

The Quiet Hour.

The Resurrection of Jesus.

S. S. Lesson.—Apr. 7th 1901; Luke 24: 1-12.
GOLDEN TEXT.—1 Cor. 15: 20. Now is Christ risen from the dead.

They came . . . bringing the spices, v. 1. These spices furnish conclusive evidence that the women, at any rate, had no expectation of a resurrection. They expected to find the body of Jesus lying in the tomb as it had been placed there by Joseph and Nicodemus. Nothing was further from their thoughts than a resurrection. When at last they came to believe in this, it was not a too credulous acceptance of something they had been looking for, or a delusion that gave a fancied reality to a creature of their own heated imaginations, but a slow and deliberate assent to "many infallible proofs." (Acts 1: 3.)

They found the stone rolled away, v. 2. An angel of the Lord had descended from heaven and rolled it away. (Matt. 28: 2) If we are in the path of duty, when we come to the places where we expected to find great difficulties, we shall often find that the Lord has sent His messenger to remove them. And when they are not removed, we shall be strengthened to surmount them.

They . . . found not the body of the Lord Jesus, v. 3. If one does not believe that Jesus rose from the dead, he must believe one of two other things, either that the friends of Jesus removed His body from the tomb, or that His enemies did so. If the friends of Jesus took it away, they must have done so in order to support their assertion that He had risen. But they made no such assertion, nor did they believe it until they were compelled to do so by proofs that could not be gainsaid. Was it His enemies who rilled the grave? Then how eager they would have been to produce the body and give the lie to the report of the resurrection when it began to circulate. Those who deny the resurrection have never been able to satisfactorily answer the question: What became of the body of Jesus?

Behold, two men stood by them, v. 4. In nearly all the appearances of angels recorded in the Bible they have come in the likeness of men, and using human tones and speech. The angels take a deep interest in human affairs and especially in the welfare of God's children. In Matt. 18: 10 it is said that the angels of children stand in the immediate presence of God; and in Hebrews 1: 14 we are told that the angels are "all ministering spirits, set forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." To Jesus, in the temptation in the wilderness and, again, in His sore agony in Gethsemane, angels came to minister strength and comfort. Heaven is not so far from earth as we are fain to think, and heaven's treasures of ministry are at the disposal of each least saint.

The Son of man must be delivered up . . . and be crucified and . . . rise again, v. 7. The testimony of heaven to the fixedness of the purposes of God. Men did to Jesus only what God willed. Herod and Pilate united against Him and they accomplished—what? Only what God had determined before to be done. The Roman soldiers, when they nailed Him to the cross and raised Him up to the sneers and insults of the crowd, were carrying out the divine intention that He should be "lifted up" and so "draw all men unto Him." (John 12: 32) It

was God's will that Jesus should rise again: and not the huge stone rolled to the door of the sepulchre, nor the authority of the Roman seal, nor the watchfulness of the guard could prevent His rising.

It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary, the mother of James, v. 10. They failed in their errand. They found no use for the spices which they had brought, but their names have become immortal. The loving thought which brought them to the tomb, though it was prevented from taking the shape of outward deed, has shed its fragrance wherever the gospel has gone. Not even an unfulfilled thought of love will our gracious Master allow to pass unnoticed or unrewarded, so quick is He to see and so gracious and ample in recognizing.

For Dominion Presbyterian.

How to Win Young Men to Christ.

BY W. A. BRADLEY, B. A., BERLIN.

Substance of a paper read by Mr. Bradley at Presbyterian Conference in Galt, who prefaced his remarks by saying that from every quarter we hear the cry, "What will we do with the young men?" How can they be won to Christ? He instanced the testimony of the travelling Secretary of the Y. M. C. A.'s of the Colleges of this country and the U. S. to show the small per cent. of those graduating from our Universities who were professing Christians; also the testimony of a Committee of Men in a certain American city who visited on a certain Sabbath all the churches in the city, and found less than ten per cent. of the young men of the city present at the services, and remarked it was not without reason that men were saying "What shall we do with the young men."

Our Lord said on one occasion, "Follow thou me and I will make you fishers of men." In this rule is the solution of the problem to be found.

