Sunday School Lesson

January 5. Lesson I, Childhood of Jesus—Matthew 2. 10-23. Golden Text—Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.—Matthew 1: 21.

ANALYSIS

I. THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN, 10-12.
II. FLIGHT INTO EGYPT, 13-15.
III. RETURN TO NAZARETH, 16-23.

INTRODUCTION—In beginning these studies from the first gospel, one may recall the remark made by a distinguished French scholar, Renan, who said, 'The Gospel according to St. Matthew is the most remarkable book that has ever been written." It provides as well a wonderful picture of the Messiah, and shows how Jesus was the fulfilment of the prophecies of the Old Testament. The writer makes it clear that the Christian is the heir of all the promises of Israel, and the true interpreter of scripture.

I. THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN, 10-12.

V. 10. There are two accounts of the birth of Jesus, one in Matthew and the other in Luke, and these together give us a clear view of this most marvelous event in the history of the world. The actual date is uncertain; but it is probable that Jesus was born several years before A.D. 1. This seems to follow from the fact that Herod was still living when Jesus was born, and it would appear that Herod died in B.C. 4. Some think that the records of the stars may also help to fix the date, but this is not at all sure. We must also read the account in Luke 2: 2 where the events are connected with the movements in the Roman Empire.

V. 11. The Wise Men or Magi, were a Median tribe, who devoted much time to the study of the stars. They worshipped the heavenly obects, and thought they could tell from the progress of the stars how things were to happen. The visit of these men represents the first fruits of the universal mission of Christianity, and it is a fine tribute paid to Jesus as the Redeemer of the world. Bethlehem is a small town south of Jerusalem, and according to Matthew, there were predictions that the promised Messiah was to come out of this place. Luke mentions the place of birth, but omits the prophecy. There is now a famous church built over the spot where Jesus is said to have been born, called The Church of the Holy Nativity.

V. 12. Herod, who is mentioned here, was also called Herod the Great, and was King over the whole of Judea; but he was not complete ruler, since he had to acknowledge the sovereignty of Rome. He must be distinguished from Herod Antipas his son. He was an able ruler, but unscrupulous and cruel.

II. FLIGHT INTO EGYPT, 13-15.

V. 13. Egypt always had close association with Palestine, and it was not unusual for Israelites in time of peril to turn to Egypt for help. The recent war shows how close the connection still is. Egypt was a much richer and more civilized land, and at this time there was a large number of Jews there, especially in Alexandria, which was said to have one-fifth of its population consist of Jews. We do not learn from any other source of the visit of Jesus to the land of the Nile.

V. 14. This story of the flight has been made familiar by many pictures. The verse leaves the impression of haste, fear, and concealment. The parents remain in the land of Egypt till Herod dies.

V. 15. One of the main features of Matthew is the use of the Old Testament. He was writing for Christian Jews who were in need of Bible proof to uphold their beliefs when attacked by the Jews. One of the oft-repeated sentences is, "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet." The passage here quoted is from Hosea 11: 2.

III. RETURN TO NAZARETH, 16-23.

V. 16. The massacre of the innocents has often been portrayed by the artists, and it is doubtful if these are always historically accurate. Probably the number of children murdered was small, as there would not be very many younger than two years in a small town like Bethlehem. However, it was a very cruel deed, and quite in keeping with what is known from other sources of the character of this man. We do not read in the gospels that Jesus ever came back to Bethlehem, but it is interesting to wonder whether he ever returned to see the inn in which he had been born.

V. 17. Again we note the tendency to call attention to the fulfillment of the prophecies of scripture. Ramah has been sometimes identified with a small village Er-Rama, about five miles north of Jerusalem.

V. 22. On their return to Palestine, the parents remained in the south, in Judea, but they are warned in a dream that the danger is not over, and they go north. We must try to keep clearly in our mind the geography of Palestine, which is divided into three parts: Judea south; Samaria next and Galilee north. The kingdom had been divided after Herod's death among his sons. Archelaus received Judea and Samaria, and ruled so badly that after eight years he as sent into exile, and Rome asumed direct control. However, Galilee remained under Herod Antipas till after the death of Jesus.

V. 23. Nazareth, where Jesus was brought up, was an important town and it lay on the route of the travel from Egypt to the East. Here Jesus would see the regiments of soldiers passing, and he would hear of the events happening in the world. The scenery also was beautiful.

