

THE LONG SHADOW OF A MAN

WILLIAM T. ELLIS.
The International Sunday School Lesson for Nov. 14 is "The Power and Authority of Jesus."
Matthew 8 and 9.

What a long shadow a life may cast! Here we gather, millions of us, under prolonged personality of a Roman centurion who lived and died almost two thousand years ago. The immortality of influence, is surely a sobering thought. Once I took a Belgian soldier, who had helped me in an emergency in Russia, to call upon John Wessman, more than a year later I learned that this personal contact with the great American merchant had become the glowing problem in the life of the soldier. My friend's experience, Mr. Wessman, doubtless straightway forgot his friendly, inspiring greeting, and his gift of a book; but he had projected his personality into far distant Belgium and into unmeasured years.

The editor of the most widely read and influential magazine in the world looks on his cleared, flat-topped desk, a silver-framed photograph of his father, who was a Christian minister. This editor wields great power, and the highest among men, even to governments seek his favor in honorable ways, many causes and persons endeavor to affect his policies; but all the while dominant and abiding influence upon him is the remembered man who daily looks out at his son from his desk as he toils. The father was a great preacher and leader when alive; yet who will deny that his greatest work is at present being done through his son, upon whose ideals and service his shaping guiding hand is still laid? The eloquent diagrams who spoke to thousands, is now casting the prolonged shadow of his personality upon the uttermost parts of the earth. He is a fellow to the Roman centurion of our Lesson, who has been a force for faith for many centuries.

In the Roman's Trail

No one person ever does a completed work, or yet is able to measure the sphere or scope of his service. There are prosperous business men working in Sunday School today in whom this labor of love is but incidental to activities which engross their time; and who would freely say that their success is in making money or in building up a business. Nevertheless, by the test of years, it may appear that their real service to the world, although unguessed of them, is the influence they are exerting upon the young life. The shadowing shadow of their character is lengthening in ways they know not. Peculiarly is this true of a parent and a teacher. They live again in lives they have sown. Their own convictions and characters are multiplied over and over, in generations and circles far beyond the reach of their expectations or intention. This sameless Roman centurion of old Capernaum did not for an instant imagine that his friendship and his reverence would enrich centuries and continents far beyond the reach of his mortal life.

Of central interest in the ruins of Capernaum, today, as many of us know from personal observation, is the ancient synagogue presumably the very one built for the Jews by this liberal and reverent Roman. Most of the triumphal arches and mansions, and all the palaces, erected by emperors and senators and other ancient dignitaries have been consumed by the gnawing tooth of time, but the Capernaum synagogue, built in a broad spirit of good will and service, today survives, along with the deathless story of our Lesson, as a memorial to a soldier who lived at his best.

A Model Master

"Social service" may be a new name, but the thing for which it stands is as old as the nobility of human nature. This sameless Roman centurion of the metropolis of Galilee has a sick slave. As an alert man, aware of all the significant news of the day, he had heard of the ministry of Jesus. So he sought the service of the Good Physician for the healing of his retainer. He was a genuine philanthropist, interested in large matters of public beneficence, but no less interested in the needs of the lowliest individuals closest to him. There were no strikes or rebellions among this class's workers, we may be sure.

With the keen eye of a trained observer of men, he saw that Jesus was genuine. He knew he could call upon him for service. As a man of authority himself, he had respect for authority; and he paid unique tribute to the great authority of the Master by the form of his request, and by asking only for a word of healing—the professed himself unworthy to call for the personal presence of Jesus. This fine spirit of reverence and consideration is of the very fibre of greatness. Its significance needs driving home to a generation which jetties and jetties declares itself "as good as anybody else"—if not a little better. Respect for one's superiors is a virtue that is not fashionable in the twentieth century.

What a thrill this contact with the thoroughbred Roman gentleman must have given to Jesus! Here was an understanding heart. Amid all the inconsiderate and selfishness of the rabble by whom He was surrounded, there came this rare instance of tactful appreciation, reverence and overwhelming faith. Of course the Master healed the servant. His own sore heart had been given healing by the conduct of the centurion.

greater than any that had been shown by God's chosen people themselves. Jesus had looked into the heart of the man, and found it in Rome. Judaism had an elaborate wrought jewel cloak; but the jewel for which it was made was outside. We are led to wonder whether the priceless pearl of faith can ever be confined in any structure or organization of men's devising.

Even the visible Church does not hold all of religion. "Other sheep have I which are not of this fold," said the Lord. One of the deeper phenomena of our own day is the amount of real reverence and spirituality and faith to be found outside of all ecclesiastical organizations. Questioning hearts, with an unshakable confidence in the existence and goodness of God, are seeking Him by many avenues, having failed to find Him to their satisfaction in available churches.

Obviously, a more vital type of religion—a truer proclamation of the Christian message and a simple exemplification of the Christian character—is the need of this Church herself. The most devout disciples are the first to confess this. Until the breath of God has blown into the smoldering embers of Christian devotion we shall continue to witness the rebuke of having men and women seek for their living Jehovah outside of His Church. What Jesus said about the centurion's faith was a fact about Israel as well as about the Roman soldier.