Winning souls is a divine art. How to do it is not learned in the schools. Our colleges and theological seminaries may turn out great scholars, eloquent preachers, and eminent theologians but they cannot impart the heavenly accomplishment of winning men to Christ. The man who does that must know intimately the Lord Jesus Christ and be taught of him.

I. THE MAN WHO WOULD BE A SUCCESSFUL FISHER OF MEN MUST HIMSELF BE A THOROUGHLY CONVERTED MAN. The carnally minded Christian is an almost insuperable barrier in the way of sinners coming to Christ. If we would lead others to the Master we must turn away from all sin and worldliness, yielding to Christ the absolute lordship over our thoughts, purposes and actions.

II. THE MAN WHO WOULD HAVE REAL SUCCESS IN WINNING YOUNG MEN TO CHRIST MUST HIMSELF BE A MANLY TYPE OF CHRISTIAN.

The man who is a child in his life will only have the respect of a child. Young men are attracted by manliness. Therefore the one thing essential in bringing men to Christ is first to win them to yourself and when you have accomplished this, then if you are faithful, and about your Master's business, you have gone far toward winning them for Christ.

Now to win young men to yourself there must be "Tact and Contact"; you must watch your opportunity, and by some kind word, or kind deed, when he may be out of employment, or be taken with sickness, or when some sorrow has touched him, seek to reach his heart. Through his heart seek to

reach his head and through his head and heart his life.

III. TO BE A SUCCESSFUL FISHER OF MEN you must have a love for their soul's salvation. If you have not this, your work will be mechanical and powerless. But if like Paul, you have "great heaviness and increasing pain in your heart" for the unsaved there will be an earnestness in your tone, and manner that will impress the most careless. This love for souls is a grace of the Spirit, and will be bestowed upon all who earnestly seek it, Phil. 4: 19.

IV. TO BE A SUCCESSFUL FISHER OF MEN, you must have a working knowledge of your Bible. The word of God is the sword of the Spirit. The instrument that God uses to convict of sin, to reveal Christ, and to regenerate men. You must be able to meet all their difficulties with the word, and from the word show them that Christ is the Saviour they need, and that without him they must perish.

V. THE MAN WHO WOULD BE A SUCCESSFUL FISHER OF MEN MUST BE A MAN OF PRAYER. Solid work in soul winning must be accomplished by prayer at every step. The poverty and powerlessness of the average Christian is due to neglect of prayer. James answers the question of many a minister who is asking, "Why have I so little success in my ministry," "Ye have not because you ask not." So I say that the man who would be a successful fisher of men must be a man of much prayer. We must ask God to lead us to the right person, to give us the right word for him, and to carry on His own work in that heart after we have done our part. If there is anything the Christian worker in this hurrying age needs to have impressed upon his mind it is the necessity of more prayer.

VI. TO BE A SUCCESSFUL FISHER OF MEN we must be baptized with the Holy Ghost. "Ye shall receive power," said our departing Lord, "After that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." The condition of soul winning power is the same today: "After that the Holy Ghost is come upon you."

Brethren let us seek this enduing power and at the same time a longing anxiety for the salvation of the souls of men. Just here is the serious lack of the Church today, we do not feel for souls as we should. We do not weep over the lost as our fathers did. We do not understand Paul's passionate frenzy, and the Saviour's bloody sweat, as they contemplated the frightful ravages sin was making in the souls of those whom they loved. We have forgotten how Martin Luther was bent almost double as he pleaded with men to turn to God and live. We have forgotten the manly tears of Thomas Chalmers as he urged men to flee from the wrath to come. We have forgotten how Robert Murray McCheyne and Edward Payson were so eaten up of zeal for God and man that they worked themselves into early graves.

May God give us a new sense of the soul's value. May God flash upon us anew the awfulness of sin. May God bring us to what the Bible calls "travail" for souls. Then young men will be won to Christ, and old as well as young born unto God. For the Lord says through Isaiah, "As soon as Zion travailed she brought forth children."

Late Foreign Mission Notes.

Mr. Slimmon is still acting as interpreter to the British troops. He is sent upon many expeditions to deal with the Boxer up-risings that are purely imaginary. The French and German soldiers are excitable, and easily originate and believe false reports.