

THE S. S. LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON,
JAN. 9.

Lesson II. Baptism and Temptation
of Jesus, Matt. 3. 13 to 4. 11.
Golden Text, Heb. 2. 18.

Verse 13. Then cometh Jesus—To get the point of this statement one must keep the background of the crowds coming to John's baptism.

To be baptized of him—Not confessing his sins, as all the others had done, but for the purpose mentioned in verse 15.

14. I have need to be baptized of thee—Though John and Jesus were closely related, it is not necessary to assume that John knew him. His very bearing was enough to convince the Baptist that here was no ordinary candidate, but One beside whom he was most unworthy.

15. It becometh us to fulfil all righteousness—He must leave undone nothing which had been revealed as the will of God. The symbolical act of baptism would not necessarily mean the same to all who submitted to it. While, to most, it meant a break with the past, and an entrance upon a better life, to Jesus it meant an entrance upon "a new phase of the accomplishment of his mission." Thus it took the place of the anointing which marked the assumption of their duties by the kings of old. But, by submitting to this ordinance, he was numbered among transgressors.

17. The Spirit of God descending as a dove—We learn from John 1. 32 that the vision was given to John as well as to Jesus; whether the multitude saw it or did not see it we are not told. The dove is a fitting symbol of the Spirit, because of its gentleness and innocence.

A voice saying, This is my beloved Son—The voice and the vision were a complete disclosure of the Messiahship of Jesus. By a Jew no fuller attestation that he was the Messiah could be asked than this voice calling him Son of God.

In whom I am well pleased—This would make it impossible to classify Jesus with the multitude who, while being baptized, were confessing their sins. The words also imply that those who are found in him are also well pleasing to God. This and the preceding verse constitute a strong scriptural support of the doctrine of the Trinity.

Chapter 4, verse 1. Led up of the Spirit—Indicating that this momentous event in the life of our Lord was specifically ordained of God (compare Heb. 2. 10).

Into the wilderness—The wild desert waste west of Jordan was infested with wild beasts. "The temptation of the first Adam took place in a garden, that is, in a universe as yet unspoiled by sin. The temptation of the second Adam took place in a wilderness, that is, in a world rendered desolate by his fall, and the ultimate effects of his victory will be to make it a garden again."

Tempted of the devil—The existence of a personal power of evil is plainly taught by Jesus. It is extremely difficult to conceive of an impersonal evil force existing in opposition to the purpose of God. Some will find it easier to think of Satan confronting Jesus face to face on the threshold of his ministry, for the decisive struggle, while others will think of his tempting Jesus merely through evil suggestion. Allowance must be made for Oriental metaphor.

2. He had fasted forty days and forty nights—Luke and Matthew differ as to the order of the temptations, but there seems to be no attempt to give them a strict chronological order.

3. If thou are the Son of God—An expression of doubt as to his Messiahship.

Command that these stones become bread—The problem of Jesus was how to gain ascendancy over men, and what sort of ascendancy it was to be. First, he is tempted to build his kingdom on bread. Why should he, possessed of superhuman powers, perish in this wilderness for want of food?

4. Man shall not live by bread alone—His mission could be fulfilled only by his obedience to the will of God. To use his miraculous power for his own advantage would be to set up his will as against the Father's. By accepting this condition he proved his utter willingness to share the full human conflict. Duty became more than food.

5-7.—The second temptation was to gain the ascendancy over the sons of men by dazzling their senses (Denney). The crowds would

be gathered at the passover feast, and his casting himself headlong from the dizzy height of the temple parapet would awaken the wonder of people who loved marvels and sought a sign. Would not his Father's angels bear him up on their hands, according to the promise of the ancient psalm, and he be preserved from danger? But Jesus shrank from any such cut to dominion over men. What he desired was not the applause of the gaping crowd but the homage of believing hearts. From one of his favorite books, Deuteronomy, he refutes the suggestion of Satan, showing that he cannot expect the shelter of God in such a selfish and spectacular course.

8-10. Finally, the devil taketh him to an exceeding high mountain, from whose height he beholds Jericho, the City of the Palms; westward the shining minarets of the holy city; on all sides the land of Israel; the roads leading to Damascus, Persia, Egypt, Arabia, and the Mediterranean coast. Here was the vision at least of all the kingdoms of the world, whose glory was unquestioned. The people were looking for a victorious king who should liberate Israel from the hated yoke and restore, in greater splendor, the throne of David. Doubtless, also, it was in Satan's power to give Jesus these things, in this way: His acceptance of the earthly kingship would be equivalent to his consenting to fall down and worship Satan; for his ordained course was not one of compromise with evil but of the worship and single service of God. His answer to the question as to the kind of kingdom he should establish was that it should be an alliance with God for spiritual ends, not with evil for a worldly kingship.

11. Then the devil leaveth—In the threefold temptation he had exhausted the avenues of approach to the soul of Jesus, whom he found unassailable.

Angels ministered unto him—The ministry of angelic spirits seems to have been precious to Jesus (Luke 22. 43). It ought to be a comfort to all Christians to know that the family of God in heaven have an abiding interest in all that pertains to our human lot.

