Sunday School Lesson

February 10. Lesson VI—Repentance and Faith—Acts 2: 32-39; Luke 15: 11-24. Golden Text—Repent ye, and believe the gospel.—Mark 1: 15.

ANALYSIS.

I. PENTECOST AND REPENTANCE, Acts 2: 32-39.

II REPENTANCE AND THE RETURN TO THE FATHER, Luke 15: 11-24.

INTRODUCTION — There are two words to express the idea of repentance in the New Testament. One means the changing of the mind, while the other expresses the thought of turning to God. Jesus began his public ministry by preaching the necessity of repentance, and he added as an urgent, that the kingdom of heaven was at hand. The two passages which form our Lesson are taken from the works of Luke, and show how the apostle Peter preaches that repentance is the condition of receiving the gospel. Luke is the evangelist of the grace of God.

I. PENTECOST AND REPENTANCE, *Acts* 2: 32-39.

V. 32. This sermon on Pentecost is the earliest example in Acts of the preaching by the apostles. Peter naturally takes the place of leadership, and declares that his chief work is to bear witness of the hings which he had seen, especially of the revolutionary fact of the Resurrection. This risen Christ becomes the theme of all their discussion.

V. 33. This descent of the Spirit is the direct result of Christ's exaltation to the right hand of God, since it was one of the definite promises of Jesus that he would send them the Comforter.

V. 34. David in this verse stands for the psalms, and Peter uses a verse which Jesus had used very effectually before the scribes. See Matt. 22:41-46.

V. 36. The effect of the sermon is instantaneous. Those who listened were convinced that this outpouring of Pentecost was the direct presence of God, and they were filled with that sense of awe and self-condemnation, which always arises when the sinful heart realizes the nearness of the holy God.

V. 38. Peter now tells them what to do. They must first of all repent and turn away from their unbelief. Then they must receive baptism as a sign that they have been washed from their sin, and the result will be that they will then receive an outpouring of this same spirit, whose wonderful working they have just seen.

V. 39. This is the only way that leads them back to God, and it is a way open to all who are willing to enter.

II REPENTANCE AND THE RETURN TO THE FATHER, Luke 15: 11-24.

V. 11. This famous parable is contained only in Luke, where it is connected with two others, which arise out of the same situation. The first verse tells us of the conditions under which these parables were spoken. This is a parable of the grace of God shown to sinners. The first two parables set for the divine side of salvation in this wonderful love of the Father. This parable teaches that a change of mind and temper must take place ere this grace can be accepted. The parable consists of two parts: (1) the younger brother, 11-24, who is chosen as an illustration of the publicans and sinners; (2) the older brother, 25-32, who recalls the Pharisees.

V 12. It was not an uncommon thing for a man who was getting old to divide up his posessions and distribute them among his family, on the understanding that he would be supported while he lived. The younger son's portion would be one-third.

V. 13. The verse points out the unseemly haste of the boy to get away from the father's presence, the distance which he places between himself and his former home, and the abandon with which he gives himself to the life of sinful indulgence.

V. 14. But all the time God is working for his conversion. He uses different means to bring him to a knowledge of the truth. The famine comes just at a time when his own supplies run out, and the sad youth begins to feel the pinch of hunger.

V. 15. He realizes that his life of pleasure has not brought him anything. His money is gone, he has no friend to help him. None of his old companions is willing to lend him a helping hand.

V. 16. Even the meanest food is denied him.

V. 17. ut this is the divine way of bringing him to the truth. Want and necessity awaken his old memories. What worldly pleasure could not do, the call of hunger does. His mind goes back to the home which he had left; and it is a great thing for him that the memory of the past is so full of pleasant associations.

V. 18. His conscience begins to awaken. He sees how he has neglected the love and care of that home and of his father. He recognizes that this neglect of the father's love is really a sin against God, and that he has no further claim upon the goodness and love of the home. Yet the conviction remains in his mind that he should now return and seek to set things right.

