Sunday School Lesson

May 24—Lesson VIII: Jesus Preparing for the End. The Lesson: Luke 21: 1 to 22: 23. Print: Luke 22: 7-23. Golden Text—This do in remembrance of me.—Luke 22: 19.

ANALYSIS.

I. TRANSFORMING A JEWISH CUSTOM, 22: 7-13.

II. THE MEANING OF THE SYMBOL, 22: 14-23.

I. TRANSFORMING A JEWISH CUSTOM, 22: 7-13.

We are probably wrong to suppose that Jesus, on the occasion of his last evening with his disciples on earth, instituted a new rite, or gave his Church-to-be a new and hitherto unheard-of ceremony. It appears rather that Jesus, following a well-known Jewish custom which persists to this day, had been accustomed, at the evening meal, when he gathered his disciples about him to offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God, to pass around the loving-cup from which each drank, and the round, flat loaf from which each broke himself a fragment. We seem to find references to this common Jewish rite, the Quiddush, in other parts of the Gospels. The Last Supper was not an altogether new institution, but one of a series, the last of that series for Jesus on earth, and for the disciples with his visible presence. It would, therefore, in any case, have been a particularly memorable occasion, but it was made more memorable by the solemn, prophetic words which Jesus used. Henceforward they would, when they gathered for their simple, family sacred meal, give thanks to God, not only for his mercies to Israel and to mankind at large, but in particular for the sending of his Son, and for Jesus' death and resurrection for them. In future, the bread and the wine would be to them the symbols of Jesus' gift of himself unto death on their behalf. A simple Jewish rite of fellowship and thanksgiving thus became the Christian Eucharist, or great Thanksgiving for the gift of Jesus. The elements of bread and wine took on a new mysterious significance. The service came to have both a backward look to the Last Supper on the betrayal night, and a forward look to the spiritual banquet in the kingdom of heaven when the redeeming work shall be completed. It was natural that this service should become the central act of Christian worship.

II. THE MEANING OF THE SYMBOL, 22: 14-23.

It is easier to see how the service originated, and how it developed, then to know exactly what Jesus said at the Last Supper. We have accounts of that Supper in the first three Gospels, and in 1 Corinthians. In the fourth Gospel we are given a discourse of Jesus on that last evening, and the story of the foot-washing, but no account of the Supper, while the sacramental teaching of Jesus is connected with the Feeding of the Five Thousand. It is not possible quite satisfactorily to harmonize all these accounts. In particular it is probable (but not certain) that we should excise from Luke's account from the words "which is given for you" in v. 19 to the end of v. 20. There is important manuscript authority for this, and it is likely that these words were added, in very early days, to bring Luke's account into better harmony with the others.

But we are still left with the question as to what Jesus meant when he he said, "this is my body." It is important to remember that Jesus must have been saying something which was intelligible to the disciples at the time. He is not reported as saying, "this is my flesh," and quite certainly when he gave them the bread, he was not giving them his flesh or physical body to eat, for his physical body was still with them as he reclined at the table. We are bound, therefore, to take the words mystically or parabolically. We must not attempt to explain them away, we must explain them intelligibly. The Hebrew prophets had taught their contemporaries, not only by their glowing words, but also by their symbolic actions. Thus for months Isaiah had gone about the city in the dress of a captive, and Jeremiah had carried a yoke on his shoulders as a symbol of the doom that would overtake an unrepentable people. Similarly Jesus used the acted as well as the spoken parable. His seizing of the Temple was a case in point. "This is my body," must mean, "this represents my body." As Jesus was giving them the cup and the bread, so was he giving his very life for them.

The Church has rightly seen in the Lord's Supper a bond of Christian fellowship, a communion with Christ, a feeding upon him by faith, a foretaste of the triumphal feast of redemption in the future kingdom. Many historical details are uncertain, and we do wrong to think superstitiously of the rite, but we can hardly put too much meaning into it, for we cannot exhaust the infinite love and infinite significance of Jesus.

Still Largest Tree

Vancouver, B.C. — According to British Columbia lumbermen the record for the largest tree ever cut down still rests with the Lynn Valley Douglas fir which was 417 feet high, being 300 feet to the first limb. It was 25 feet in diameter and 77 feet in circumference, and was believed to be about 2,000 years old. "There is probably no other tree that will ever surpass in size this giant fir," says the "Canada Lumberman," "except as botanical specimens. No lumber corporation could afford to let a tree grow to such an age."

