may be fed either whole or crushed with good results. Buckwheat makes one of the best poultry feeds we have, but being a strong irritative feed must be fed with considerable judgment. It is high in flesh and fat producing qualities and can be fed to good advantage in late autumn and winter. Buckwheat should never be fed in the spring or summer, and at no time should it constitute more than one-third of the ration. The best laying ration we know of in whole grains is as follows: two parts corn, two parts wheat, and one part buckwheat or oats. Feeding should be done twice daily, early in the morning and about three o'clock in the afternoon. The grain should be thrown in the litter and enough fed in the morning to keep the hens busy for several hours. Feeding in the afternoon enables the birds to pick up a full meal before going to rest. Any grain which may remain in the litter overnight will be picked up the following morning before the attendant makes his morning visit. The amount of feed required must, in all cases, be regulated by the attendant. No definite amount can be given from day to day. A good plan is to begin with some of the litter and see if there is any grain remaining before feeding. The litter should be free from grain at least once each day.

DON'T OVERFEED WITH WET MASH. In addition to the whole grain ration already mentioned, some ground grains should be given. Such feeds as wheat bran, ground or crushed oats, middlings and cornmeal serve as a useful protein content, such as linseed meal, gluten meal and beef scraps should be added to the ground grain ration. A good mash mixture is composed of the following: wheat bran, 20 lbs.; ground or crushed oats, 100 lbs.; middlings, 100 lbs.; linseed meal, 100 lbs.; cornmeal, 50 lbs.; beef scraps, 50 lbs.; linseed meal, 20 lbs.

This mash should be fed in a self-feeding hopper, which should be before the birds at all times. Before putting the mash in the hopper it should be thoroughly mixed. This mash can also be fed as a wet mash by moistening it with water or some skim milk, preferably the latter. Care must be exercised not to overfeed with wet mash, as overfeeding causes laziness and a retarded egg yield. The wet mash should be fed in troughs and only what the birds can pick up in a very few minutes. When properly fed, wet mash has one of its principal purposes, to stimulate egg production. Dry mash feeding is more largely followed

with large flocks, as by this method labor is minimized, but when the flock is moderate in size both methods could be followed with good results. Wet mashes should be fed every other day, or at least twice a week, for best results. The proper time for feeding this mash is at noon or shortly after dinner hour. Beef scraps supply the animal food so necessary for maximum egg production. Green cut bone can also be used to good advantage providing it is fresh. Great care must be exercised in feeding green cut bone and very small quantities used. Overfeeding with cut green bone reduces the digestive organs and upsets the egg yield. Sour milk is also a good animal food and should be more largely used on poultry feeding. During the winter months some form of green food must be supplied. Mangels, turnips, cabbage, sprouted clover, clover or alfalfa hay may be fed. Mangels are perhaps the best and should be fed if possible. Split the mangels in two and spike the pieces to the wall and the birds will consume large quantities of them. The same method can be used in the feeding of turnips or cabbage. Sprouted oats can be given in a warm room or basement by soaking in water for twenty to twenty-four hours in lukewarm water and then spreading them out in a layer about one inch thick on the floor. They must be kept moist and occasionally stirred to prevent moulding. As soon as sprouting commences they must not be disturbed, but should be watered daily. Feed to the laying stock when about three inches in length. Cover or alfalfa hay of good quality, also make excellent green food for laying hens and should be fed regularly, either cut and steamed or fed dry as litter, allowing the birds to pick out the leaves. Oyster shells and grit should be kept before the birds at all times. Oyster shell is largely composed of lime from which the hens make egg shells, and grit aids in the process of digestion. As the egg is composed largely of water it is very important that water or some liquid be kept before the birds at all times. The water should be sour and thickened with fat water fresh for best results. If milk is used the drinking utensils should be kept perfectly clean. To obtain the best results from feed and labor expended the birds must be properly housed. It is not necessary that the house be warm or cosy, but it must be comfortable, dry, and free from draughts. These, together with plenty of light, are the essentials for poultry housing. Each bird should be allowed four to four and one-half square feet for Leghorns or other light breeds, and five square feet for utility breeds such as Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds or Orpingtons. The smaller the house, the more costly will be the housing problem. It has been found that hens can be most economically housed in lots of about one hundred. To accommodate one hundred hens the house should be twenty by twenty feet. This gives the maximum floor space with the least possible outlay. The windows or curtains should be on the south side, and the roosts on the north wall. Only by proper breeding, judicious feeding and comfortable housing can the highest egg yield be expected from any flock of laying hens. —The Canadian Countryman.

