Sunday School Lesson

November 25. Lesson VIII—The Prayers of Paul—Acts 20: 36-38; Eph. 1: 15, 16; 3: 14-21. Golden Text—Rejoice evermore; Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks.—1 Thess. 5: 16-18.

ANALYSIS.

I. THE FAREWELL PRAYER OF EPHESUS, Acts 20: 36-38.

II. PAUL'S CEASELESS THANKSGIVING, Eph. 1: 15, 16.

III. PAUL'S SECOND PRAYER, Eph. 3: 14-21.

INTRODUCTION — Prayer ought to have the central place in the life of every true Christian. Jesus was our leader in this regard as in all others. He taught his disciples definitely on the principles of true prayer, gave them the great model, called the Lord's Prayer, and most of all set them an example of the value and effect of sincere communion with God. Paul follows his Lord here very closely, and we find that the same stress is laid upon this great subject in the Epistles as in the gospels.

I. THE FAREWELL PRAYER OF EPHESUS, Acts 20: 36-38.

V. 36. In time of deep emotion or of danger it was natural that these Christians should turn to God, and in this incident we have a fine example of the way in which Paul carries on the thoughts of his converts from the sorrows of the immediate parting to that great union with God, who is above all change and who can guard and keep all his children. There is nothing that can calm the sorrowful mind like a real attempt to enter into the presence of the loving Father. We are not given any part of the actual prayer, but in the letter to the Ephesians we have two whole passages from which we may gather some idea of the thoughts which must have filled Paul's mind at the time.

V. 37. These verses are sufficient to banish any suggestion that Paul was a stern, hard, cold man, indifferent to all the warmer emotions of the soul. His heart was very soft and tender. Prayer had done wonders in deepening his sympathy with all those who loved the Lord Jesus.

II. PAUL'S CEASELESS THANKSGIVING, Eph. 1: 15, 16.

Thanksgiving is one of the leading elements in true prayer. There are so many lovely, gracious, and good people and things in the world that we may always have cause for gratitude and joy. In Paul's heart there was a fountain of thanksgiving. In one letter he writes, "In all things give thanks." His generous nature is reflected in the way in which he always picked out the good qualities in his converts. There are several things which may be noted here: (1) Paul believed that in all true prayer, man was not dependent merely on his own will and effort, since God's spirit was always suggesting and inspiring and helping the worshipper. "The spirit bears witness with our spirits." (2) He was a firm believer in intercessory prayer. He must have had long lists of those whom he mentioned daily in his prayer. This duty must have made great inroads upon his time, but he reaped great results. Perhaps there are few ways in which some people can do more service than in sincere and constant petition for those whom they love, and whose welfare they desire.

III. PAUL'S SECOND PRAYER, Eph. 3: 14-21.

V. 14. This is the second of the prayers in Ephesians, and it is exceedingly rich in its teaching and the light thrown upon the nature of true worship. Paul knelt to the "Father." Everything is a religious turn upon the nature of the God who is worshipped. Those who worshipped a cruel Moloch thought it was necessary to make their children walk through the fire as an act pleasing to their God. Today the heathen think of a revengeful God whom they attempt to appease by acts of torture. But when the idea of God is pure, then prayer also is pure. Jesus first revealed this beautiful grace and love of God when he taught his followers to say, "Our Father which art in heaven." He thereby made true prayer possible. We know that God is our Father who is constantly contemplating the best things for all his children.

V. 15. These two prayers in Ephesus should be compared as one is the complement of the other. In 1: 17-23, Paul thinks of the magnificence of the hope which Christ brings and of the grandeur of the inheritance which is laid up for believers. No human eye can see it, so he prays that the eyes of their minds may be opened by the Spirit of God that they may see the full measure of the glory. But in the second prayer, he thinks not so much of light as of strength.

V. 18. This strength can only come as Christ dwells in us. But Jesus has promised to reveal himself to his followers, for he will abide with us for ever. Three things are here emphasized. (1) That it is only by the spirit that men may come to know the fulness of the glory in Christ. We do not rise by our own efforts. Strength has to be given to us from above and we can only obtain this strength as we live in unity and harmony with others who are worshipping the same Christ. It is along with the saints that we know truth. (3) This love of God can never be exhausted. We may see more of its great dimensions, its length, breadth, height, depth, but still it remains unknown in all its fulness. It surpasseth knowledge.

V. 20. Therefore all glory must be ascribed to him who came to give us this blessing. Paul's prayers are a great description of prayer to Jesus. They are, as is said in theological language, christological—Christ is the centre.

NEW FLARE.

