Sunday School Lesson

March 11. Lesson XI.—Jesus Feeds the Multitudes.—Mark 6: 31-44. Golden Text—I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth in me shall never thirst.—Mark 6: 35.

I. JESUS' COMPASSION ON THE MULTITUDE, 31-34.

II. THE GREAT SACRAMENT IN THE WILDERNESS, 35-44.

INTRODUCTION—The feeding of the multitude marks the culminating point in the Galilean ministry of Jesus. It took place at the moment when Jesus was leaving Galilee, and setting his face stedfastly towards Jerusalem. It had a solemn symbolic significance, must be understood by us in the light of that significance. Otherwise we have only the story of a marvel, not the revelation of a great divine mystery. The truth which Jesus wished to impress for ever on the hearts of the Galileans was that God would yet set up his kingdom. The feast in the wilderness was clearly intended to point forward to the feast in the Messiah's kingdom.

I. JESUS' COMPASSION ON THE MULTITUDE, 31-34.

V. 31. The words of Jesus to the disciples, "Come ye, yourselves, apart into a desert place, and rest awhile," were spoken at the moment of their return from their mission to the cities of Israel. The disciples came back flushed and exited as the result of their labors, and Jesus saw that they needed to have their minds composed. He, too, was weary, and—though the disciples did not yet know this—he knew that his days in Galilee were numbered. So he proposed to them this quiet retreat beyond the Lake. His desire was rest, rest for his disciples, and rest for himself. We shall see presently that this hope was not to be fulfilled. Meantime it may be of interest to observe that in the judgment of some modern scholars the words of Jesus here given have been handed down to us in another form in the great passage, Matt. 11:28-30: "Come unto me, all ye who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart," etc.

Vs. 32, 33. The plan of Jesus was quietly carried out. But the unexpected happened. A multitude of Galileans, who had followed Jesus from place to place, noticing his departure, and suspecting that perhaps they would seek him no more, hurried on foot round the lakeshore to the opposite side—a journey of several miles—and reached the landing-stage before Jesus and his disciples, who were cruising on the lake, arrived. It is a strange and affecting proof of the power of Jesus over their spirits that on this occasion they could not let him go.

V. 34. So Jesus, instead of rest, found labor. When he saw the multitude on the shore, instead of feeling disappointment as he might well have done, he "was moved with compassion towards them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd." The thought of leaving that great multitude, blind and ignorant and aimless as so many of them were, without spiritual provision for their needs, went to the heart of Jesus, and we read that once again "he began to teach them many things." Our Lord was always patient, always hopeful, always willing to spend and to be spent in his Father's service.

II. THE GREAT SACRAMENT IN THE WILDERNESS, 35-44.

Vs. 35, 36. Jesus spent the whole day in teaching, and the approach of evening found the multitude still hanging on his words. At this stage the disciples intervened. They were anxious as to what would happen if night overtook the people in that solitary place. They suggested the dismissing of the people to the nearest farms and villages that they might procure food.

Vs. 37, 38. Jesus answer is for ever memorable. "Give them food yourselves," he said. The disciples did not understand the Master's thought, and began to point out all kinds of difficulties. It would cost more than two hundred denarii, that is, more than fifty dollars, they said, to procure enough food to go round. Jesus answer was: "How many loaves have you on hand? Go and see."

Vs. 39-41. Then came the great sacrament in the wilderness. At Jesus' command the people were made to sit on the grass in orderly groups, resembling flower-pots in gardens. Jesus takes the slender provision which they had, the five loaves and the two fishes, and begins with symbolic actions which are minutely described (1) He gives thanks for the loaves (2) he solemnly breaks them, and hands the pieces to the disciples that they may divide them to the people. Nothing is said about a miraculous multiplication of the loaves, though something of the kind is undoubtedly suggested by what follows. The physical significance of the event is subordinated to the spiritual. In view of this circumstance we ought to think of the whole proceeding, not after the nalogy of a secular or real meal, but as resembling rather a Communion Service. The bread represents something beyond itself. What is that something? We may very properly say that it was the feast in the coming kingdom of God. Jesus was giving his followers a last, solemn assurance that God meant to redeem his people. Though he was himself going away from his Galilean followers, God would not fail them. They would yet inherit the kingdom, of which the feast in the wilderness was but the foretaste or sign.

A NEW DAYTIME FROCK

This smartly simple one-piece frock has plaits at each side of the front and back, a becoming convertible collar, short sleeves finished with cuffs, or long sleeves gathered into wristbands, and a belt at the sides only. No. 1708 is cut in sizes 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46 inches bust. Size 40 requires 4½ yards 36-inch, or 3 yards 54-inch material, and ⅝ yard 36-inch contrasting. Width at lower edge, with plaits drawn out, about 2½ yards. Price 20c the pattern.

