

Sunday School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. 12.
DEC. 2, 1906.

Jesus Before Pilate—Luke 23: 1-25.

Commentary.—I. Pilate endeavors to release Jesus (13-17). 13. Pilate—Pontius Pilate belonged to an ancient and a knightly Roman family. Of his early history nothing definite is known. He went to Judea about A. D. 26 and remained in office about ten years. His capital was at Caesarea Philippi, but it was his custom to go to Jerusalem at the time of the great festivals to secure order and safety in the city. Writers speak of his corruption, his acts of insolence, his habit of insulting the people, his cruelty, his continual murders of Jews, his unpopularity, and his unpopularity. The Jews naturally expected that he would release Jesus to death without special inquiry into his guilt. Pilate greatly hated the Jews, but he was afraid of them lest they should report him to the emperor at Rome; which they did six years later, and he was deposed. Called together—Pilate summons the rulers and the people and makes another strong appeal to them in order to get their consent to release Jesus. "Instead of calling them together he should have dispersed them as a riotous assembly and refused to hear them for he plainly saw what spirit actuated them." Herod, 14. As one that he might see that he had taught doctrines injurious to their religion, and also to the peace and the Roman government.—Jenson. Having examined—At the first trial he had heard all that could be brought against him. No fault—They had failed to prove a single charge. It is strictly and literally true that Christ was without fault.

15. Nor yet Herod—Christ had traveled extensively in Galilee and yet Herod brings no charge that he had ever attempted to raise an insurrection among the Galileans. He sent him back unto us (R. V.).—This involved a distinct acquittal of our Lord from every political charge brought against him. The Jews made three charges, involving the charge of treason, the greatest crime known to Roman law: 1. Sedition. 2. Forbidding to pay tribute to Caesar. 3. Claiming to be a king. The second charge was utterly false, while the others were not true in the sense in which they took them. Had he in any way been guilty of these things it would have been Herod's duty and also greatly to his interest to punish him. His dismissal of Jesus was a distinct avowal of Christ's innocence. Is done unto him—"Nothing worthy of death hath been done by him."—R. V.

16. Chastise him—John says that Pilate took Jesus and scourged him; but this was not done till a little later. The evangelists "make it clear that the scourging was inflicted as a separate punishment, in the hope that it would suffice, and not as a part of the usual punishment of crucifixion."—Cam. Bib. The scourge of leather thongs was loaded with lead, or armed with spikes and bones, which lacerated the back, chest and face, till the victim sometimes fell down before the judge bleeding mass of torn flesh.—Edersheim. This "he was scourged for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed." And release him—Pilate hoped that when they saw Jesus scourged they would be satisfied, but not so; they were clamoring for his blood, and nothing short of death on a cross would satisfy them.

17. Must release one—This verse is omitted in the Revised Version. But see the parallel accounts. This custom was in harmony with the nature of the feast and, however it originated, was so completely established that Pilate was obliged to attend to it.

18. The clamors of the Jews (vs. 18-23). They cried out—The chief priests moved the people (Mark xv. 11); they were like a pack of bloodthirsty wolves. Barabbas—An insurrectionist, a robber and a murderer. He was actually a worse criminal than they had charged against Jesus.

19. Sedition—Insurrection. Matthew says he was a celebrated prisoner. In some manuscripts he is called Jesus Barabbas, "Barabbas" being a name of a ringleader in one of those fierce and fanatical outbreaks against the Roman domination which had succeeded one another in the latter days of the Jewish commonwealth.—Trench.

20. Willing to release Jesus—This was probably at this time, while the people were clamoring for his death so loudly, that the messenger came from Pilate's wife (Matt. xviii. 19) urging the release of Jesus, and stating that she had just suffered many things in a dream because of him. Spoke again—Pilate repeated the proposal of verse 16. The original here indicates an eagerness on the part of Pilate to have the people demand his release.

21. Crucify him—Let him die the most ignominious death possible. "Let the Jews executed him according to their law against false prophets and blasphemers they would have stoned him, as they did with Stephen. His prophecy of crucifixion was a practical prophecy that he should be put to death, as he actually was, on a charge of high treason against the Roman Government." It can hardly be supposed that these people who were crying "Crucify him," were the same people who had brought Jesus into the city the Sunday before with shouts of hosanna. This was a Jewish mob urged on by the authorities; that was no doubt largely a Galilean crowd.