What New York Is Wearing

BY ANNABELLE WORTHINGTON

Illustrated Dressmaking Lessons Furnished With Every Pattern

White embroidered mousseline vest and deep cuffs provide smart newness and contrast to an all-day model of navy blue flat crepe silk.

The cowl neckline softens the bodice and narrows its effect.

The skirt hugs the figure through the hips with gracious flaring toward the hem.

Black chiffon with black lace is exquisitely lovely for more formal occasions.

Printed crepe silk with plain blending crepe contrast is decidedly chic and wearable.

Style No. 2943 may be had in sizes 16, 18 years, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust. Size 36 requires 3½ yards of 39-inch material with ⅝ yard of 35-inch contrasting.

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CHARITY

We may cover a multitude of sins with the white robe of charity.

Latest Reports On Bee Science

Bees Converse By Various Foot Movements

According to the latest scientific bee knowledge the feet of the bees are their organs of communication, believes Dr. Karl Von Frisch, a German entomologist. In talking they do not touch one another, but deliver their message by what we would call a kind of dance.

The method used in his research is as interesting almost as the discovery itself. It appears that the doctor first built several hives entirely of glass, so that he could see exactly what was going on in them. He made small doors to these hives in order to let the bees in and out as he wished. He placed the hives on one side of the garden, on the opposite side of which was a small patch of clover in bloom. Then, between the hives and the clover patch he built a screen maze, or labyrinth, a place full of intricate passage ways which covered the entire garden.

This done, he lifted up a small door of one of the hives, letting one bee out. With some very bright red coloring material he painted a red cross upon the back of this bee, so that he would be able to distinguish it from the rest. He then released the marked bee to travel through the network of passages in search of food. It went on its journey, baffled at times by enclosures and blind alleys, but it kept on and on, retracing its steps time after time, until it finally succeeded in reaching the clover patch.

After it had gathered a load of nectar, it flew quickly back through the elaborate channels to the glass hive, where Dr. Frisch opened the little door and let the wanderer in. The scientist kept his eye on the marked bee in the glass hive by means of a large magnifying glass. It was then that the entomologist received the surprise of his life. The bee with the red cross moved its feet and wings up and down in a peculiar rhythmic fashion, and no sooner had it made this movement than all the other bees around it went through exactly the same antics.

Shortly afterward, Dr. Frisch opened the hive. The bee with the brilliant red cross on its back came out, followed by a host of other workers. The marked bee, continuing to lead the way, took the other bees to the clover patch without any difficulty. And from that time on all the bees could traverse the intricate maze without going into a blind alley or losing any time. Through further observation, Dr. Frisch learned that bees have different movements and act in different ways according to the story they wish to tell. When angry, for instance, they move in a peculiar zigzag fashion.

Still further study and observation revealed that the bee does not work all the time, as was previously believed, but takes time for rest and play. So the bee, although it does not realize that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, instinctively carries out that idea. Nevertheless, when it works, it works with all its might. Only in war times do humans come near approaching the strenuous activities of the bee.

The bee often works both day and night, gathering the pollen and nectar during the daytime and helping to fan the nectar with its wings during the night, to make the sweet fluid thicker by evaporation. One good authority says that it takes twenty thousand bees to make a single pound of honey. It also takes five pounds of the sweet and precious nectar from the flowers to make one pound of honey. So, although the bee does not always work, in accordance with the latest scientific investigations, the phrase "busy as a bee" still retains its full significance.

THE KEY

Faith is the key that unlocks the cabinet of God's treasures; the king's messenger from the celestial world, to bring all the supplies we need out of the fullness that there is in Christ.—J. Stephens.

To Fly North

Jack Charleson of Ottawa, who with Capt. F. N. Williams, New York, will fly as far north as magnetic pole to photograph aurora borealis in colors. They plan to hop off July [illegible].

Sun's Rays Are Cool Compared With Stars

Mount Wilson, Cal.—If the glare of the springtime sun on the pavement irritates the eyes, don't be downhearted.

Things could be worse—the sun isn't so bright after all.

Dr. Walter S. Adams, director of the Carnegie Institution of Washington Observatory here, will tell you it has been measured and found to be 3,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 candle-power.