Markets for Alberta Coal

Edmonton Journal (Ind. Cons.): (Mr. Neate, of the Dominion Fuel Board, warns Alberta coal producers that it is necessary for the operators to be on their guard against losing ground in the Manitoba market through their anxiety to supply the province further east.) The competition of the American mines in Manitoba has not been of a fair character. They have persistently dumped their product there. Repeated efforts have been made within the past five years to have the Canadian anti-dumping act amended so as to prevent the practice of importing American supplies at set prices which bore little relation to those at the mines. When the Minister of Finance introduced his 1925 udget he announced that the desired changes would be made. But short-sighted criticism offered by Progressive and some other Western members led him to withdraw the resolution of which he gave notice. Since then, though the Government has had its attention drawn frequently to the injustice that was being done the Alberta industry, no action has been taken. The situation demands correction immediately.

An Old Myth Exploded.

Manitoba Free Press (Lib.): Figures are now available which bring to a definite conclusion the long-drawn-out discussion regarding the existing scale of railway freight rates on grain. As is well known, these rates yere set under the Crows Nest Pass agreement in the teeth of the railways which have always insisted that th carriage of grain on such terms involved them in loss . . . This fall, however, there came a chance. Special circumstances, the chief of which was the short western crop, brought about a sharp and alarming decrease in railway earnings. Sir Henry Thornton and Mr. E. W. Beatty both issued statements on the situation, and it became at once apparent that both railways were depending upon grain for a large part of their net profits. Neither railway has yet issued a statement explaining how they could at one and the same time carry grain at a loss and make their profits out of that carriage.

"The wife of a grouch has to take everything for grunted."

It is less important for the stock market to be on the up-grade than on the level.—Virginian-Pilot.

What are you fellows going to do now that actresses have taken to slapping your faces. Have they no sense of chivalry left?—Mr. Bernard Shaw.

It Is Dangerous To Be Beautiful

By PEGGY O'NEIL

"My beauty has been my ruin," a woman of 35 said to me the other afternoon. "If I hadn't been beautiful I wouldn't have been so cocksure that another man would come along after I turned the last one down.

"Like many other beautiful girls I played fast and loose with the affections of my admirers, confident that I would never lack for a fresh one. I did not think there would ever be a time when I would be left on the shelf, a lonely woman.

"If I hadn't been beautiful I might have paid more attention to cultivating my mind. Even now that my looks have faded I might still be a charming and desirable companion for some man.

"But I wasted my opportunities—confident that beauty was everything."

That is what this woman told me in a burst of frank self-revelation.

Test of Experience

To-day it is the fashion to rate feminine beauty as one of the most highly-prized commodities. A really beautiful girl is said to have the world at her feet. There is scarcely any door that is closed to her.

In business and in love it is the popular belief that she starts with the dice heavily loaded in her favor.

But how far from truth this is, is proved by actual experience. You have only to look round at your own circles of friends. How many beautiful girls do you know who are successfully and happily married?

Men court them and pay them attentions—yes, but it is the other sort, the homely ones that they mostly marry.

And how many beautiful girls do you know who are holding down big business and professional positions? I know a good many women who have been particularly successful in commercial careers. They are capable, attractive women, but few could be called beautiful.

Ruined Her Life

I remember meeting a girl some time ago who had won a prize in a beauty competition. If ever there was a girl who was ruined by her looks, it was she.

Formerly she was a sweet, unpretentious girl with a gentle disposition. The public recognition of her beauty soon changed all this, and she became arrogant, self-centred, and impossibly conceited.

She lost her job because she concentrated more on her looks than on her employer's business; she jilted her fiance because she thought he was not good enough for her; she almost broke her mother's heart with her unreasoning vanity.

To-day this girl is working as a packer in a factory. Illness has deprived her of her looks. She has nothing left.

Another girl I know whose future has been ruined by her looks is on the stage. If she had applied herself to her art she might to-day be recognized as one of our leading actresses, for she has genuine talent.

Instead she has chosen to pin her faith in her pretty face, and has got nowhere at all.

I met a girl not long ago who told me frankly that she wished she were plain.

"Do you know," she said, "I don't believe men trust a really pretty girl. I have known heaps of men. Some I thought, were certain to propose to me, but nearly every one has since gone off and married someone else with not half my share of good looks."

There was one man on whom this girl was particularly keen. He took her out for nearly six months, and in the end married her plain sister.

Too Easy at the Start

"I got a job in an office," the girl said, "but was dismissed because it was considered my good looks were a disturbing influence, and not conducive to office discipline."

But I could enumerate these examples almost without end. Every body must know of others in their own experience.

That is the tragedy of the beautiful girl. life is too easy or her in the beginning. Unless she is particularly sensible and level-headed she is spoiled by flattery and admiration. And then when she wakes up from her dreams it is often too late.

No, I think that on the average the moderately attractive girl—very often even the downright plain girl—has a better chance of happiness than her beautiful sister.