A charming dress of printed sheer velvet that subscribes to new flared treatment in tiered effect, which gives a graceful ripple to hem. The flattering cascading jabot frill is caught at shoulder and waistline with ornamental buckle. To assure a perfect fit, after the bodice and skirt are joined, it is stitched to slip at waistline, which creates slight blousing and flat hipline. Bodice is also tacked to shoulder straps of slip, pattern for which is included. Style No. 287 lends itself beautifully to chiffon, georgette crepe, crepe Roma, crepe satin, crepe de chine, canton crepe and crepe Elizabeth. Pattern for this fascinating dress can be had in sizes 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust. Price 20c in stamps or coin (coin is preferred). Wrap coin carefully.

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Those who seek the secret of Anglo-American understanding can find part of it in the ambassadorship of Shakespeare.

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Animal Stories Are Also News

Some Headlines of the Year Show That Man's Interest in Other Creatures Has Not Dimmed Since the Far-Off Pre-Historic Days.

By Warren Irvin in N.Y. Times

Here are a few headlines that indicate the extent to which animals figure in the day's news:

"Porcupine Ate Dynamite," "Rabbits Had Hand in America's Discovery," "Jazz Tunes Lure Deer to Parked Car," "Giraffes in Egyptian Art," "Lion Visits City Hall," "Flood Control Considered from Angleworm's Angle," "Japan Planning Big Bullfrog Crop."

Probably the oldest of all stories is the animal story, nor is this surprising when one considers that early man subsisted largely by hunting and fishing. The most primitive cuneiform systems contain animal figures, and centuries before the fables of Aesop were thought of Paleolithic men were scratching animal forms upon rocks. The rock pictures of the Australians, the house carvings of the Eskimos and the drawings of the Bushmen are alike remarkable for their faithful representation of animals.

Notwithstanding its antiquity, however, the animal story has lost none of is fascination. Newspapers devote thousands of columns to it annually. No longer is it confined to tales of faithful dogs warning families of fire, cats causing asphyxiation by carelessly walking across gas stoves, or runaway monkeys drawing crowds in pursuit through busy city streets.

Interest Does Not Flag

Turn back over last year's files and note the variety of animal news that has been printed. Headlines speak for themselves. Here, between two small items telling respectively of the loss of Texas Guinan's pet terrapin and the gift of a kangaroo to President Coolidge, one finds the caption, "African White Rhinoceros Rapidly Nearing Extinction."

Or, among a cluster of small stories headed variously: "Deer Eat $35 Worth of Pansies," "Train Interrupts Doe's Sleep on Tracks Near Middletown," "Canoe-Upsetting Hippopotami Sentenced to Death in Uganda," "Film Lion to Cross Country in Airplane," or "Frogs Enlighten Savants, Then Tickle Their Palates"—among all these stories is an account of how in the Province of Khorassan, one of the remote districts of Persia, camels and other beasts of burden are taxed to provide for the upkeep of the municipal hospital.

There are stirring accounts of duels to the death between buffalo bulls; or fierce fights between lions and tigers, or between tigers and crocodiles. There are tales of savage jungle beasts which, once having tasted of human flesh, will have no other. There are stories of wolves driven by hunger to invade towns or villages, or stories of wolves adopting human children and caring for them.

There are scientific studies of animal behavior, or accounts of strange animal customs like that of the female scorpion, which devours its own mate and sometimes its offspring. There are touching stories of animal gratitude like that of the London lioness whose cubs were sick, and who attacked her mate when he sprang upon a keeper who was tending them. And there are endless comic anecdotes like that of the scolding circus stork who set upon fourteen lions in the circus and sent them scurrying to shelter in their cages.

"Travel Law Saves Wolves" tells how two Portuguese who discovered wolves attacking their cattle chased them to the Spainish border, where they were compelled to abandon pursuit for want of Spanish passport visas. "Lion in Flatbush Proves a Raccoon" recounts the struggles of Gaetano Marascio, a laborer, with a full grown raccoon four stories above the street on the scaffolding on a partly completed apartment house. The raccoon went to the police station and Marascio to the hospital.

Cat stories alone would fill volumes. Look at the headlines! "Cats of Rome Lose Their Forum," "Cat Passes Hours Vainly Snatching at Mail Chute," "Prison Cat Sacrifices Life for Baby Rabbit," or "Jail Delivery Scare in Bronx Caused by Cats on Fire-Escape." The tales range from the account of the cat who held up traffic in Lafayette Street hile, with her kitten in her mouth, she strolled nonchalantly from one side to the other, or that of a frightened Maltese treed by a dog and rescued by the fire department after three days' isolation, to the story of the Locarno cat whose claim to fame is that he shared a room with Herr Luther and M. Briand when they held their memorable conference.