That's a lot of candlepower, and the brightest electric arc looks like a black spot when seen against the sun's disk. But there are millions of stars much brighter.

For instance, in the cool of the night one should look at Rigel, in the constellation of Orion and contemplate how beautiful it seems.

The sun goes into the shade in comparison with Rigel, for the brightest star in Orion is at least 10,000 times as bright as our sun.

Fortunately for the people on earth, Rigel is not where the sun is, a mere 93,000,000 miles from the earth, for there would be no living here then.

Rigel is so far away that it takes its light more than 300 years to reach the earth, while the light of the sun makes the journey in about eight and a half minutes.

And Canopus, famous star of Egypt, is still brighter.

Soil Erosion

Colombo Times of Ceylon: The problem of soil erosion is a world-wide one, but assumes most alarming proportions in countries where the rainfall is heavy, and the land steep. The rainfall in the Tropics, except in certain dry belts, is notoriously heavy, in its annual as well as seasonal incidence; and where, as in the Central and South-West regions of this island, the land is mountainous, the conditions for soil erosion may be described as ideal. This fact, and the loss resulting from the removal of the finest (which are also the most valuable) particles of the land, were scarcely realized by the enterprising pioneers who, in opening land for coffee and tea, blindly followed the system of clean-weeding in vogue in English agriculture, and largely depends—like all pioneers—on the virginal fertility of the land for their crops. Subsequent experience in tropical planting has made the planter wiser.

War and the Next Generation

New Statesman and Nation (London): Mr. Angus Roberts was perfectly right when he said in his presidential address to the National Union of Teachers that the danger of war still lies in its glamor—in "the indefinite form of admiration" which still clings to it. . . . In the days when war meant hand-to-hand fighting there was really something splendid about it. Even in the last war there were opportunities for chivalry; there was a genuine call for comradeship in arms. But we have heard complaints from regular soldiers that warfare nowadays is not war at all—"not war," they put it, "but bloody murder." . . . If war had become a scientific but indiscriminate slaughter involving civilians as well as armed men in 1918, what of the next war? . . . Lewisite, a poison gas which so burns its victims that they become scarcely recognizable, and another gas which first causes intense pain in the head and chest, a pain which is followed by such acute mental misery that it sometimes drives men to suicide—these came into use before the end of the last war. But men recover from doses of these gases, just as they often do from mustard gas and phosgene, and we may apparently expect more effective substitutes in the next war. It seems, too, that there is a good prospect of developing other forms of poison. . . . Where is the glamor, the high call of adventure in war of this kind? . . . We have written in all sincerity on our war memorials up and down the country: "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori." Perhaps we shall do so again. But if we add "to kill for your country," which is, after all, what a soldier is asked to do, will that, too, seem a sweet and honorable thing in a war of the kind for which all nations even now are preparing?

Giant Ice Crystals Formed Only Once By Nature

Giant ice crystals, up to eighteen inches across, are found at only one place in the world, in the famous Kungur ice caves of the Ural mountains. Russian scientists recently returned from these caverns with striking photographs of the fantastic structures taken by water in these remote grottoes. Snowflakes are seen under the microscope as delicate six-pointed crystals, and hailstones, on rare occasions, have been found to consist of crystals visible without magnification, but the huge cave crystals are more beautiful than either. They are hollow and six-angled, with a curious spiral geometry, showing the intricate effects of window-pane frost projected into three dimensions. The ice is deposited like hoarfrost by the cooling of moist air as it passes outward through the caves.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Use for Dividing Rod

New hope for the rescue of avalanche victims and for the early recovery of bodies of the killed which often are not found until the Winter's snows have melted has been found in the divining rod. A mountaineer of Traunstein, upper Austria, deeply moved by some recent avalanche tragedies, has been making a series of experiments. Objects likely to be carried by every skier, such as a watch, ring, coins, ski knife and ski footplates, were buried very deep in the snow, and a "dowser" set out with the divining rod to search for them. In each case the rod revealed the location of the metallic objects. It is believed that the new discovery will save scores of lives in the Austrian Alps every year.

Why Swiss Lakes Are Blue

Travelers long have marveled at the beautiful azure color of the lakes in the Tyrolean Alps, and chemical compounds in the water were generally believed to cause the color. Recent analysis, however, shows the lakes to be free from coloring matter. Scientists therefore have decided that the hue is due to reflection and refraction of the azure sky in colorless water, particularly since the azure color changes to gray as the sun declines. Other localities do not have the deep-blue water coloring because they are not favored with clear blue skies.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Quotations

That observations which is called knowledge of the world will be found much more frequently to make men cunning than good.—Dr. Johnson.