22. What evil hath he done—How many and what various persons bear testimony to the innocence of the Holy One—Pilate, Herod, Pilate's wife, Judas Iscariot, the thief on the cross, and the centurion at the crucifixion.—Burgon. And let him go—Pilate is laboring hard to release him; he could have ended this whole matter with one word, but at this point he said that Pilate asked, "What shall I do then with Jesus, which is called Christ?" This is a question every person must answer. 1. Every person must accept or reject him. 2. Rejecting Christ is the greatest sin of the world. 3. If we reject him here we shall be rejected by him hereafter.

23. Instant—Insistent, urgent. Prevalent—The reason why he finally seems to have been the one given in John xii. 12. "If you let this man go, then art thou Caesar's friend." But Pilate gained nothing even with Caesar, for he was soon recalled, degraded and banished to Gaul, where he committed suicide.

III. Pilate pronounces the death sen-

tence (vs. 24, 25). 24. Pilate gave sentence—Before Pilate pronounced the sentence he took water and washed his hands publicly, thus expressing in acts what he uttered in words, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person; see ye to it" (Matt. xxvii. 24). The people accept the responsibility and cry, "His blood be upon us, and on our children." That blood was upon them, not as vengeance, but as a natural consequence of their conduct. Within forty years the city was destroyed amid scenes of cruelty which defy description. No history can furnish us with a parallel to the calamities and miseries of the Jews at that time. There was rapine, murder, famine, pestilence and all the horrors of war. The account given by Josephus is heart-rending. "Pilate again ascends the judgment seat, which was set up in a raised place in the open square, and delivers his final decree."—Godet. 25. He delivered Jesus to the will—Jesus is now mocked the third time, about 8 o'clock, Friday morning, in the court of Pilate's palace. Matt. xxvii. 26-30; Mark xv. 15-19; John xiii. 1-3. When Jesus is brought out before them, Pilate makes one last effort to release him (John xix. 4-15). Now it is that he permits Jesus to be scourged, hoping that will satisfy them; but the cry is still "Crucify him," and he is taken back into the court and his own clothes are put upon him. It was at this time that Pilate said, "Behold, the man!" And we may well stop and behold him. He was "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isa. liii. 3). In him we see a perfect example of meekness and love and a perfect example for us to follow. He was the God-man and as such made the great atonement for the redemption of mankind.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

1. Pilate's Compromise. "No fault... I will therefore chastise him" (vs. 14-16). Pilate found "no fault in this man," but instead of instantly releasing him, "he sent him to Herod" (vs. 7). Thus he compromised with the priests. It was harder to refuse after Herod returned Jesus. So though he said again, "No fault in this man," he added, "I will chastise him." Thus he compromised with the council (vs. 13-16). Then he took water and washed his hands, crying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person." This was his compromise with his conscience (Matt. 27:24). Then he said to them the third time, "No cause, I will chastise him" (v. 22). This was his compromise with the people. And we are not surprised at the sad ending. "He delivered Jesus unto their will" (v. 25). Compromise is dangerous always.

2. Pilate's crime. "The voice of them and of their chief priests prevailed" (v. 23). Barabbas was accepted and Christ was rejected. And the sin of Pilate's daily repeated. God in Christ is constantly being judged, and either accepted or rejected. Either you belong to Satan or you belong to Christ. Your life is a daily cry for Barabbas or for Jesus. Barabbas represents Satan. The man they chose instead of Jesus was a robber, a rebel (John xviii. 40), and a murderer. (Mark xv. 7). Satan is a thief (Luke xiii. 12); a rebel (Ez. xxviii. 14-17); a liar, a murderer, (John viii. 44). And now, to-day, you are on the side of the devil, who deceives (Rev. xx. 3, 8, 10), or of Jesus, who has no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth (1 Peter ii. 22). On the side of the devil that devours (1 Peter v. 8), or of Jesus who came to save that which was lost (Matt. xviii. 11). On the side of the devil that chooses (1 Tim. ii. 7), or of Jesus who knows how to deliver the godly (2 Peter, ii. 9). On the side of the devil who oppresses with disease (Acts x. 38), or of Jesus who himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses (Matt. viii. 17). On the side of the devil who drags down to death and hell (John ii. 14), or of Jesus who died to give you life and heaven (John iii. 16).

III. Pilate's condemnation. Pilate listened to "the voices" of the wicked populace, and "delivered Jesus to their will" (v. 25). He delivered the Lord of glory to be crucified, to win the favor of an earthly king. But he lost that for which he staked his soul. He was soon recalled, disgraced and banished to a distant land, in direct poverty, where he committed suicide. Similar was the fate of all the murderers of Jesus. Judas died a horrible death by his own hand (Matt. xxvii. 5; Acts i. 18). Caiaphas was deposed the next year. Annas' house was destroyed by an infuriated mob, his son dragged through the streets, scourged, beaten and murdered. Herod died in a family and exile. Some of the impetuous who crucified him, and many thousands of his children, suffered in the siege of Jerusalem, which stand unparalleled in the history of the world. "Woe unto the wicked; it shall be ill with him" (Isaiah liii. 11).