Since our world is so full of pilgrims after God, who pass the doors of the churches, we Christians should walk softly and charitably and in constant self-examination, without a shred of arrogance. This is no time for self-righteousness or condescension. The Church's only concern is to know how she may better make known the true God to the world, so that all seasons may find Him whom to know is life. For Jesus so made the Father known by His works and by His word.

A Leader For Democracy

During the early days of the revolution in Russia I often heard a story of a Russian aristocrat, and from foreign diplomats, when alluding to the workmen and peasants. "Two years ago," said one, "I heard exactly the same words over and over at the demonstrating Egyptians by British officers and civil servants. 'Daren swine! Damn swine!'" Not a word of the kind, it revealed, though, the state of mind which caused the revolutions. Failure to enter sympathetically into the spirit of the masses of the people was the cardinal defect of aristocracy. The Jewish sanhedrin displayed it when it snarled at Nicodemus when he foolishly tried to champion Jesus. "This multitude is accursed!"

How a person views people is the test of his character, and also of his qualifications for leadership. Jesus was moved with compassion upon beholding the multitude. His heart ever kindled at the needs of the mob. In this second part of our Lesson, we have the key to the question of Christ which made Him a leader in His own day and a Saviour for the whole world. Weymouth translates the central passage thus:

"And when he saw the crowds He was touched with pity for them, because they were distressed and were fasting on the ground, like sheep which have no shepherd."

One of our modern poets depicts the Apostle Paul's similar attitude toward people: "On when the World is on me to deliver. Lifts the illusion and the truth lies bare: Desert or throng, the city or the river. Meets in a lucid Paradise of air."

"Only like souls I see the folk there—under. Bound who should conquer, slaves who should be kings,—fleeing their one hope with an empty wonder. Sadly contented in a show of things."

"Then with a rush the intolerable craving. Slaves throughout me like a trumpet-call.—Oh to save these! to perish for their saving. Die for their life, he offered for them all!"

Spiritual service and selflessness have lifted the world of today with blood and menace and a universal class struggle. Relief can come only through the spread of this spirit of Christ which actually loves mankind, and is full of yearning for their welfare. There can be no real leaders in the day's democracy who have not this passion for people. This is the touchstone for teacher and preacher and politician and editor, and for every other person who would serve his generation.

GIVEN SCORPION INSTEAD OF BREAD

Methodist Ministers Praise Spracklin and Condemn Government and Citizens.

Cottam, Ont., Nov. 11.—At a meeting of the Methodist ministers and laymen of Windsor district, held here this afternoon, the following resolution was unanimously passed: "That the Windsor district meeting of Methodist ministers and laymen assembled are greatly gratified in the speedy and authoritative justification of Rev. J. O. L. Spracklin as touching the altogether regrettable tragedy in Sandwich. We deeply mourn the death of a fellow citizen, for whose bereaved relatives we have tender sympathy and unfeigned sympathy."

"We also express our abiding confidence in the Christian manhood, integrity and seal of Rev. J. O. L. Spracklin in the exercise of the task assigned to him by the Government in guarding vital interests of the community at this critical juncture of provincial events."

"We regret the absence of heavy co-operation of many prominent citizens of the border cities, whose apathy or thinly-veiled opposition has increased the peril of law enforcement."

"We impeach the legislative and executive bungling over the liquor legislation which has caused tragedies in our midst. A scorpion instead of bread is the guilty response to the prohibition of the liquor traffic."

"We summon loyalty and patriotism to the task of standing behind His Majesty's law, and his duly appointed officers in the prosecution of lawless bootleggers and run-runners, who are devoid of self-respect or civic virtue."

SIGN AN ARMISTICE

London, Nov. 11.—An armistice has been signed between the Armenians and the Turkish Nationalists. It is announced in an Armenian communication dated Nov. 7, received here today.

ity to the mechanism of existence. —Marcus Aurelius.

Jesus never made a choice without a prayer.—J. H. Jewett.

As one lamp lights another, nor grows less. —James Russell Lowell.

The country is fairest which is peopled with the happiest men.—Emerson.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have eternal life. —John 3:16.

God gave us men. Who never shame their mothers; Who never fail their brothers. —Anon.

To sit still and contemplate—to remember the faces of women without desire, to be pleased by the great deeds of men without envy, to be everything and everywhere in sympathy, and yet content to remain where and what you are—is not this to know both wisdom and virtue, and to dwell with happiness? —Stevenson.

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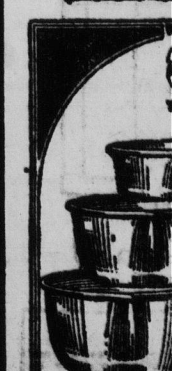
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"My! He Thresh..."
"W... think than I..."
"I did not see then, and a little ment would use..."
"The doctor said and that I had ne tainly was nervo always worryin..."
"It all looks that is just the weak and strong..."
"Why doesn't Chase's Nerve F down in health?"
"But I suppose about it or do no for them. Then do not use it long exhausted nervou..."
"One thing a community will k..."

WEDDINGS.
Smith-Atkinson.
A very pretty wedding was held in the Apple River Baptist Church when Muriel M. youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Atkinson, was united in marriage to Corey both of Apple River. Rev. Dixon performed the ceremony. The bride was tastefully decorated. The bride, coming as she entered the church, was escorted by the arm of her father, Mr. of Lehigh's Wedding M...

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