Our Fashion Book, illustrating the newest and most practical style, will be of interest to the home dressmaker. Price of the book 10c the copy.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by return mail.

Collection Hat Reveals Spread of "Copperitis"

Taunton, Eng.—Caustic comments on growing "copperitis" of church collections in his church are made by the Rev. R. Lowman Lang, vicar of Holy Trinity, in a letter to parishioners.

He says under cover of secrecy of a hat people contribute a copper, and on January 1 there was no fewer than 240 halfpennies in the collection.

"I am not writing," he says, "in a bad temper, but am trying to kindle some glimmer of conscience in those who are fairly well-to-do people but who give halfpennies instead of sixpenny bits. This 'copperitis' seems to be infectious, for it is certainly spreading."

La Fontaine was proverbially absent-minded. When he was to make a ceremonial presentation of his "Fables" to Louis XIV, he discovered, after delivering a very fine address, that he had forgotten to bring the book.

Farm Notes

Screenings Classified.

Screenings is a by-product of the grain industry and is now available commercially to Canadian stockmen. It consists of broken and shrunken grains, weed seeds, including wild buckwheat and wild oats, chaff, etc., removed from the grain delivered to the terminal elevators and constitutes about 1½ to 2½ per cent. of the total grain received. This by-product is recleaned and classified into recleaned elevator screenings, oat scalpings, and refuse screenings, a classification which although still unofficial, is recognized by the Grain Inspection Department and complied with by most of the elevators. A new Dominion Department of Agriculture pamphlet on Screenings as a Feed for Live Stock gives the composition of the grades. By far the most important grade is the one named recleaned elevator screenings. It contains about 50 to 70 per cent. of wild buckwheat, 20 to 40 per cent. of broken or shrunken wheat, some wild oats, and not over 3 per cent. of smal weed seeds. When finely ground it has been proved by experiment to be a very valuable feed for growing and fattening pigs and for fattening steers. The second grade, oat scalpings, contains about 75 per cent. of wild oats, 15 per cent. of domestic oats, a small percentage of barley and an occasional wheat kernel. It has a feeding value distinctly inferior to that of recleaned elevator screenings. The third grade, refuse screenings, consists of small weed seeds, chaff and the dust and dirt accumulating from recleaning. It has been found to be of little or no feeding value in the rations of swine. Besides these three grades, a fourth grade, called elevator screenings, is used. It includes any screenings not falling into the first three classifications, provided the required minimum percentage of wild buckwheat and wild oats are put into this class. The pamphlet, which gives an account of the Experimental Farms experiments to ascertain the feeding value of the different grades of screenings, may be obtained from the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Roots As a Feed For Horses.

Roots are a valuable feed for horses under many conditions. For instance, they are good for horses doing moderate farm work during the winter. Two or three turnips or a few carrots thrown into the manger when the horse comes in at night will be greatly relished. Turnips or carrots are more acceptable to horses than mangels, and they should be given whole. According to a new bulletin of the Dominion Department of Agriculture on Growing and Feeding Field Roots, the merits of roots as a feed for horses may be summed up as follows: They increase palatability, increase the digestibility of coarse fodders, benefit the teeth and gums, form a splendid tonic, and cheapen the ration.

Roots In Horse Rations.

Idle horses during the winter season receive benefit from roots as a part of the ration. Feeding tests at some of the Experimental Farms indicate that a very good maintenance ration consists of one pound ow mixed hay, one pound of clean cut straw, and one pound of turnips for every one hundred pounds of the horse's weight. This constitutes a day's ration. Carrots are even better than turnips because they are more relished by the horses. During a 150-day period from November 1st to March 31st, six work horses kent on this feed gained in weight an average of 28 pounds. During the first two weeks of the test the ration that had been used while the horses were working was gradually reduced to the winter quantities. With the approach of spring the last two weeks were used to build up the ration to a normal working diet. Bulletin 94 of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, "Growing and Feeding Field Roots," deals very thoroughly with the subject indicated in the title. The report states that for brood mares there is no better adjunct to the ration than roots, the succulent tonic and laxative properties are then of peculiar value as is the ease of digestibility.

Roots For Sheep.

A moderate ration of roots, particularly swede turnips, are of great benefit to breeding ewes an dthe lambs will benefit accordingly. In a new bulletin of the Dominion Department of Agriculture on Growing and Feeding Field Roots it is painted out that since for sheep, roots are mainly useful as a source of succulence, a relatively small quantity is sufficient. Occasionally as much as 4 pounds per head per day may be profitably fed but 1½ to 2½ pounds of roots are sufficient when feeding, say, 1½ to 2 pounds of hay. Mangels are not as safe a feed for sheep as turnips. Carrots may be used but they are more difficult to grow than turnips.