IV. Jesus falsely accused. "Pilate... I have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof you accuse him" (vs. xiii. 14). Christ's whole life was a refutation of the accusation against him. The disciples were always faithful. Jesus never failed. The disciples failed in the presence of the dumb devil. Jesus cast him out (Matt. xvii. 16-18). The disciples disputed as to who should be a basin and towel and performed for them all the office of the nearest slave (John xiii. 5). The disciples trembled when the angry waves threatened. Jesus said calmly to the surging billows, "Peace, be still" (Mark iv. 39). The disciples were worried when the children interrupted the great Master's teaching; the Master held them in his arms and turned the interruption into a blessing for them (Matt. xix. 13).

V. Jesus chastised cruelly. "I will... chastise him" (v. 22). "Requiring that he might be crucified" (v. 23). Did you ever think that no man nor martyr ever suffered much mental and physical torture as did Jesus on the long night of his betrayal and through the midday darkness of his crucifixion? Think, if you can, of the awful agony that forced from his body sweat "as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke xxii. 44). Think what it was to be forsaken by every friend, even those who had pledged undying allegiance to him.—A. C. M.

Standing for a Good Deal.

(Puck.)

"What, my friends," volitionally demanded Thomas Rott, "does the old party stand for?"

"Well, you for one thing," replied a pessimistic voice from the back of the hall.

THE HAMILTON CAR STRIKE.

No Settlement Made Yet and Little Prospect of One.

A Hamilton despatch says: The street railway company, pleased with the success which attended yesterday's attempt to operate its city system, began running cars again this morning shortly before 10 o'clock on the same plan as yesterday. There was no trouble early in the day, although the police were not so hopeful that the afternoon would pass off as quietly as yesterday, when the big Saturday crowds are out. Many workmen had to knock off work this morning on account of the rain, but they quietly paraded the streets with "we walk" tickets in their hats and made no demonstration. The company would have begun running cars this morning at 9 o'clock, but Chief of Police Smith was not able to supply the men just then. He insisted on them having a little rest. They have been working seventeen hours a day. The chief said to-day he was quite pleased with the way everything went off yesterday.

"But," he added, "it is not satisfactory. The men have to work too long hours. You can not expect them to do that every day. We will have the majority of our men out to-morrow. The squad marched to the City Hall shortly before 10 o'clock, and waited there for the first sign of trouble.

Despite the hopefulness of Mayor Biggar that the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board would be able to adjust the difficulties the union officers say there is practically no chance, at the present stage, and this feeling was intensified last night by the aggressive attitude of Traction Manager Green. The men say he practically ordered their representatives out of his office when they went there at the request of the Railway Board to discuss the schedule with him. Those who are closest in touch with the situation say it is certain that the Railway Board will be out of the city before Monday and that it will have left without accomplishing anything.

The men are satisfied that after what took place last night negotiations are about off, although they still say they are willing at any time to get together

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and settle the strike on fair grounds. The following statement was issued this morning by the schedule committee of the union:

At the morning conference with the Railway Commission and the Mayor, after considerable discussion, it was arranged that the Commissioners would meet the officials of the company immediately after dinner, and would meet our committee again at 3 o'clock. Our committee went to the Mayor's office, as arranged, and waited until 5.30 for the Commissioners to return from their conference with the officials of the company.

Mr. Leitch, chairman of the Board, informed us that Mr. Green had said that he could arrange a schedule that would provide a ten-hour work day, to be completed within fifteen consecutive hours, and that the lowest wage would be \$1.60 per day. We told Mr. Leitch that we did not think it could be so arranged. He advised that we appoint a committee to meet Mr. Green and take up the question of schedule with him, and see what could be done. We agreed to do so. The Mayor arranged for our committee to meet Mr. Green at the company's office.

We took up the question of schedule when we met Mr. Green. President Theaker explained to him what the chairman of the Railway Commission had said, and asked him if he was prepared to arrange such a schedule. Mr. Green said, "No, I am not, and you know that it can not be done."

President Theaker then asked, "What proposition have you to make to us?" Mr. Green said, "Why, the old schedule, the one you have always worked on. That is the only workable schedule."