MAYOR WAS A FORGER.

Was Chief of a Gang Operating in Sicily.

Dramatic incidents are linked with the arrest of Signor Diego Cutrufelli, mayor of Graniti, near Taormina, Sicily, as chief confederate in a big gang of "gentlemen" forgers. For months past the Italian Government has tried to track the disseminators of an immense number of false bank notes, whereby hundreds of the Sicilian peasantry have been victimized.

Whenever a suspect happened to be taken into custody the mayor of Graniti would almost invariably put in first-rate testimonials on behalf of the prisoner, or he would attend the hearing of the charge in person, and laugh at the "stupidity" of the police, and demand the immediate release of the accused.

His worship has played the trick once too often, and the suspicions of the magistrates were aroused. The government, acting upon secret information, despatched a brigadier with a squad of carabinieri, from Palermo, with instructions to make a thorough search for the forger's den. In order to keep the townsfolk off the real scent the brigadier availed himself of a local tradition which says that the notorious Sicilian brigand, Castro, who ended a dare-devil career by murdering Commendatore Ferrari, a rich landlord, of Graniti, buried his booty somewhere in the neighborhood, before his hasty flight to the United States.

The brigadier explained that the carabinieri had a clue, and had come to dig for the hidden treasure. When, however, the exploration work began to be extended to the mayor's own premises, consternation was caused by the swift disappearance of a number of leading men in local affairs. Such of the mayor's colleagues as remained were closely watched by the police.

The efforts of the diggers were soon rewarded, for, striking upon a massive marble slab that concealed the entrance to the forgers' cave, they found a laboratory, well provided with acids, a printing press, and engraving blocks, and, in fact, all the usual apparatus of the professional forger. Twenty thousand pounds' worth of exquisitely-forged bank notes were ready for circulation.

Mistress—"Bridget, it always seems to me that the crankiest mistresses get the best cooks." Cook—"Ah, so on wid yer blarney!"

WOMEN WHO SUFFER

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Give Regularity and Good Health.

Every woman at some time needs a tonic. At special times unusual demands are made upon her strength. Where these are added to the worry and hard work which falls to her lot, weakness will result unless the blood is fortified to meet the strain.

Weak women find in Dr. Williams' Pink Pills the tonic exactly suited to their needs. Most of the ills with which they suffer are due to bloodlessness—a condition which the Pills readily cure. These pills save the girl who enters into womanhood in a bloodless condition from years of misery, and afford prompt and permanent relief to the woman who is bloodless, and therefore weak. Mrs. R. Fisher, Coates Mills, N. B., says: "Sometime ago my system was in a very anaemic condition as the result of an internal hemorrhage caused by an accident. Though I had the services of a skilled doctor for a time, I did not recover my strength, and gradually I grew so weak that I could not do any house-work. As I seemed to grow steadily weaker I became much discouraged, for previous to my accident I had always been a healthy woman. About this time I received a pamphlet telling me of the strengthening powers of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I procured a box at once and began using them, when they were gone I got three boxes more, and by the time I had used these I found myself somewhat stronger and my appetite much better. Before I began the pills I could scarcely walk up stairs, and could do no work at all. Now after taking three boxes I was able to walk out in the open air. I kept on with the pills, and after using six boxes was delighted to find that I could again attend to my household affairs. I took two more boxes of the pills, and I felt that I was as well as ever I had been, and equal to any kind of exertion. I have since recommended Dr. Williams' Pink Pills to friends with beneficial results."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by all medicine dealers or will be sent by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 by The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

NEW ELECTRIC HEATER.

The Bastian electric heater, recently invented in England, consists of tubes of quartz containing a spiral of nichel or other wire mounted in a frame, from which they can readily be removed for renewal. Within a few seconds after the current is turned on the tubes become incandescent, exposing a large red-hot surface, which can be used for cooking or heating.

Our idea of a good man is one who merely thinks his swear words.

A RESOURCEFUL QUEEN.

How Queen Alexandra Kept Her Promise.

Queen Alexandra and the Empress Marie of Russia recently purposed to visit the aged Countess Donneskjold-Samsøe, who is living at Stege, in Moen, one of the Danish Islands. The Countess has been connected with the Danish Court since childhood.

The Russian Imperial yacht Czar-eva was ordered from St. Petersburg expressly to convey their Majesties to the island, and the visit was arranged to take place on a recent Saturday.

But on Friday night a fierce gale blew, and it was still raging on Saturday morning. Meanwhile great preparations had been made all over the island to welcome the Queen and her sister.

The commander of the Czarevna informed the Empress that it was impossible to sail through the narrow straits leading to the island in such weather. On hearing this the Queen, without saying a word, went into the next room, telephoned to Copenhagen, and ordered a special train. In this way the royal ladies would have merely to cross the straits separating Moen from Zealand in the ordinary steamer, whereas the journey by yacht, though pleasant in fine weather, would have meant a considerable distance in a stormy sea.

"In twenty minutes a train will be ready," was the reply.

