

THE S. S. LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON,
JULY 24.

Lesson IV. The Transfiguration,
Matt. 17. 1-8, 14-20. Golden
Text, Matt. 17. 5.

Verse I. After six days—Luke's statement that it was "about eight days after" is doubtless only another way of reckoning a week. The variations in the accounts by Mark and Luke make an interesting study.

Peter . . . James . . . John—On several other occasions they were the picked companions of Jesus.

2. He was transfigured before them—It is idle to attempt to say just what took place. The word here used is, literally, "metamorphosed," which would have a familiar sound to any who were versed in classical lore. Perhaps that accounts for Luke's variation, "The fashion of his countenance was altered." Luke also mentions that the change occurred while he was praying. At any rate, though Jesus himself calls it a "vision" (verse 9), it was real—a revelation of reality, it may be, not accessible to the senses under all circumstances, but no mockery of the senses (Luke 9. 32).

His face did shine—Compare John's description of the glorified Jesus (Rev. 1). His appearing thus, in the likeness of his radiant resurrection body, would be a reassuring promise, to the perplexed disciples, that the death he had prophesied would not end all, but that, as he recently declared, he should come "in the glory of the Father."

3. Moses—Representing the old law, as Elijah represented the prophets. Their talking with Jesus suggests the unity of the Old and New Testaments. Luke alone gives us an inkling of their converse: "They spoke of his departure which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem."

4. Peter answered—Once more he expresses his disapproval of any proceeding which should end in tragedy at Jerusalem. Luke says that he knew not what he was saying. But, ridiculous as the speech seems, it shows that the loyal apostle was eager to grasp at any straw which would indicate a way of escape for his Master. So he cries impetuously, "It is good for us to be here. Why face the disaster at Jerusalem? He wished to prolong their stay amid scenes of such ineffable wonder, rather than court danger, and offers with his own hands to set up a tent for each of these great personages.

5. A bright cloud—Compare the pillar of cloud in the wilderness, and the cloud that filled Solomon's temple. Like them, this was the external manifestation of the invisible Divine Presence, the cloud of God himself. One of the fathers explains it as the glory of the Trinity. Compare the record in 2 Pet. 1. 16-18.

This is my beloved Son—Although he was to be despised and rejected of men, the Father was well pleased with his course. His prophecy of death not only accorded with Moses and the prophets but agreed also with the divine purpose, and, accordingly, met with heavenly approval. His disciples, therefore, were not to try to find an easier way for him, but to hear him—an injunction which is found in all three Gospels, and distinguishes this voice from that heard at the Baptism.

8. They saw no one, save Jesus only—Moses, Elijah, God himself manifest in the shining cloud, all have disappeared from the scene. Seeing Jesus we see everything—all there is in the law for us, all that the prophets foretold and declare, all that God purposes for the redemption of men.

14. When they were come to the multitude—The experiences on the mount had taken place the night previous. While Jesus and his three disciples were gone the crowd, who had discovered his retreat near Caesarea Philippi, surrounded the nine, and with many more (Mark says, "a great multitude about them, and the scribes") now confront Jesus upon his return.

15. My son . . . is epileptic—Matthew here uses the curious phrase "moonstruck," from whose Latin form we get our word "lunatic." From verse 18, however, it appears that Matthew shares the belief of the times that lunacy, epilepsy, and demon-possession all belong in the same category.

16. Jesus rebuked him—That is, the unclean spirit. The accounts in Mark and Luke are considerably fuller. The case was one of extreme complicity, but at the word

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of Jesus the demon went out, and the boy was cured from that hour.

19. Why could not we?—The charge against his disciples is once more their little faith. Mark says: "This kind can come out by nothing, save by prayer" (margin, "and fasting"). It was not because Christ was absent from them, for, when they went out two by two, they had taken power to cast out demons and had succeeded. But their faith in him had vanished, and they were trusting in themselves, a common danger with disciples of Jesus.

20. Faith as a grain of mustard seed—Small, but capable of great growth.

Ye shall say unto this mountain—A common proverbial expression for a matter of extreme difficulty.

MISSING LINK PROBLEM.

Man May Have Orang-Outang or Gorilla for Ancestor.