The Cost of Raising Dairy Calves.

The cost of raising calves from birth to one year old or over varies, of course, with the quantity and quality of feed given and the prices paid for the feeds. Nevertheless the record, kept at the Dominion Experimental Station at Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere, of the cost of raising young cattle should be of interest. The station has kept accurate records of the cost of raising a number of dairy heifers from birth to one year of age and to date of first calving and of bull calves to one year of age. All the calves were pure bred of high milk production ancestry. They were fed correctly and plentifully with the aim of developing them into high class dairy cattle. As calves they were fed the necessary quantities of whole and skim milk and later the rations consisted of hay, silage, meal and roots, and the animals were on pasture in the summer. The average cost of the feed, including pasture, for a heifer up to one year of age was 30.50, and to date of first calving $68.57. The average cost of feed for the bull calves from birth to one year of age was $39.64.—Issued by the Director of Publicity, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Quest for Gold is Expensive

"Though there is now about $9,000,000,000 worth of gold in the possession of man, it is generally accepted as a fact that the gold that has been taken out of the earth is not worh wha has been spent in its pursuit," writes William A. Du Puy, currency expert of the United States Burau of Efficinci, in February "Current History." "Many men have spent lifetimes in theh unt for gold and have never found it. Innumerable shafts have been run into lonesome mountainsides that have never ecountere dpay dirt. He who wanders among the solitudes of the Rockies, for example, is quite likely to encounter the scars on the hillsides left by prospectors who have worked claims that never produced. The occasional claim has proved to be a bonanza. The occasional strip of sand has yielded its yellow dust most profitably for a time. On the whole, however, more has been spent in the quest for gold than was ever realized from it."

Necessity apportions impartially to high and low alike.—Horace.

PROUD AND CROWS ABOUT IT

The prize-winningBarred Plymouth Rock cock who represented Bermuda at World's Poultry Congress.

Smooth Ride Over Rough Roads

English Inventor Uses Steel Discs and Cushion to Purpose

London—A pleasure trip over the roughest country road, chuck holes at every six feet, miniature mountains and valleys and nary a bounce or jolt, in an auto without springs.

The latest invention of W. Lawson Adams, British engineer, a test of two steel discs enclosing a rubber cushion, it is claimed will make such a trip possible.

This device has one steel disc mounted on the frame of the automobile. Another disc familiar to the first is connected to the end of the axle by a heavy steel arm. Both discs are toothed, the teeth meshing into similar teeth on a soft rubber cushion which fits in between the two discs when they are bolted together.

As the car passes over ruts or irregularities in the road, this rubber cushion absorbs the impact from the teeth of the two steel discs.

In a test over a water-worn, potholed road, a car equipped with these springs traveled 40 miles an hour in comparative ease.

Crops Grown From Paper

"Crop increases of 500 and 600 per cent. following the use of a 'magic carpet' of heavy waterproof paper covering all the ground not actually occupied by the stems of the plants themselves, have been obtained by Dr. L. H. Flint of the United States Department of Agriculture," writes Watson Davis, editor of "Science Service," in February "Current History." "The system is known as paper mulching, and was first practiced on tropical pineapple plantations. It worked there, and the experiments were then made to see whether it might not be beneficial for various garden crops in a temperate climate. Dr. Flint carried on his researches for three years before he was ready to report on them. He tried the paper mulch on a great variety of garden crops, and all but one of them responded with heavily increased yield. The increases during the 1927 season varied from 11 per cent. with garden peas to 516 per cent. with spinach. The crop of lettuce was more than doubled, that of green corn was trebled, and that of potatoes almost quadrupled. The paper muich results in an increase of soil temperature, a reduction in the loss of soil moisture, and a modified distribution of water. All three of these factors are favorable to plant growth under usual Summer climatic conditions. A further effect of the blanket of paper over all unoccupied soil spaces is to smother all weed growth."

FLOWERS and VEGETABLES

No. 4

Starting a Garden

Too often one sees a garden fade after a few years. Sometimes the soil gives out, or it may be the gardener's enthusiasm, or perhaps the plants become so crowded together that the whole thing reverts to a wild, jumbled state with little or no bloom. Choice flowers are often crowded out by vigorous growers whose only excuse for existence at all is to act as a limited background to show off their more richly colored neighbors. A good plan and thorough preparation in the first place would probably have prevented these failures. Whether it is intended to grow flowers, fruits or vegetables, the ground should be plowed or spaded. In the case of flower beds it is best to go down a couple of feet. Work in plenty of rotted manure. If the soil is stiff clay strawy manure should be used. The top soil should be raked fine and after the growth starts a little nitrate of soda should be worked in to hasten things along. Walks may be made with gravel or sod, or ordinary soil packed hard. If gravel is used, dig out at least six inches of soil before filling in the small stones. Decide where your flower garden is to end, and the vegetables start, and divide with a hedge of tall bushy flowers.