President Theaker explained to him fully that the Railway Commissioners had assured us that he was prepared to sit down and figure on this schedule. Mr. Green said, "Oh, you always worked the same as you have understood me in regard to putting the schedule into operation," and took exceptions to what we had said in the press.

President Theaker asked, "When we required it if twenty-one days would be enough time to put in operation the new system, did you not say that would give you ample time?" and Mr. Green said, "Yes, I did."

President Theaker said: "When we

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met you again and asked if the new schedule could be put into effect in seven more days, did you not say: "Yes, that will give me sufficient time?"

Mr. Green answered: "Yes, I thought I could."

President Theaker explained that the Railway Board had assured us that if we could agree on the schedule and other conditions that every man on strike would be taken back and placed in the same position he had before going out.

Mr. Green said: "We will take back nearly all of the Hamilton city men."

President Theaker said: "The Railway Commission gave us to understand that all men would be taken back, and that the company had no objections to the men belonging to the union, in fact, they preferred that the men should be organized."

Mr. Green said: "Is that what they said?" and jumped up and took his hat and threw open the door. He did not order us out of the office, but his action was such that we retired at once.

We met Mr. Green at the request of the Railway Commissioners, and while we are not much surprised at the reception we think that he did not show much respect for the honorable gentlemen who were acting as mediators. We are confident that Mr. Green in saying such a schedule could be arranged and the assurance he gave the Railway Commissioners that he would meet our committee and take up the question and if it could not be done some other arrangement might be made, his action in consulting our committee, which had met him by request, has proven conclusively the statements we have made in reference to his unfair and arbitrary action.

It also shows his intentions have been at all times to disrupt our union and any statement made by him cannot be relied on.

This statement was signed by the Schedule Committee, composed of John Theaker, Daniel Fletcher, C. A. Parkins and James McIlwraith.

FATAL FALL.

QUEBEC MERCHANT STRUCK HIS HEAD ON RUBBER MAT.

Quebec, Que., Nov. 19.—Henry Morgan, the well-known merchant tailor, of this city, met with a fatal accident last evening at the St. Louis Hotel. He was ascending the stairs leading from the office to the dining room when he suddenly lost his balance and fell backwards, his head striking the rubber mat at the bottom with great violence. He was picked up unconscious and taken to the Jeffrey Hales Hospital, where it was found he was suffering from concussion of the brain. Everything that could be suggested by medical science was done but Mr. Morgan died about midnight.

CABINET CRISIS.

KING ALPHONSO HASTILY RECALLED TO MADRID.

Madrid, Nov. 19.—King Alfonso has been hastily recalled to this city from his hunting expedition.

It is believed that a cabinet crisis is impending. War Minister Du Luque, resisting the pretensions of Generals Weyler and Polavieja to the field marshalship, recent owing to the death of Count Dedeoste. Weyler and Polavieja base their claims on their victories in Cuba and the Philippine Islands.

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MARKET REPORTS.

TORONTO FARMERS' MARKET.

The grain receipts to-day were fair. Wheat is unchanged, with sales of 400 bushels of Fall at 72 to 74c, and 200 bushels of good at 68c. Barley unchanged, 500 bushels selling at 54 to 55c. Oats are steady, with sales of 1200 bushels at 40 to 41c.

Dairy produce in moderate supply, with prices firm. Butter brought 25 to 26c per lb. and eggs 25 to 26c per dozen.

Hay is easier, with sales of 30 loads at \$15 to \$16 a ton. One load of straw sold at \$15 per ton.

Dressed hogs are unchanged; light quoted at \$8.50, and heavy at \$8.

Wheat, white, bush.	72 1/2	74 1/2
Do. red, bush.	72 1/2	74 1/2
Do. Spring, bush.	70	72
Do. good, bush.	68	70
Oats, bush.	40	41
Barley, bush.	54	55
Do. good, bush.	54	55
Peas, bush.	80	82
Hay, per ton	15	16
Straw, per ton	15	16

Seeds—

Alsike, fancy, bush.	63	60
Do. No. 1, bush.	60	62
Do. No. 2, bush.	55	58
Do. No. 3, bush.	52	55
Timothy, bush.	125	130
Dressed hogs	80	82
Butter, dairy	25	26
Do. creamery	25	26
Cheese, dressed, lb.	10	11
Ducks, dressed, lb.	10	11
Turkeys, per lb.	10	11
Apples, per bush.	10	11
Cabbages, per dozen	20	25
Onions, per bag	70	82
Do. medium, carcass	45	50
Do. forequarters	45	50
Do. choice, carcass	70	82
Do. medium, carcass	50	60
Mutton, per cwt.	80	90
Veal, per cwt.	90	100
Lamb, per cwt.	90	100

CHEESE MARKETS.

