

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON XIII. DECEMBER 29, 1912
Review—Read John 5: 17-21

I. Topic: Lesson I. Topic: The sovereignty of Christ. Place: On the Sea of Galilee; in Gennesaret. After the feeding of the multitudes Jesus sent his disciples by boat across the sea, while he retired to the mountain for prayer. A storm arose and Jesus appeared to the distressed disciples, walking on the water. Immediately the sea became calm. Many in the land of Gennesaret were healed.

II. Topic: Phariseism. Place: Capernaum. The scribes and Pharisees found fault with Jesus and his disciples because they did not observe the traditions of the elders. Jesus pointed them to the fact that by their traditions they were doing violence to the law.

III. Topic: Genuine faith. Place: Borders of Phenicia; Capernaum. Two events occurred which declared that Jesus came to bless mankind. He healed the daughter of the Syrophenian woman and the centurion's servant, both of whom were Gentiles. Their faith was strongly commended.

IV. Topic: The compassion of Christ. Place: Decapolis. Upon his return from the region of Tyre and Sidon Jesus made a tour of Decapolis, healing a man who was deaf and dumb, and feeding a large multitude.

V. Topic: Christ rebukes. Place: Dalmanutha; Bethsaida. The Pharisees asked Jesus to show them a sign that would prove his Messiahship. This was refused. As Jesus and his disciples were crossing the sea, he warned them against the evil character and life of the Pharisees and of Herod. He healed a blind man near Bethsaida.

VI. Topic: National degeneracy. Place: The kingdom of Israel. The temperance lesson is taken from the writings of Hosea. The distress and degradation of Israel are portrayed. Among the sins of which the people were guilty, drunkenness is prominently mentioned.

VII. Topic: Christ revealed. Place: Caesarea Philippi. In order that the disciples might express their idea of Christ, he asked them who they thought he was. Peter's answer was, "Thou art the Christ." Jesus foretold his death and resurrection. He also taught them what were the conditions and advantages of discipleship.

VIII. Topic: Visions of glory. Place: Mount Hermon, near Caesarea Philippi. Jesus was transfigured in the presence of Peter, James and John. With him also were Moses and Elijah. The disciples were deeply affected by the sight. A voice from heaven was heard declaring that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus again foretold his death and resurrection.

IX. Topic: The necessity of faith. Place: Mount Hermon. The disciples had failed to cast out an evil spirit from an afflicted boy, and the father appealed to Jesus. The Master spoke to the father about faith. Jesus rebuked the evil spirit and he came out of the child. The disciples' failure was because of their lack of faith.

X. Topic: True greatness defined. Place: Capernaum. The disciples questioned among themselves who would be their lack of faith.

XI. Topic: Christ's sovereign kingdom. I. Defines all opposition. II. Prohibits all self-love.

III. Defines all opposition. The lessons of this quarter come within the closing year of Christ's public ministry. The growing opposition to him by the heads of the Jewish church brought before his disciples the marked contrast between the principles of the kingdom of heaven and the ritualism of the Jewish religion, as it existed at that time. Christ's teachings and denunciations against the uselessness and ceremonies of the Jews caused his followers to penetrate more deeply into the spiritual nature of his kingdom. His miracles were such as to bring out the confession of his divinity. The masses were moved to seek his help. Specific cases of healing had the effect of producing deep conviction and establishing definite saving faith. Christ's consideration of the Gentiles in the case of the Canaanitish woman, in behalf of her afflicted daughter and the contrition ruler in behalf of his servant, expressed his purpose in behalf of all nations even though the Jews were hostile to him and to them. The transfiguration wrought a change upon his three aspiring apostles, that they might see the faith which would expand and rise superior to all the odds of doubt and disappointment. It was a proof of his divinity, to which they frequently referred years afterward. It confirmed the faith which he had so unhesitatingly declared, "Jesus was the Christ. The necessity of deep devotion and reliance upon him in all their service, was impressed upon the disciples in their faith in the lunatic boy. Opposition was going against them, but Jesus taught a possibility of success in the midst of it. Unbelief and lack of definite, specific, prevailing prayer was shown to be the cause of further and further presence of opposition. Jesus' word of authority turned all opposition naught so that the lunatic boy was never beyond any danger of further seizure. Even the rebukes of Christ were used to unfold to his disciples the

believing people, that His power was divine, and Himself the compassionate Saviour. The corruption of the people, as shown by the prophets Hosea and Isaiah, was the result of apostasy and hypocrisy and national degeneracy. The times and conditions demanded just such a Saviour as Isaiah described. He, therefore, went about to fulfill God's great purpose in the world, meeting the opposition as a mere incident in the great transformation of the world which His kingdom is designed to accomplish.