V. 20. The definite decision is made. Repentance is the actual turning of the mind, and he now turns his face homewards, determined that he will make no excuse, but simply appeal to the goodness of the father. This leads us now to the picture here presented of the great mercy and forgiveness of the father. He is represented as one who has long been waiting for the son's return; and without waiting to get any confession, or without knowing why the son has returned, he runs out to welcome the boy back.

V. 21. The request to be made a servant is never made. The unexpected welcome which the boy receives makes it impossible to make such a request.

V. 22. The father heaps honors on him. The best robe in the house is given and the signet ring, the mark of authority, and shoes which were worn by those who were free.

V. 23. The best feast the house can provide is prepared.

V. 24. All because the son is back again. We may thus say that the parable of the prodigal son is also a parable of prodigal love. This parable illustrates the truth that it is the goodness of God that lead us to repentance.

"When poise is not preserved it results in a jam."

Public Opinions and Policy

hardly likely that any Canadian Government would meet a policy of aggression with a policy of aggression. But some Canadian Government will be compelled by the force of an aroused public opinion to adopt a policy of protection. The aggressive policy of the United States in asserting almost complete dominion in the air over this continent has aroused resentment in the Province of Quebec, for the Government of that Province has announced that it will refuse to recognize the validity of that dominion. The Quebec Government is going to establish a provincial broadcasting system, using the wave lengths most suitable for its purpose. Public opinion in the Province of Quebec dictates the policies of the King Government.

Tariff and Agriculture

Vancouver Province (Ind. Cons.): There is more than a little reason to doubt whether agriculture can be helped by tariff changes. Agriculture in the United States, like agriculture in Canada, sells in the world market and buys in a protected market. The only tariff changes that will help it then, it may be contended with some force, are changes which will allow it to buy its instruments of production more cheaply—that is, a downward revision of certain schedules dealing with manufactured articles. But this is not at all what Mr. Hoover had in mind when he made his pre-election speech.

Character is what you are; reputation is what the neighbors knock into a cocked hat.

A New Method of Transportation

NEW SPIRAL TRACTOR

It ensures delivery of the mail despite the depth of snow on the fifteen miles between Lake Tahoe and Truckee, Calif., solving a problem.

Kitchen Garden Needs Flowers As Beauty Aid

Vegetables Interplanted With Bright Blossoming Annuals Make Cheerful Picture

On extremely limited space it often is desirable—if not even necessary—to grow some of the family's favorite vegetables. These, however, can be so selected, so planted and so well cared for as to make a real picture. This means that they be so arranged as to display the owner's artistic appreciation of form and color of the different plants in relation to each other, as well as by themselves.

Garden planning can most profitably be done at this time, when long evenings indoor permit leisure to draw plans, decide on material to fill beds and borders, and order the seed, so that it is on hand, ready to start indoors when needed.

Kitchen Garden Is Picturesque

One of the most attractive vegetable gardens I ever saw was laid around the three sides of a low garage, and displaed real danlscape appreciation. The tall vegetables, like corn and pole beans, were planted at the back, with the medium height in the middle, and then the quite low at the front toward the building.

Flowers, however, had been chosen to fit into the scheme, and bordered the very lowest vegetables in a most attractive way. For example, the outer line of corn, which ran parallel with the back street, would need to have a good facing of cosmos, which in early and late varieties would bloom from July to frost.

Flowers Intersperse Legumes

This garden, by the way, took up most of a small block on a private road of a restricted residential section. The inner line of the vegetable plots—closest to the garage—was of the lowest vegetables, with an edging of such dwarf annuals as lobelia, candytuft, dwarf marigolds, sweet alyssum and dwarf nasturtiums. Along the fence line, toward the house—from which it was separated by a narrow road—the garden was bordered by hardy phlox, hardy asters and the taller flowers usually found in an early autumn perennial bed, while nearer the approach to the garage entrance were numerous varieties of roses.