But there are stories about an endless variety of animals. Word comes from Berlin that the only orangeuton known to have been born in captivity died because his mother did not know how to take care of him. Apparently regarding him as some new kind of toy, she bounced him on the floor and in an excess of affection squeezed him to death.

"Why not?" scientists ask. "No mother," they say, "would know better unless taught. Mother love has nothing to do with the instincts but is due to training."

"What accounts for the zebra's queer stripes?" is the question raised by another article. In other animals the deposition of pigment is sometimes determined by the course of blood vessels, by the course of nerves or by the direction of the bony tract; but scientists insist that the zebra's stripes have no relation either to the ribs or to the course of nerves or blood vessels.

"Bullfrogs and White Rats," says one headline, "Are in Constant Demand. Biologists Use Them to Work Out Problems Connected With Human Progress." "Annie the Anteater—Loses Caste," says another, describing how the mascot of the flagship Seattle turned out to be neither anteater nor feminine, and subsequently became Andy the coatimondi.

From Calcutta comes the news that Americans are the greatest collectors of wild animals. Before the World War European zoos used to be the chief purchasers.

Kansas City contributed an amusing anecdote of the recapture of 150 wild steers that had escaped from a wrecked cattle car in the heart of the town. People returning home from the theatre, patrolmen, street car company employes, motorists and citizens generally took part in the round-up.

A porcupine full of dynamite gave a Pennsylvania forest ranger in Tioga County an unpleasant time recently, says another animal story. The ranger returned to his tower sixty feet above ground to find the porcupine there eating an explosive stick. The ranger beat a hasty retreat, but to his consternation the animal followed him. He feared it might fall and blow up. He dared not shoot it. But when the porcupine had disappeared into the woods the ranger again mounted the tower and telephoned for advice. He was told the dynamite was poisonous.

The Eastland (Texas) Toad

Eastland, Texas, reports that a horned toad sealed in the corner-stone of the court house there thirty-one years ago was found alive recently when the stone was removed. It is a Texas tradition that a horned toad can live a century without food or water. According to County Judge Edward S. Pritchard, when the toad was disentombed it at first appeared lifeless, but after a little while opened its eyes and showed signs of breathing. The mouth, however, appeared to have grown together.

Here is still another contribution, this one from London. In the discussion of the text of the Rabbits bill, by which the British Parliament hopes to stimulate and regulate rabbit farming . Professor E. H. L. Schwartz disclosed that except for these "destructive rodents" Christopher Columbus might not have discovered America. Columbus, he pointed out, married Felipa Munnis, daughter of Perestrello, one of Prince Henry's captains, and part of her dowry was the Island of Porto Santo. The young people established themselves there, but their plantations were destroyed by rabbits and they were ruined and had to come away.

And so the stories go. "What Do Animals Think About? Intelligence Tests Give Dogs Equal Rating With Some Human Children—Also Proving That Birds, Fish and Insects Are Not Mormons in Their Species"; "Shells of the Armadillo Make Basket Industry"; "Beaver Culture Advocated to Add to Supply of Fur"; "Best Weather Prophet is Turtle, Says Tennessee Woman." They are of all kinds and all sorts, and they come from every section of the globe.

A WARNING

Angle Worm: You'd better move out of that house, Mr. Chestnut Worm, you're liable to get roasted!

Anthropologists always go away from home to search for the missing link. Thanks for the compliment.—Toledo Blade.

A New Way to Buy Stamps

KIOSK FOR POST OFFICE IN LONDON

These small vending places are being established in London in districts away from post office.

Bulbs For Winter

Hyacinths

Soft, delicate colorings; enchanting fragrance; sexture of wax, hundreds of wee bells building plump pink, rose, lavender, white, blush, porcelain-blue, yellow and red spikes among slender green blades—the whole redolent of fresh sweet springtime. Such is the glory that pots of hyacinths bring to winter's window ledge.

Get the best quality, large, smooth skinned, firm bulbs for pot culture. Plan ahead at least four months, five is better, before the blossoms are wanted. Mix up a light rich compost, of pure sand, loam, leaf mould and well decayed cow manure, in equal portions. Let this stand three or four weeks before using.

Plant in half-pots, preferably old ones, that have been soaked in water several hours to remove any deleterious matter. Cover the hole in the bottom of the pot with a small piece of broken pottery and build up over this a little mound of fine gravel or moss. There must be free drainage and this will keep the soil from clogging the outlet. Fill the pot one-third full of the compost and press it down slightly; do not pack, as the air must not be excluded. The tops of the bulbs should be left level with the surface of the soil, which should be moderately boist; set the bulbs in, about an inch apart, and fill in with more soil, working and pressing it in around the bulbs with the fingers until the tops are barely covered. The soil should be at least a half-inch below the rim of the pot.