II. Prohibits all self-love. Christ's disciples were gathered from among the people where true piety had been set aside for mere will-worship and lip-service. They were among the ignorant and apostate, yet they were transformed into earnest, determined believers in Christ as the Messiah. Their mistaken ideas, relating to His kingdom often appeared to show how little they were able to enter into the real work of soul saving. Ambition and an unforgetting spirit called for patient and forcible teaching. The openness of the disciples to see their faults and their earnestness to discover their weaknesses, gave proof of their sincere spirit of humility and constancy. The little time that remained for the disciples to take in and understand the possibility of Christ's sufferings and death, accounts somewhat for the many awkward attitudes which they assumed when circumstances called for better things. The signs which Jesus uttered on some of these occasions expressed His concern for them, as He saw them in their imperfections, and knew they were to continue as His representatives on earth. True greatness was greatly to be desired and must have place in their character, experience and conduct. They had not developed it with years. They had outgrown the semblance of it as it appears in childhood. Jesus showed them clearly that it must come to them by power outside themselves. They must become partakers of the divine nature as sons of God.

FAKE CONFESSION
Montreal Murderer's Talk Is Disbelieved.

Attempted Kidnapping of Crown Witness' Child.

Montreal, Dec. 23.—It is now claimed by local Italians that Carlo Battista, condemned to hang on Friday for the murder here of a fellow-countryman, made his confession (connecting many of them with a Black Hand society which managed a white slave traffic of continental proportions and was responsible for the death of Petrosino, the Italian detective connected with the New York police force) in the hope that his sentence would be commuted, or at least a reprieve would be granted him until an inquiry could be held. If he did this Battista was disappointed, because the Minister of Justice has declined to interfere.

Detective Sergeant Ralph Micelli, the New York detective who came here to investigate Battista's accusations, left for home last night, convinced that the murderer really knew nothing new about Petrosino's death.

This morning Battista had an interview with his wife and son, who came up from New York to say "Good-bye" to him. He wept bitterly throughout their visit, and vehemently protested his innocence.

A new phase to the Battista case developed last night, when Mrs. Jack M. Ford, the star witness of the case against him, announced that her six-year-old daughter, Margaret, had been kidnapped.

The police, who were convinced that the disappearance of the child was the work of some of Battista's friends, made a thorough search for the little girl, who had been carried off while returning from school during the afternoon.

Late in the evening Margaret was brought home by some friends, who found her in an empty house, in which she said she had been placed by an strange man.

Mrs. Manford also says an attempt to kidnap another of her daughters some weeks ago, was frustrated.

FARM GARDEN

COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS.

The use of commercial fertilizers has been one of the most baffling questions with which the farmer and fruit grower has had to contend. If the application of commercial fertilizers to the land had generally resulted in success, there need be very little said, because they have been in use for some time, and a success. Millions of dollars are spent annually in the United States, and hundreds of thousands in Canada for commercial fertilizers, and it is safe to say that at least half of this large amount is wasted, not because the fertilizers are of poor quality, but because they are not always suitable to the land to which they have been applied.

There is generally an erroneous notion regarding fertile soil, exhausted soil, or over-cropped soil. The prevailing idea is that such soil is infertile because it lacks plant food (I have never yet met a man who could give a fair definition of "plant food") whatever that is. This is, in nearly all cases, entirely wrong. Soil is infertile because of something it has, rather than because of something it lacks. Plant excretions are the chief cause of infertility, and it is in the decomposition of such material that the application of fertilizers of any kind proves of value. Commercial fertilizers may remedy such conditions but, in the majority of cases, they do not, hence a loss and waste of time.

To apply a commercial fertilizer with prospect of success at least, three things are necessary. First, a knowledge of the effect of the previous crop on the soil; secondly, a knowledge of the crop now to be grown and its relation to the excreta of the previous crop, and thirdly, a knowledge of the biology of the soil.