A man may have a gorilla, a chimpanzee, an orang-outang or a gibbon for an ancestor, according to Dr. F. Melchers, a German biologist. In an article on the descent of man, published in the Zeitschrift, Dr. Melchers presents a new theory, the essence of which is that mankind is divided into four great race groups, each of which is descended from one of four race groups of anthropoid apes.

Dr. Melchers ascribes the difficulty hitherto met in solving the missing link problem and filling the gap in the later descent of man to the attempt to trace the human races to one parent stock. This, he says, is due to the Old Testament story of a single race surviving and impressing itself on modern evolutionary theories.

Instead of searching for a single ancestral ape type it is necessary to find four, of which the above named are representatives. Basing his argument on a large number of physical peculiarities both of men and apes, Dr. Melchers classifies men and apes in the following relations:

From a gorilla type are descended the race which he calls West Congo-Guinea-Sudan - negro, the Bantus and the Zulus, the last two being mixed races, and also the fair-haired and red haired northern races, including the Finns.

From the chimpanzee descend bushmen, Lapps, Barbers, some Turanian races, Iberians and southern Europeans.

The orang-outang is the ancestor of Tasmanians, Australians, Papuans and short headed south Germans, while all the races known as Mongolians, as well as Malays, Polynesians and Siberians, descend from the gibbon.

Dr. Melchers contends that each of these groups has differentiating physical peculiarities which correspond exactly to the physical peculiarities of the ape with which he classes it.

NOT THE SAME.

"I had half the young men in town for rivals when I was doing a courtship stunt," said the sad-eyed passenger.

"And did you land the prize?" queried the hardware drummer.
"Well, I never looked at in that light," replied he of the say eyes, "but I married the girl."

When you bump up against something that you can't afford to do and can't afford not to do, what do you do?

'WHITE MOTHER MOSCOW'

BARBARIC SPLENDOR OF RUSSIAN ROYAL PALACE.

Six Thousand People Can be Entertained at Winter Palace, St. Petersburg.

Though St. Petersburg is nominally the capital of Russia and serves its purpose in being "a window through which the Russians can look into civilized Europe," the true capital is "White Mother Moscow," as the mujik affectionately styles the venerable city. What the Acropolis was to Athens and the Capitol to Rome the Kremlin is to Moscow, says the Rosary Magazine.

It is a city within walls which measure 7,280 feet, enclose three cathedrals, seven churches, a convent, a monastery, three imperial palaces, the Senate House, the Synodal buildings and the Tower of Ivan the Terrible.

Owing to the curious Russian custom of constantly renewing with whitewash, paint or gold even the most ancient and sacred of their buildings, the first glimpse of

MOSCOW'S SNOW WHITE WALLS,

above which rises an efflorescence of bulbous cupolas, spires, pinnacles and pyramids colored bright blue or green or gilt with gold, astounds the traveller who associates age with grayness and decay.

At the same time one cannot but feel attracted by the striking individuality of this city, which, scornful of the conventions of modern Europe, glitters proudly in barbaric splendor. Within the Kremlin the Czars receive their crown "from God and the Fatherland," and here they come subsequently to speak and act in all the most decisive moments of their reigns. Hence it has caused some wonder that Nicholas II. did not go to Moscow to proclaim war with Japan.

The Russian court is said to be the richest in Europe, the minimum revenue of the Czar being estimated at \$7,500,000. Besides the Grand Palace in the Kremlin, with its magnificent throne room, the Czar has twelve residences in or near St. Petersburg, including the Winter Palace, where six thousand people can be entertained, one of the most spacious and striking homes of European royalty, and the Hermitage, which contains one of the best art collections in the world.

AT PETERHOF

there is a group of royal residences and parks, with gardens rivaling those at Versailles, and at Tsarskoe-Selo, about twelve miles from St. Petersburg, there are several palaces, on one of which Catherine the Great lavished wealth, decorating the facade with figures gilded with gold leaf, a method of ornamentation which cost her subjects more than three million ducats.

The interiors of the palaces are still more magnificent; walls are encrusted with rare lapis lazuli; ebony floors are inlaid with floral designs in mother of pearl, ceilings are lined with amber, one room in the Kremlin shines with the purest gold, and everywhere precious marbles and exquisite mosaics are to be seen.