This interplanting of vegetables and flowers served the double purpose of providing the most delicious of fresh food as well as the loveliest of cut flowers for the house.

Landscape is Undisturbed

The splendid landscaping which attracted so much attention about the dwelling thus did not have to be disturbed, and the choicest perennials—lilies, gladiolas and dahlias—once cut cannot be replaced by new growths as is the case with most of the annuals.

A small town backyard, on the other hand, can be made a spot of beauty by marking off a border from four to six feet wide around the fence side and making an irregular outline around teh small grass plot in the open center.

The tiniest bit of a lawn, kept in perfect condition, will thus resemble a stretch of green velvet, showing off to advantage the flowers planted intensively for succession of bloom.

Here again the tallest plants—hollyhocks, delphinium, etc.—with the flowering shrubs like lilac, spiraea, Van Houtte and forsythia were lined up at the back, while such early dwarf beauties, such as snowdrops, scillas and crocuses, were set in small clumps only a few inches back from the grass line.

Such results however, are achieved only by the most careful planning and study of the various catalogues and garden books. They never come from careless hit-and-miss planting. Each plant, tree and shrub new to the gardener should be looked up in some authority to be sure it is properly placed as to soil and light conditions, else it cannot be expected to grow.

Once the requirements and habits of each has been learned it is possible to keep practically all of the ground space beautiful the season through. Early bulbs are later planted on top or close at one side by shallow-rooted annuals for summer flowering ,and the late-blooming chrysanthemums should be scattered with discrimination to carry on to black frost.

But the real start has to be made early in the year to allow indoor planting of seed and ordering of early stock.

"With the kind assistance of Mr. Snake and the Giraffe brothers, Mr. Monk establishes a new jungle pole-vault record!"

Fear

Fear is an enemy—a more powerful enemy and more far-reaching than anything that could happen to us. Don't fear anything," says some anonymous philosopher. "Remember, there is no devil but Fear. Let Fear and Hatred go out of your life, and put in their place Courage and Love. There is no tragedy like that of trying to 'get square' with somebody. Forget all real or fancied wrongs. Forget everything that has pained or angered or worried you in the past. Smile over it all and start anew today."

Doubts

Our doubts are traitors,
And make us lose the good we often might win,
By fearing to attempt.
—Shakespeare.

Viewing England

If one wanted to show a foreigner England, perhaps the wisest course could be to take him to the final section of the Purbeck Hills, and stand him on their summit, a few miles to the east of Corfe. Then system after system of our island would roll together under his feet. Beneath him is the valley of the Frome, and all the wild lands that come tossing down from Dorchester, black and gold, to mirror their gorse in the expanses of Poole. The valley of the Stour is beyond, unaccountable stream, dirty at Blandford, pure at Wimborne—the Stour, sliding out of fat fields, to marry the Avon beneath the tower of Christ Church. The valley of the Avon—invisible, but far to the north the trained eye may see Clearbury Ring that guards it, and the imagination may leap beyond that on to Salisbury Plain itself, and beyond the Plain to all the glorious downs of Central England. Nor is Suburbia absent. Bournemouths ignoble coast cowers to the right, heralding the pine-trees that mean, for all their beauty, red houses, and the Stock Exchange, and extend to the gates of London itself. So tremendous is the City's trail! But the cliffs of Freshwater it shall never touch, and the island will guard the Island's purity till the end of time. Seen from the west, the Wight is beautiful beyond all laws of beauty. It is as if a fragment of England floated forward to greet the foreigner—chalk of our chalk, turf of our turf, epitome of what will follow. And behind the fragment lies Southampton, hostess to the nations, and Portsmouth, a latent fire, and all around it with double and treble collision of tides swirls the sea. How many villages appear in this view! How many castles! How many churches, vanished or triumphant! How many ships, railways, and roads; What incredible variety of men working beneath that lucent sky to what final end! The reason fails, like a wave on the Swanage beach; the imagination swells, spreads, and deepens, until it becomes georgraphic and encircles England.—E. M. Forster in "Howard's End."