Up to the present these things are known only very vaguely known, consequently the use of commercial fertilizers is more or less like the use of patent medicine. The defect is only occasionally remedied.

Moreover, many of the commercial fertilizers in the process of manufacture have been heated to a temperature so high as to be destructive of all bacterial life. Such are of very doubtful value. In the sale of and in the inspection of commercial fertilizers, the chemical composition is usually given, i. e., so much phosphoric acid, so much potash, and so much nitrogen, as if the value depended on these things. The value depends chiefly upon whether the original bacterial life has been preserved, and whether the constituents of the fertilizer are favorable to the development of nitrifying bacteria of the soil, and to those organisms which prey upon plant excretions.

Certain fertilizers are adapted to certain crops and to certain soils, and the only way to find out which is to try them by using them on part of the field so as to compare the results.

Another common error is that organic matter is taken in by the plant roots. As a matter of fact, roots absorb inorganic matter and water, but no organic matter. The organic matter in the soil is broken down by the action of bacteria and other organisms.

Repeating to a question in the House of Commons to-night as to whether anything had been done to improve conditions in the Putumayo rubber district, Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, stated that the British Consul at Iquitos reported that he had been notified that the whole of the rubber company's staff who had been accused of crimes had been discharged.

It was also reported from Lima that the judge who was investigating the outrages had ordered the arrest of Julio Arana, who, it may be recalled, holds all the ordinary shares of the Amazon company, and for administrative purposes, is practically the company.

THE LOST ATLANTIS
German Explorer Says It Was In Nigeria.

Berlin, Dec. 23.—The Kaiser attended a lecture to-day at the Colonial Office at which the explorer Leo Frobenius told of his discoveries of traces of ancient civilization in British West Africa. His Majesty examined the terra cotta heads which Frobenius described as evidence that the ancient site of Atlantis was in Nigeria. The heads are obviously portraits, and are not the work of negroes.

Frobenius described the old byzantine remains he found in the midst of Africa in the form of magnificent garments which showed the influence of Persian culture on byzantine foundation. The lecturer said that although most of his friends were in British territory he knew the ruins of a Persian city which was in a German colony.

The Kaiser immediately said: "No effort must be spared to bring these to light."

ROUND HOUSE EXPLOSION.
Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 23.—An explosion in the boiler room of the New York Central roundhouse at Summerville early to-day started a fire which spread with great rapidity, and destroyed the entire structure, which was of stone. Fifteen locomotives housed in the building were damaged beyond repair. At the local office of the road the damage was given as \$150,000.

Twelve men, who went in the boiler room at the time of the explosion, had narrow escapes from death.

THE POULTRY WORLD

NOTES.

The young black Leghorns and other black breeds are white upon the breast and under parts. And while the white feathers give place to jet-black ones. Many beginners at once condemn the breeder for mow who mow purchased black fowls because of this white showing during the early life of the fowls.

A piece of tin hung in the open air near the poultry yard will reflect the sun's rays and may alarm the ever-trustful hawk. Shaping the tin like a cube increases the effect.

Feed the old moulting hens sparingly on garden refuse for a month or more. Do not permit them to get cross and fatten inwardly, as they will if allowed to eat what they wish at all time of the year. Feed very little corn.

Sow rye in the poultry yards and runs that are not in use now for next spring's green feed. The rye will make a nice growth from now on and will be in prime condition for the poultry to run on in the early spring. Clover is better, but it is now late to plant and secure a good stand before winter is too near.

Feed the table scraps to the chickens instead of throwing them away. They are worth more to poultry, and every thing that falls from the table dry of meat, vegetables, leavings, cooked meat bits are relished, and are good for the poultry.

Good poultry in our markets to-day is as great a luxury as ever. Eggs command as good a market for consumption, compared with other eatables, taking the year through. Nobody who has a surplus of fresh eggs they do not wish to eat or sell, can dispose of them at full rates. Over one-half of the poultry and eggs are sold in the winter months, is not up to a high grade.

The wise beginner will purchase only the best stock when starting his foundation strain. The fault with many starting in poultry, although fully able to pay a fair price, cheap stock takes their eye not when seen—but in advertisements, and in many cases they receive just what they pay for. It is not the intention of the writer to impress on the beginner that cheap stock is not good. In many cases the breeder needs room and sells his stock at a low price, but these cases should be found before buying. Stock no wis at its cheapest, breeders wishing to properly raise a house for the winter the young stock.