I look around me and I see the plain girls winning all along the line. They have husbands and children. They are placid and comfortable instead of painfully living up to their good looks.

What Really Counts

After all, when a man marries he does not want to be always looking at a beauty advertisement of a fashion plate. It is very nice to be seen out with a beautiful girl at the theatre or at a dance. But when one comes down to the stern practicalities of domesticity the average man wants a good deal more..

No girl, however plain she is, need ever despair of getting a husband. A dozen times a day when I see married couples together I say to myself, "Now, what on earth did he see in that woman?"

One sees good-looking, smart men married to the dowdiest and most uninteresting creatures imaginable. But one does not need to seek far to find the reason. The plain girls have made it their business to cultivate charm.

And that, after all, is what really counts.—Montreal Standard.

Dad (assisting little Alice with her homework)—"If I gave you five oranges and you had one, how many oranges would you have?"

Alice—"I dunno. We always do our sums in apples."

You were made for enjoyment, and the world was filled with things which you will enjoy, unless you are too proud to be pleased by them or too grasping to care for what you cannot turn to other account than mere delight.—John Ruskin.

WHAT *New York* IS WEARING

Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished with Every Pattern

By Annebelle Worthington

2935

Looking slender is easy when wearing the correct attire. For instance, take Style No. 2935 every detail to carry out vertical line is plainly emphasized.

The surplice closing breaks the width through the bodice, while the collar that reaches to waistline at left side carries the eye down to the vertical line in skirt in jabot drape, that flutters only when wearer moves. Plaits in cluster effect at right side provide sufficient fulness to hem. The crushed girdle hugs the hips and holds in surplus fulness. The neckline is softened by inset vestee and pin tucked shoulders. Sleeves are gathered into narrow cuff bands. Note the back is slim and straight.

The medium chosen for this attractive dress is canton crepe in novel print in burgundy tones. The girdle is sheer velvet in burgundy shade with metal buckle. Vestee is eggshell shade silk crepe with lace in matching shade.

It is designed in sizes 16, 18 years, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46 inches bust.

It is very smart in black crepe satin with ecru lace shawl collar with vestee cut of the reverse of crepe.

Canton crepe in rich wine red shade with vestee of beige crepe silk with shawl collar of self-fabric is effective.

Crepe Elizabeth, georgette crepe, plain silk crepe printed crepe silk, crepe de chine and crepe marocain chic.

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.

Fragrance

You walked through a garden—
Do you remember—
But that was in June. . .
And this is November.
And you did not notice
Me at all,
For I was a tulip
Beside a wall.
But my ashes still breathe
Of a lady fair,
Who plucked me and tucked me
In her hair.
A lady who wept
That you did not remember
You kissed her in June—
When it came November.
—Judy Shea in Chicago Tribune.

The National Debt

Toronto Globe (Lib.): Veterans ill or disabled should be accorded hospital treatment or pension assistance with a maximum of generosity and a minimum of red tape. Ex-soldiers who are actually sick should be instantly entitled to hospital treatment upon the mere evidence of the illness itself. If there is to be haggling and quibbling over when the disease first started, let the doctors do the arguing among themselves after the sick man is safely inside. . . . Those who offered their lives in the days of national crisis should not need to apply hither and yon and be passed about from pillar to post in their own hour of need. They served the nation. Let the nation repay as best it can.

Wheat Poo land Protection

Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (Lib.): European countries, once heavy buyers and Canadian wheat, have sought to fight the pool and encourage home production by putting high tariffs on imported wheat. In 1925 France charged a duty of 15 cents a bushel on foreing wheat. Germany and Italy admitted it free. Today the duties are: France, 53 cents; Germany, 48½ cents; Italy 73½ cents. European protectionists and reluctance to pay the price asked for Canadian wheat imposed a severe test on the pool during the 1928-29 selling season.

It's our guess that even if long skirts do succeed in coming in, they won't stay long.—Detroit Free Press.

Britain Plans Big Building Program

Construction Work Amounting to $100,000,000 is Announced

HELP UNEMPLOYED

Municipalities, Railways, Gas and Water Projects Involved

London. — Construction work in Great Britain amounting to more than $100,000,000 has been approved by the Government in connection with its plans to alleviate unemployment, and the Government will make a total contribution to this work of about $46,000,000. This was revealed in a statement issued by Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, Lord Privy Seal and Minister of Employment.

This work involves municipalities, railway companies, gas companies and water supply companies. "It is generally required that all materials needed for the state-assisted works shall, so far as is practicable, be of United Kingdom origin, and all manufactures will be United Kingdom manufacture," the statement emphassized. This stipulation is subject to such exceptions as the Government Department concerned may find to be necessary or desirable in any particular case, having regard to all the circumstances, including comparative prices of British and foreign articles.