Garden Paths.

Paths add much to the attractiveness of any flower garden or lawn. If a supply of limestone is plentiful and cheap, a pleasing effect may be produced by paving crazy style or in regular fashion. Simply dig out sod or soil the same size and exact depth of your stone and plant irregularly. If this is done carefully the lawn mower will run right over and no trimming will be necessary. The central path of the garden should be in line with the centre of the back porch or with a window commanding the view if the porch is so placed that it is impracticable as an axis. To round off have the path lead up to a rose covered garden seat or archway through the flower garden into the vegetable patch. If there is room, the main path may encircle a garden pool in which water plants are growing, or if this is too elaborate, a bird bath or sun dial may be used for similar effect.

Vegetable Rotation Crops.

Even in the smallest garden it is well to rotate your vegetables throughout the patch each year. In other words, do not grow the tomatoes this season where they were planted last year. Of course, it will be necessary to save the gardon plans from year to year, but this should be done anyway. It is a good plan to have liguminous crops such as peas, and beans, which add fertilizer to the soil, follow such gross feeders as corn, and the root crops. In planting vegetables, it is good business to put in a few extra early rows on the chance that they will escape frost, and produce a crop two or three weeks ahead of average, but save the bulk of the seed until the time specified in the seed catalogue. Have a sufficient supply also to replant any rows which may have been ruined by flood or frost or even by some small though energetic young gardener who may have dug them up by mistake.

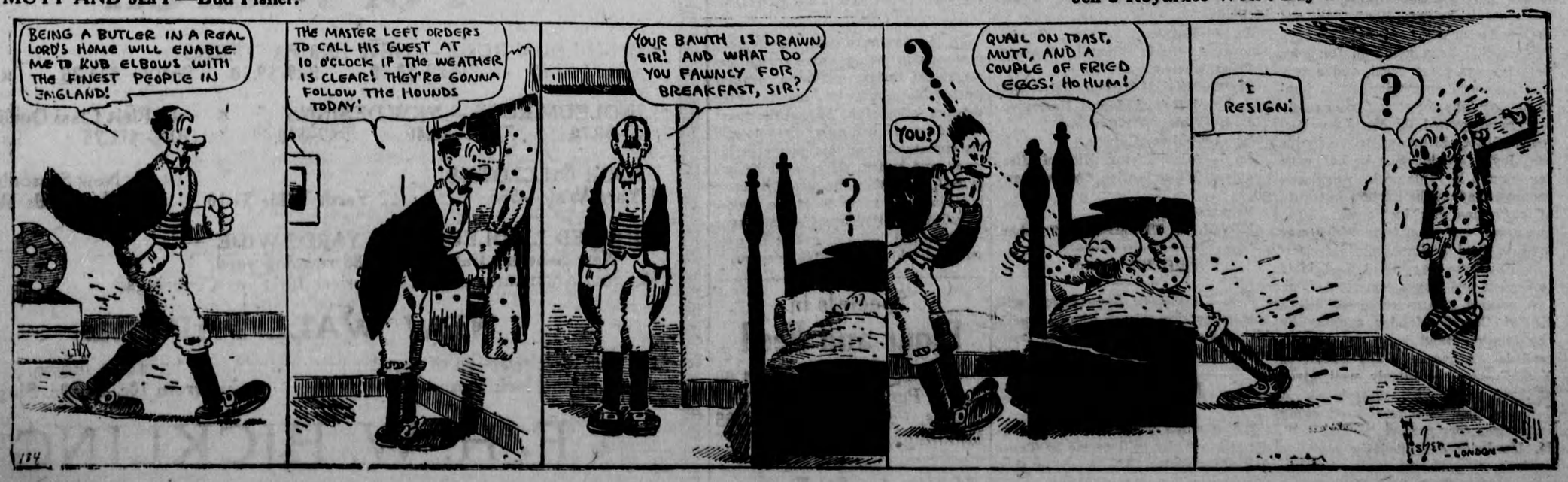
Don't be afraid to start sowing seed with the snow still on the ground. Grass seed, annual larkspur, poppies, and batchelor buttons, or cornflowers will take care of themselves if sown at almost any time now.

Do not neglect to label each row or clump as planted.

It may take a little longer to use stakes and string in laying out the vegetable garden, but straight rows are not only more pleasing to the eye but also more economical of space than those which jog all over the place.

If it is not possible to get your sweet peas in in the very near future, it is best to start them indoors in pots or boxes.

The word we had not sense to say—
Who knows how gladly it had rung?
—Edward Rowland Sill.

MUTT AND JEFF—Bud Fisher.

Jeff's Royalties Won't Buy a Breakfast for a Canary.