Special Points

Water thoroughly and turn the pot on its side, so that any surplus water will run off, and set on a bed of ashes, moss, sand or sawdust placed on the floor in a cool, dark, airy location, such as a well-ventilated cellar without heat. Cover with coconut fibre to a depth of about five inches, and leave to root for three or four months. Successful cultivation depends almost completely on this point. Occasionally supply with liquid manure when growing to keep the foliage dwarf and to assist the perfect coloring of the flowers.

Instead of planting in compost, fibre can be used. In this case, fill the pots with the fibre and press it lightly around each bulb, water a little and set away to root. Thereafter keep the fibre uniformly damp, and, since the plantings must have air, never place them in a closet but in a well-ventilated place.

At the end of about four months remove to a warm, well-lighted window to force.

In Glasses of Water

Growing hyacinths in glasses of water is a simpler and probably more interesting method than growing them in pots of soil. Each new development of root, foliage and flower can be observed continually and regulated as desired.

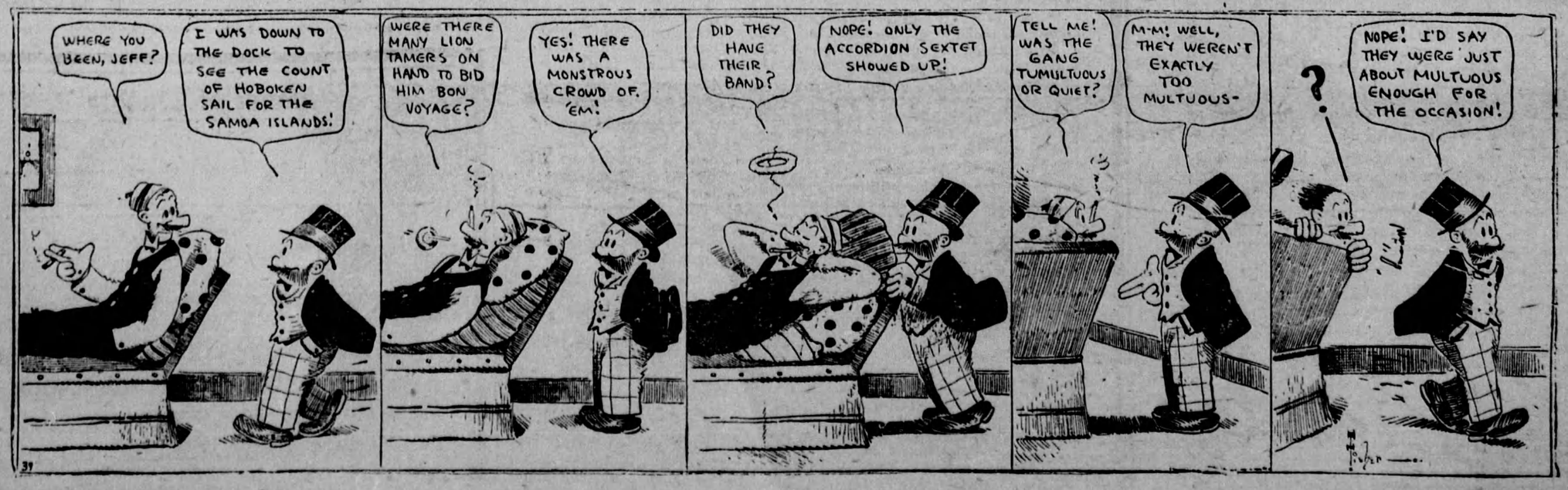
Hyacinth forcing glasses provide ample space for spreading root growth and, at the same time, the bulb is held at such a height that it does not come in direct contact with the water, the water being filled in so as almost to touch the base of the bulbs. A few pieces of charcoal should be put in the glass, as this is of service in keeping the water pure and affords some nourishment. The next simple proceeding is to place the glasses in any dark room, cellar or cupboard for about four weeks, or until the roots nearly touch the bottom of the glass. As the water evaporates, replenish it. When sufficient root growth has been attained the glasses may be brought gradually to the full light, where they are wanted to bloom.

Perfect poise, we would say, is not looking self-conscious in a rumble seat.—American Lumberman.

It is gathered from the many articles printed that the secret of health is still a secret.—Wall Street Journal.

Holiday Maker: "Yes, I'm off for my holidays. Can you tell me of a decent book to take away with me?" Returned Reveller: "You'll find a cheque book most useful."

"I see Madge is going in for aviation." "Madge who?" "Madge Bahr. You know, that girl who wears such skinny clothes." "Oh. Well, she ought to make a good aviatrix; she's had lots of practice in taking off."

MUTT AND JEFF.—Bud Fisher.

The Lion Tamer's Had a Spiffy Time at the Farewell Given the Count