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THE VAMPIRE. Queer Beliefs That Cling About This Old World Superstition. The vampire, according to the belief of eastern Europe, is the physical body of a dead person, male or female, that maintains itself in a sort of half life in the grave by returning to its former haunts and nourishing itself on the blood of living persons. This superstition is characteristically Slavonic. The vampire superstition is strong in White Russia and the Ukraine, though it also pervades the popular belief in Poland and Serbia, among the Czechs of Bohemia and the Slovaks of Hungary and is to be traced as far as Albania and Greece. Comparative philology proves it to have had a common origin with the equally hideous legend of the were wolf, a human being who could at will assume the appearance and ferocity of a wolf, which if wounded in its nocturnal pursuit in the head or limbs could not efface its injuries or escape detection when it returned to its human form. The vampire is to be detected during his visits to the haunts of men by his extreme pallor, his unnatural

long and pointed canine teeth and his fetid breath. The vampire also crosses to shadow either upon the ground or on a looking glass and is never seen to eat or drink. How he leaves and reenters his grave is an unexplained mystery because he is never supposed to have had the courage and nerves to go, but the belief is that locked doors and closed windows are no bar to his movements.—London Globe.

Puss and the Bell. Cats are certainly not so demonstrative as dogs; but, according to many cat lovers, they are quite as sagacious. Archbishop Whately has recorded that his mother's cat habitually rang the bell whenever it wanted a room door opened. On the first occasion that Pussy made her wish known in this way the family had re- turned to bed. "In the middle of the night," says the archbishop, "the parlor bell was rung violently. The sleepers, startled from their repose, proceeded downstairs with poker and tongs to intercept, as they thought, the predatory movements of a burglar. But they were equally surprised to find that the bell was rung by Pussy, who frequently repeated the act whenever she wished to get out of the parlor."—London Spectator.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

Table with columns for Dairy Produce, Eggs, and various meats. Items include Butter, Lard, Eggs, Turkeys, etc. with prices listed.

Table for MEATS—WHOLESALE. Items include Beef, Pork, Mutton, etc. with prices.

Table for TORONTO CATTLE MARKETS. Items include Export cattle, Butcher cattle, etc. with prices.

Table for OTHER MARKETS. Includes WINNIPEG GRAIN EXCHANGE and MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET.

Table for CHICAGO LIVE STOCK. Items include Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, etc. with prices.

Table for BUFFALO LIVE STOCK. Items include East Buffalo Receipt—Cattle, etc. with prices.

Table for LIVERPOOL MARKETS. Items include Flour, Cotton, etc. with prices.

How to Recoup. Curdled Custard. Suppose your boiled custard curdles. Try putting it in a very cold basin and beating it briskly. Another plan is to add a teaspoonful of corn flour, mixed to a paste with water. Cook this for a few minutes, then strain the thickened custard into a glass dish. To Thicken Sauce. In mixing any pudding made with batter you may add too much liquid if you are in a hurry. If your batter is too thin, thicken it with white bread crumbs. When cream doesn't whip stand it where it will get very cold, then add a little sugar and whip the egg and beat them together thoroughly. If mayonnaise curdles, put the yolk of an egg into a very cold basin and add the curdled sauce drop by drop, stirring steadily all the time.

QUITE RIGHT. Filkins—Home, they say, is the dearest place on earth. Wilkins—Yes; that's why we quit housekeeping and went to board. Blobs—Disappointment has driven many a man to the bushes. Slobs—Yes, even nuts are not all they are cracked up to be. The strangeness of foreign life throws one back into himself.—Cardinal Newman.

T. R. A. COSTLY PAPER. (LIFE) With the advancing cost of white paper, announcements like the following may be looked for in the magazines: "Authors submitting manuscripts are requested to enclose small sum to defray cost of rejection slip." "Does your husband worry about the grocery bill?" "No; he says there's no sense in both himself and the grocery worrying over the same bills."—Boston Transcript.