Brookville—Offerings to-day were on Brookville board: 1,522 cheese, 114c bid, but no sales on board.

London—Nine factories offered 1,038 colored cheese at to-day's market. No sales. Bid- ding 11c to 12c. Market postponed until Nov. 21. This will be the last market of the season.

Belleville—At the regular meeting of the cheese board to-day offerings were: 1,613 white, 12c colored; sales, 415 at 11 1/2c to 15c, 455 at 11 1/2c and 15c.

BRITISH CATTLE MARKETS.

London—Canadian cattle in the British markets are quoted at 11 1/2c to 12c per lb.; refrigerator beef, 10 1/2c to 10 3/4c per lb.

TORONTO LIVE STOCK.

Receipts of live stock at the city market were 10 carloads, composed of 62 cattle, 34 hogs, 414 sheep and lambs, with 5 horses.

MANITOBA WHEAT.

At the Winnipeg option market to-day the following were the closing quotations: Nov. 7 1/2c bid, Dec. 7 1/2c, May 7 1/2c.

LEADING WHEAT MARKETS.

New York	Dec.	May	1907
Detroit	82 1/2	82 1/2	
Toledo	77 1/2	81 1/2	79 1/2
Chicago	72 1/2	81 1/2	76 1/2
Minneapolis	77 1/2	80	
Duluth	77 1/2	80 1/2	

Bradstreet's on Trade.

Montreal.—The movement of wholesale goods here has shown more activity the past week. There is a better sorting demand for most lines following on a more active retail trade, which is the result of favorable cold weather. The result has been that there has been an unusually good supply of money in circulation among the working classes, and it is to be expected this will show up well in the holiday retail trade. As regards this trade orders have been exceedingly heavy and there has been a very noticeable improvement in the quality of the goods ordered. This is especially noticeable in all branches of the wearing apparel trade.

In the dry goods trade it is customary just before stock taking commences to make an effort to clear out stocks. As a matter of fact, owing to the nature of the trade, which has been done there are less stocks now to be cleared up than usual, but a good business has been done in this way recently. Hardware stocks are moving briskly. The demand for pig iron is very active and all metals are firm. Canada plate and bar iron are higher. The demand for groceries is much more active, with prices generally firm.

Toronto.—The finishing touches are being put to the wholesale end of the holiday trade here. Shipments are large, and they call for a very wide assortment of goods. Altogether there is every evidence that the retailers throughout the country are convinced that conditions are so good as to warrant unusual preparations for this trade. In all lines of business there has been rather a better tone during the past week or two. The sorting trade is more active than usual at this time of the year. Dry goods travellers report a very good business on spring lines. The demand for cotton goods is heavy, retailers realizing that prices may reasonably be expected to move higher in these lines. Domestic mills are over-rushed with orders, and it will be some time before they catch up.

The grocery trade is decidedly more active. Holiday goods are being rushed forward to their destination, and prices generally continue very firm. There is talk of further advances in salmon. The hardware trade shows no sign of decreasing activity, and a feature is the continued demand for all kinds of building supplies.

Winning.—General trade here continues satisfactory. The outlook favors a big trade throughout the coming winter, and retailers have been keeping this fact pretty much in mind when placing their orders. They are also optimistic regarding their opinions of spring business, and travellers are generally taking good orders. Collections are mostly fair to good.

Vancouver and Victoria.—The great trouble in this part of the country continues to be the scarcity of labor. The demand for wholesale dry goods and groceries is very active, and prices are firm. Teas are going up, and dairy product is also expected to be higher. Collections continue good.

Quebec.—During the past week wholesale stocks have been moving more freely, especially dry goods. Groceries and provisions are in active demand.

Hamilton.—The volume of business moving here is satisfactory. Spring lines of dry goods, etc., are meeting with a good demand. Country trade as reflected here is also good. The street railway strike is having some effect upon local trade, but a settlement is expected within a short while. Collections are generally fair to good, and the outlook for the holiday trade is bright.

London.—All lines of business continue to move well, and the situation generally shows a little change.

Ottawa.—There is a good sorting trade for holiday wholesale lines, although the fact that country trade is a little quiet is having some effect. Collections, however, continue good.

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BROKEN RAIL

CAUSED ACCIDENT AT WOODSTOCK—FIVE PEOPLE INJURED.

A Woodstock, Ont., special despatch:—"While running thirty miles an hour the east