Old hens never lose their teeth, but the young poultry is never without good sharp grit to aid digestion. Many failing fowls can be traced to lack of good sharp grit in the hen house.

Build the poultry building now. Do not wait until wet, damp weather of fall and early winter is at hand. The poultry will do better also if placed in a good, roomy poultry building that they can be comfortable in during rainy spells. As good poultry house goes a great way toward making poultry raising a profitable business.

The season of 1913 looks promising at this writing. The price of poultry and eggs showed a margin of profit, and orders are being booked now for future delivery. Poultry raisers are being educated to a higher grade of stock. The beginner, with all the advice he receives, should make a better start and reach success sooner than formerly. Now is the time to advertise in a safe and sane manner. Steady advertising is the proper thing for the best results. Pick out the best papers covering the different zones and stick to them.

The farmers who expect a big egg yield from old hens will find that instead of laying expected in November and December they will commence in January, February and March. They have as a whole not fully recovered from the month and will not lay in paying quantities until the middle of the year. Pullet hatchlings at the right time, and properly grown, are the real egg producers in fall and early winter.

Again we remind our readers that it is false economy to purchase a low grade of fed simply because it is cheap. It cannot have the food value and is a waste of money. As it will not give the results that a good clean food will, it is wise to purchase the feed at the lowest figure that can be obtained, but the grade must be good to give paying results.

Wheat, oats and corn should always be fed. They are staple grains and contain food elements that maintain the health of the fowls in good condition. In addition bran, middlings, ground oats, alfalfa meal, with 12 per cent of beef scraps. These feed contain the elements to manufacture meat and can be fed with safety and results.

The breeder with a reputation behind him is the one that will always be in the front rank in the poultry industry. They are the ones that sell hatching eggs, day-old chicks or hatching stock at an advance, giving full value and often more, to the purchaser—although now and then one can hear a purchaser making a kick, generally being a beginner, who really expects to get the money expended.

It should be remembered that if every chick lived and proved a prize winner one could not purchase a setting of hatching eggs from any breeder for \$2.50 to \$4.00 per setting. The buyer must make the same chance as the breeder, and if the breeder sells the same eggs as used at home the purchaser has the same chance to produce good stock.

Trap-net the pullets for future breeding. This is the only sure method of telling which hen laid the egg, and how many she produced in a year; whether she was a winter layer or not. There are many star boarders in a flock, those that lay but few eggs in the course of a year. To breed from the fowls of this kind means a poor egg yield in the future. Trap-net, if only for the three winter months. This will enable the poultry-breeder to at least get a line on the winter egg producers and weed out the dross.

Don't be afraid of fresh air in the hen-house. Plenty of good air means healthy hens. If the house is properly cleaned a healthy hen will lay, if properly fed and natural. Fowls that are compelled to live in houses that are damp are in no condition to do their best. A house full of sick hens is a source of loss. Colds can be cured, but it takes time, and during the time of their illness and for some time afterward there is no egg production. Prevent colds by properly housing—plenty of fresh air without draughts will do the trick.

Regularity in feeding is beneficial in many ways. The fowls soon get used to regular hours of feeding, and if not fed regularly are reckless. Grain should be fed the first thing in the morning and at 5 or 6 o'clock in the afternoon at this season of the year.

It is of little use to attempt to keep fowls unless they are well cared for. Neglected fowls will only prove a source of loss to their owners; well-cared-for fowls a source of profit.

Keep the poultry houses and runs well brought a goodly share of clean profits, and is one of the first essentials in making poultry pay. No matter how fine the stock, if the poultry house is not kept clean, loss will occur.

One cannot expect to raise strong, healthy fowls if they are kept in a starved and neglected condition. There are too many weak flocks throughout the country. Strong, healthy fowls mean good profits.

Don't crowd, if one wishes to have fowls that will do their best. Above all, do not cram into a space where 25 only can be made comfortable 50 or 100 birds. Allow four square feet for each fowl, and you will be on the safe side. 150 per cent can use less space with good results.