Let not things, because they are common, enjoy for that the less share of our consideration.—Pliny the Elder.

Hardly anything will bring a man's mind into full activity if ambition be wanting.—Sir Heny Taylor.

Certainly nothing is unnatural that is not physically impossible.—Richard Brinsley Sheridan.

Sad soul, take comfort, nor forget that sunrise never failed us yet.—Celia Thaxter.

Life is like playing a violin solo in public and learning the instrument as one goes on.—Samuel Butler.

"If a man drinks heavily in order to drown his troubles, he will soon find that they can swim."—A Solicitor.

"Alcohol should be in the engine, not in the engineer."—Henry Ford.

Sleep is fleeting death; each sunrise finds us all new-born.—From the Chinese.

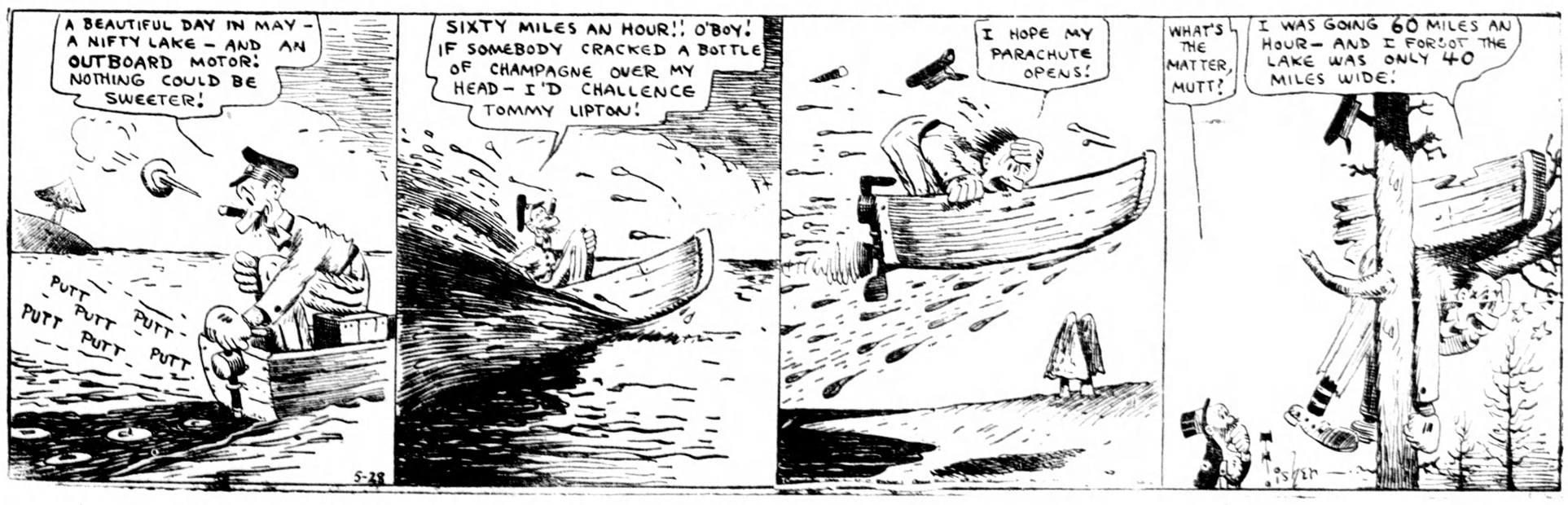
Nothing is so dear and precious as time.—Rabelais.

Summer Mode

This costume is of red and white linen, worn with white linen hat buttonholed at edges in red yarn. White kid opera pumps are trimmed with narrow band of white lizard.

Movie is Sent Through Tube For Patrons in Lounge

On a miniature screen in the lounge of a Los Angeles theatre, patrons may view and hear the identical talking picture being presented in the main auditorium. This enables those who wish, to retire to the lounging room without missing any of the continuity of the film. The picture is reflected from the film in the main projection room by means of a mirror and through a long tube to the glass screen, six feet wide, in the basement lounge.

MUTT AND JEFF— —By BUD FISHER.

Where the Flying Fishes Play.