The Queen went back to the room where her sister was still discussing with the commander the bad weather. In a few minutes the two sisters left for the railway station. The special train was already waiting for them and departed without delay. There was indescribable delight on the island, where for a week the population had been busily decorating their streets and houses for the royal visit, which would never have taken place if the Queen had not given proof of her resourcefulness.

"I know," said Jake, bracing himself again; "but now I can get at the other handier."

Many a man compels himself to believe that he is having a good time when he is spending more money than he can afford.

A GAMBLER'S SUICIDE.

Left a Pathetic Letter to His Wife.

"He yielded to temptation, and evidently made a final plunge on the Cesarewitch for the purpose of recovering himself, but could not do it, and then took the final step." Such was the coroner's summing-up of the evidence at the inquest on the body of William Sherwood, master of the Malton Workhouse, England, who, a recent issue of the London Daily Chronicle tells, was found dying from the effects of carbolic acid poisoning.

By the man's side was found a pitiful letter addressed to his wife, in which he said:

My Dearest Wife.—This will be the last you will hear of me in this world. I yielded to temptation, and now I am going to take the whole upon myself. Look to my two fine boys, and do entreat them never to start the cursed gambling. This has been the only thing between us, hasn't it, my dear? I cannot face out what hangs over my head, but I can say something about one of the heads who poses as a gentleman in Malton, but my blood be upon him. Good-bye, and God bless you all, and if there is a loving Saviour may He have mercy upon me.—Your miserable husband, W. S.

A Malton chemist stated that on Wednesday evening Sherwood sent for two shillings' worth of opium for experimenting with plants, but witness refused to supply it.

A representative of another firm of Malton chemists spoke of supplying Sherwood with an eight-ounce bottle of acid, which it was stated he had no authority to purchase for the workhouse on his own responsibility.

The jury returned a verdict of suicide whilst temporarily insane, and considered the firm of chemists had not acted carefully in supplying carbolic acid without the doctor's orders.

MOST MEN ARE.

"He's perfectly at ease in any situation."

"I'll bet he isn't. I'm willing to wager right now that he'd be embarrassed if some one should ask him to say grace at a dinner party."

\$500 GASOLINE LAUNCH

23 Feet Long by 6 Feet Beam.
12 h.p. Fairbanks-Morse Marine Enable Cylinder Engine

Very strong Hull built for heavy seas. Boat fitted with Conboy Automatic Top and large wicker chairs. Complete outfit of tools, etc., all in first-class order. In use only a short time.

This Boat is Being Sold at a Sacrifice at Above Price

Box 22, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto.

HEAR WHY
WE
SPEAK
FOR
Zam-Buk
THE GREAT HERBAL BALM

INJURED FOOT CURED.

"I speak for Zam-Buk because it cured me of a terribly bad foot," says Mrs. Alice Berryman of 190 John St. North, Hamilton. She adds: "The injury was caused by a wagon wheel, and the sore was on my right foot. It became very inflamed and swollen and so painful that I fainted away. In spite of treatment, the wound got no better and the foot became more and more swollen until it was several times its usual size. The flesh was terribly bruised and blackened and it was quite impossible for me to walk. My husband's mother at last brought me a box of Zam-Buk. This was applied to the foot and it was surprising how soon I found relief from the severe pain. A further supply of Zam-Buk was obtained and I persevered in using this balm alone. In a couple of days the swelling had gone down considerably, the discoloration was less distinct and the pain was banished. In four days I could go about as usual; the bruised and injured foot had been thoroughly cured by the timely use of Zam-Buk."

Did you ever ask yourself:

"How is it that Zam-Buk is so popular?" It is because it is superior and different to other salves. Contrast them! Most salves are nine-tenths animal oil or fat. Zam-Buk hasn't a trace of animal fat in it. Most salves contain mineral coloring matter. Zam-Buk is absolutely without! Many salves contain poisonous astringents. Zam-Buk doesn't. Zam-Buk is actually more powerfully antiseptic than crude carbolic acid. Yet it stings instead of causing pain and smarting when put on a wound.

It heals more quickly than any known substance, abscesses, ulcers, eczema, blood-poisoning, cuts, scalp sores, chaps and all skin injuries and diseases. All druggists and stores sell at 50c a box or Zam-Buk Co., Toronto, for price. Send 1c stamp for trial box.

POISONED FINGER HEALED.

Mrs. Frank St. Denis of 305 Thompson St., Winnipeg, speaks for Zam-Buk because it cured her of a poisoned finger, which had caused her days of agony. Hear her experience. She says:

"One morning, while washing, I felt a slight pain in the end of my finger. This gradually got more acute until by the evening of the next day the end of the finger had become swollen and hard and so blue I became alarmed.

"The pain from it was almost too much to bear. It made me turn quite sick! Poultices of first one kind and then another were applied, but seemed to give me no relief. My daughter-in-law, who had had some previous experience with Zam-Buk obtained a box for me. I anointed the sore place liberally with this balm, and in a few hours, the throbbing aching pains were subdued."

Further applications of Zam-Buk gave me more ease, so that I could get a little sleep. In a few days the nail came off, but after that Zam-Buk seemed to reduce the inflammation quickly. I continued its use until in the end it had brought about a complete cure.