The outlook for a good poultry year is encouraging after the bad winter and spring of 1912. The price of poultry and eggs is good and going up, with every indication of reaching the high-water mark this winter. There is a scarcity of maturing pullets. Many beginners

RUSSIA UNSELFISH

Has Not Ulterior Designs In the Balkans.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 23.—"There is no ground for suspecting Russia of selfish designs in the Balkans," was the statement of Premier Kokovov, in the Duma, to-day, in the course of a speech on the policy of the Russian Government.

The Russian Premier paid a tribute to the warlike virtues and the unselfishity of the Balkan peoples. He said that, as the great Slavonic and orthodox power, Russia could not be indifferent as to "whether they obtain better conditions of existence and thus escape dangerous complications in the future."

He continued: "The Russian Government is glad it has not to change its calm attitude. There is no ground for suspecting Russia of selfish designs in the Balkans, and to her friendly agreements with other great powers, and sure of the latter's support, she sees no use in setting up one group of powers against another."

The Premier concluded by congratulating Great Britain on her initiative in suggesting an ambassadorial discussion of the points at issue.

RUBBER CRIMES

Putumayo Investigation Reveals Big Expenditures.

London, Dec. 23.—At today's session of the commission which is investigating the outrages in the Putumayo rubber district of Peru, former Secretary Giedgowd, who went to Peru to audit the books of the rubber company, testified that he did not regard as excessive the payment of \$350,000 for the purchase of rifles, marked "incidental expenditure" for the protection of the Indians from jaguars and blowflies. Mr. Giedgowd said he did not see or hear of any atrocities, but admitted that it was possible he had been hoodwinked.

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MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS

FARMERS' MARKET.
Dressed hogs, 11.25
Butter, dairy, 0.22
Eggs, fresh, dozen, 0.32
Do, new-laid, dozen, 0.35
Chickens, lb., 0.17
Ducks, lb., 0.17
Turkeys, lb., 0.18
Apples, winter, bushel, 2.50
Potatoes, bag, 1.00
Celery, dozen, 0.20
Cabbage, dozen, 0.40
Beef, forequarter, 11.00
Do, hindquarters, cwt., 12.50
Do, common sides, cwt., 11.00
Do, medium, cwt., 8.50
Do, common, cwt., 6.50
Mutton, light, cwt., 7.50
Veal, common, cwt., 8.00
Do, prime, cwt., 11.00
Lamb, cwt., 12.50

SUGAR MARKET.
Sugars are quoted in Toronto, in bags, per cwt., as follows:
Extra granulated, St. Lawrence, 3.48
Do, Redpath's, 3.48
Do, Acadia, 3.48
Imperial, granulated, 3.48
No. 1 yellow, 3.48
In barrels, 6c per cwt. more; car lots, 5c less.

LIVE STOCK.
Toronto despatch: Both the City Cattle markets this morning there was a big demand for good cattle, but poorer stock went off slower. Sheep and hogs showed no change in price.

Receipts: Union Stock Yards—993 cattle, 512 sheep, 520 hogs and 192 calves; City Cattle Market—88 cattle, 125 sheep, 85 hogs.

Export cattle, choice, 6.00
Do, medium, 5.25
Do, bulls, 4.75
Butchers' cattle, choice, 5.25
Do, medium, 4.50
Butchers' cows, choice, 4.50
Do, medium, 3.50
Do, canners, 2.00
Do, bulls, 3.00
Feeding steers, 4.50
Stockers, choice, 6.00
Do, light, 4.00
Springers, choice, each, 40.00
Sheep, ewes, 4.25
Bucks and culs, 2.50
Lamb, 6.25
Hogs, fed and watered, 7.50
Hogs, fresh, 7.00
Calves, 5.00

OTHER MARKETS.
WINNIPEG MARKETS.
Wheat—Open, High, Low, Close
December, 80 1/2, 80 3/4, 80 1/2, 80 3/4
May, 81 1/2, 81 3/4, 81 1/2, 81 3/4
July, 82 1/2, 82 3/4, 82 1/2, 82 3/4
Oats—Open, High, Low, Close
December, 25 1/2, 25 3/4, 25 1/2, 25 3/4
May, 26 1/2, 26 3/4, 26 1/2, 26 3/4
MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET.
Minneapolis—Close—Wheat—Dec., 83 1/2, 83 3/4, 83 1/2, 83 3/4
No.