The splendor of the Russian jewels exceeds all powers of description; we know that Catherine the Great's coronation robe was so heavily laden with gems that it took twelve chamberlains to support it. The Czar's throne, which belonged to the last Emperor of Constantinople, is of finest ivory studded with precious stones, and that of the Czarina contains 1,223 rubies and 876 diamonds, besides pearls and turquoises.


SPLENDID FETES

are given in the Winter Palace during the season, and one is almost weary of traversing the many gorgeous halls which lead to the state ballroom, where the towering white marble pillars are mirrored by the polished floor, where a soft light is diffused by lamps concealed by tropical plants and ferns rising in banks against the walls and where mingling with the strains of the orchestra, one hears the warbling of birds hanging in gold cages under tall palm trees.

The present sovereigns have simple tastes, however. Even in the great Winter Palace the private rooms belonging to the Czar and Czarina are simply decorated and furnished in the English style, the hangings being of pretty cretonne and the furniture of light oak.

It is interesting to know that of all the thousands of her wedding gifts the Czarina brought only three

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to Peterhof, and that two of these were presented by the Japanese, soon to be at war with Russia. One is an enormous sea eagle, larger than life, in beautiful carved ivory. The other gift is of equal artistic value, being a threefold screen representing a foam flecked, stormy sea, wonderfully worked in gray and greenish white silks.

LITTLE HELPS.

Don't pour tea on ice. If you do its delicious flavor will be dissipated.

Don't fail to make your iced tea two hours before it is to be served, so as to give it time to cool gradually.

When having trouble from cockroaches leave a few peelings of the cucumbers near their favorite haunts.

For moths in carpets scrub the floor with strong salt water which is hot, then sprinkle carpet with salt once a week and sweep.

In the spring of the year, when boiling old potatoes, if one or two tablespoonfuls of sweet milk is added when potatoes are drained they will not discolor.

Window Cleaning Hint.—A little bluing in the water with which windows are cleaned gives a clearer and less streaky appearance to the glass than anything else I have ever used.

S.D.

When preparing cheese for macaroni put it through your meat grinder instead of grating it and you will be surprised how easily and quickly you can grind up your scraps of stale cheese. It will also keep for weeks if put in a glass jar and sealed.

The grape fruit for breakfast should be cut in half the night before, the seeds all carefully removed, and sugar sprinkled over the fruit, which should then be placed in the refrigerator over night. The result is a delicious fruit for breakfast, sans all bitterness.

If winter clothing and underwear is wrapped in newspaper and labeled before being stored away it is much more easily located when wanted, besides being moth-proof. A furrier once advised me to wrap my mink furs in newspaper, as he said the little pests detest printers' ink. Have had no trouble from moths since I adopted his method.

A. M. T.

Washing Made Easy.—Three pailfuls of cold water in the boiler, in

this shave one bar of borax laundry soap, and add half a cupful of gasoline. Stir it occasionally until it comes to a boil. Have your boiled clothes soaked over night. Wring them, and put them in the boiler and boil thirty minutes. Rinse in two waters, the last blue.

Cream is generally regarded as a luxury in towns. The following is an excellent and cheap substitute: Take a sauce pan, rinse in cold water to prevent the milk from burning, then pour in one pint of milk and place upon stove. Heat gently until on the point of boiling. Draw the pan off the fire and add a well beaten egg. Beat carefully for a few minutes, then leave until cold.

The kitchen entrance of a house should be as attractive as the front entrance. A back porch with mops, brooms, buckets, and scrubbing outfit scattered about is inexcusable. A large box painted any desired color, could be used as a closet for them. Plant boxes, filled with flowers, placed along the porch edge will add beauty; vines over a door where there is no porch will prove bright and cheerful.

To Clean Straw Hats.—Cut a lemon in half and rub the cut surface over the soiled straw, squeezing the juice out while rubbing. The straw will soon be as bright as when new; then rub dry corn meal over the straw with a sponge or rag to remove any particles of lemon. Or you can strain lemon juice through a fine fabric and dip an old toothbrush into the juice and scour the straw. Or you can dissolve tartaric acid in water to water to make what is practically lemon juice.

"Nice girl, May Brown, eh?"
"Yes, but she hasn't much sense. She had a chance to marry me and refused."

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