"If the necessary supplies are not purchased in the United Kingdom, they are to be secured from the overseas part of the Empire wherever possible," the statement declares.

Road Schemes

The Government has further approved, under the trunk road program, road schemes costing another $45,000,000. Under the whole five-year program of road work the schemes approved total $75,000,000. The road fund liability in respect of these schemes is estimated at $80,000,000 and employment will in this respect be afforded equivalent to the employment of 100,000 men for one year.

At the same time the Minister announced aid to form a colonial development fund, which would enable the carrying out of great construction projects in the colonial Empire lying outside the Dominions. This would directly benefit British labor by the demand for materials from the British manufacturers.

The Government's employment plans therefore call for expenditure of upwards of $180,000,000 within Great Britain, and the construction of costly development works in the colonies, notably Africa, benefiting Britain by employment equal to the employment of about 190,000 men a year.

A WIND

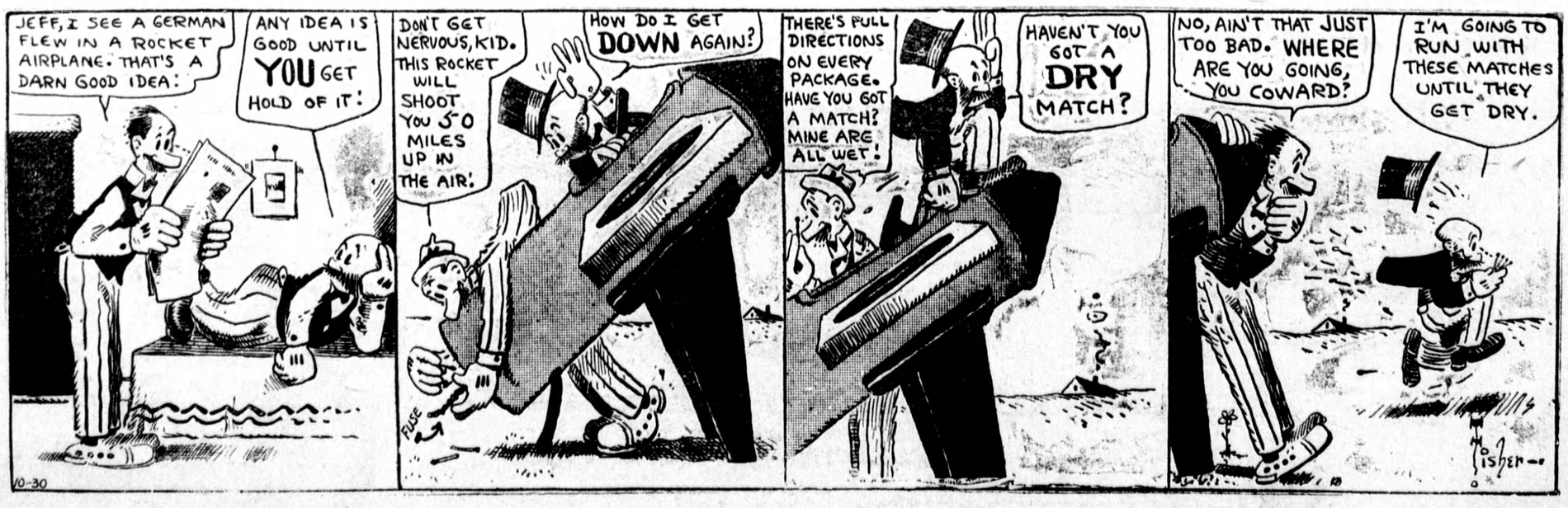
A captain of a trawler in the English Channel once told the Bishop of Oxford that time and again, when the catch was in, and they seemed becalmed, there often was a wind higher up, unfelt on deck. He kept his sail's peak up and headed for the haven, and when morning came found himself near home. So with us in the monotony of daily tasks the wind of God's Spirit up above will slowly bring us home.—John A. Hutton.

PATHS

The best path through life is the high road, which initiates us at the right moment into all experience. Exceptional itineraries are suspicious, and matter for anxiety. What is normal is at once most convenient, most honest, and most wholesome. Cross roads may tempt us for one reason or another, but it is very seldom that we do not come to regret having taken them.

According to London Opinion, 13 inns in Surrey are called "The Jolly Farmer." The suggestion seems to be that a jolly farmer is one who sells his farm and opens an inn.—Detroit News.

While bathing at a French seaside resort, an income-tax collector was attacked by a shoal of jelly-fish. Some jelly-fish evidently have more back bone than taxpayers.—The Humorist.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER

Love Sends a Gift of Wet Matches.