Conversation

Talking is one of the fine arts—the noblest, most important, and the most difficult—and its fluent harmonies may be spoiled by the intrusion of a single harsh note. Therefore, conversation which is suggestive rather than argumentative, which lets out most of each talker's results of thought, is commonly the pleasantest and most profitable. It is not easy, at the best, for two persons talking together to make the most of each other's thoughts, there are so many of them.—The Autocrat.

Misfortune

Many a young fellow who is wasting his life and spending his time in laziness and foolishness needs only the prod of misfortune to make a hustler of him. There is no question that too much prosperity is dangerous and that there are many compensations in an occasional set-back.

I did find that the English are more emotional than the Americans in the evangelistic meetings.—Aime Semple McPherson.

Looking Ahead

Lord Birkenhead Sees Wonders of World 100 Years from Now

A 48-hour day, laboratory babies, synthetic foodstuffs, a 150-year age limit for human beings and two-hour work days, are among the predictions made by Lord Birkenhead, British statesman, in an article on "What the World will be 100 Years from Now" in the February Cosmopolitan magazine.

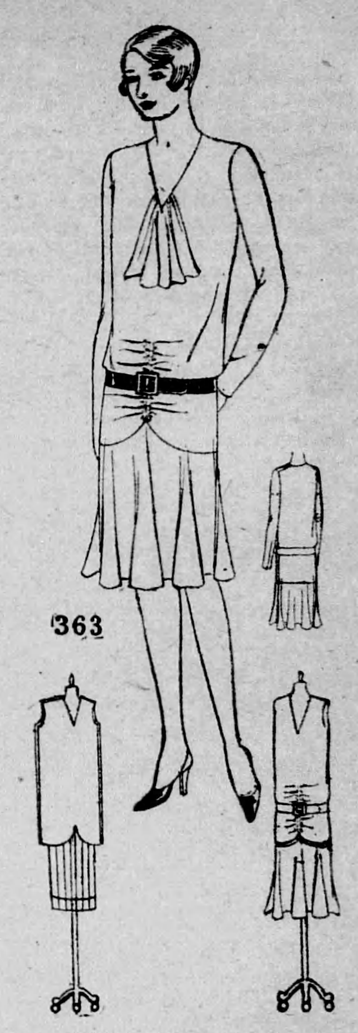
The 48-hour day would be accomplished, according to Lord Birkenhead, "by utilizing tidal energy to diminish the speed of the earth's rotation."

In discussing the laboratory baby, Lord Birkenhead writes:

"The results of much research show that the connection between a mother and her growing child is purely chemical; there is no valid reason why one day biologists should not be able perfectly to imitate that chemical connection in the laboratory."

Human beings will be able to live 150 years, he writes, because by 2029 biologists will have learned the secrets of the living chemistry of the human body—or at least enough of it to achieve startling results.

"Rejuvenation will be an ordinary and well recognized matter of a few injections at appropriate intervals," he says.



EXQUISITE LINES

An exquisite daytime dress, extremely wearable, with long-waisted bodice shirred through centre-front, that contributes an air of formality. The fulness in two-piece circular skirt is placed low by long-waisted bodice, affecting a snug hip yoke. Belt shows new higher waistline. The collarless neckline is softened by gathered jabot frill. Fashioned of black lustrous crepe satin, midnight blue silk crepe, black chiffon, black sheer velvet, printed sheer velvet or Panquin red georgette crepe is very effective. To make it requires but 3½ yards of 40-inch material for the 36-inch size. Style No. 363 is designed in sizes 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust. Pattern price 20c in stamps or coin (coin is preferred). Wrap coin carefully.

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 Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by an early mail.

MUTT AND JEFF.—Bud Fisher.

Jeff Thinks He Has Grounds For An Argument.