Sunday School Lesson

February 7. Lesson VI—The Slavery of Sin (Temperance Lesson)—Matthew 25: 45-51; John 8: 31-36. Golden Text—Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.—John 8: 34.

ANALYSIS

I. KNOWING THE TRUTH, John 8: 31, 32

II. DENYING OUR BONDAGE, John 8: 33 34.

III. THE TRUE FREEDOM, John 8: 35, 36.

INTRODUCTION—Jesus had been warning the Jews against the consequences of their unbelief, 8: 21-30. His own life was so of a piece with his spoken "testimony"—"I always do those things that please him" (v. 29)—that many people believed on him, v. 30. Others—"the Jews"—became convinced that he was the Messiah. The faith of some of them, he saw to be unreliable. His message to them is our message today in this lesson.

I. KNOWING THE TRUTH, John 8: 31, 32

The translation in the Authorized Version of vs. 30, 31 is "believed on." In v. 31 a better rendering would be "believed." Verse 30 tells of a real faith, a personal trust and loyalty. Verse 31 tells simply of an intellectual, doctrinal belief. The Jews—those who, in this Gospel, are taken as the party antagonistic to Jesus—became convinced that he was the Messiah. Their conviction, however, made no change in their lives. They said, "We believe that what you say is true," but this did not make them "followers" of Jesus.

To them Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth," vs. 31, 32. That is, Jesus' teaching can be understood only by those who are prepared to practice it—who make their "faith" the principle by which they guide all their activities. Every earnest man asks the question, "Why am I here? What is life's purpose for me?" He wants to know the truth. Only as he makes Jesus' way of living his way will he come to understand the meaning of life and his place in it. He shall know the truth.

Knowing this and seeing therefore the "real" unhidden by "appearances" he will be saved from error sin and folly. His moral vision will set him free from the moral dangers into which, through ignorance of their real character, he might otherwise fall. He sees, for example, his own body as a temple of God in the building. Therefore he can permit nothing that will deface or defile it.

II. DENYING OUR BONDAGE, John 8: 33, 34.

The Jews were insulted at the suggestion that they were not free, v. 33. "We were never in bondage to any man." Then what about Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Syria? Even as they spoke, was the Roman garrison not looking down from the castle into the Temple courts—keeping a watchful eye upon these conquered Jews. Like most of us, they were able to ignore and even deny unpleasant facts.

Hence, of course, they felt no need of freedom. What more discouraging work than offering salvation to people who do not feel their need of it—solving problems which trouble no one—answering questions which no one is asking? How indifferently we listen to the story of God's redeeming love. Nevertheless, when it is forced upon our attention, we are conscious that we are "out" with the moral universe around us. We find a law—an influence working upon us—that when we would do good evil is present with us. We are in bondage.

III. THE TRUE FREEDOM, John 8: 35, 36.

When Jesus then contrasted the family relationship of the slave with that of the son (v. 35) he meant that no matter how long or how hard a man's bondage to sin had been, it was still only an artificial and, if he so desired, a temporary bondage. Whether he be a drunkard, apparently hopelessly enslaved by the drink habit, or one of those who are even harder to redeem—the respectable complacent folk who are saturated with the form of religion, but uninfluenced by its power—his bondage can be broken.

By whom? "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed," v. 36. How does the Son deliver me from the sin that holds me? He wins me by the power of his own pure love to awaken an answering love in me. If the one whom I have greatly wronged is able to convince me that his love for me is strong enough, not only to overcome any resentment toward me, but to forgive me freely and yearn with a passionate longing for my answering love, then I cannot but respond to it. The thing that wounded him will become hateful to me. When I am brought face to face with the abandon with which God in Christ has loved me I become free from the shackles of my old bondage. I enter into a new relationship with my Saviour—brother. "Sin, which was once so alluring now becomes not merely a prohibited thing, but actually distasteful; and goodness, which was once so difficult, becomes not only a thing required of me, but actually a thing I love," Baillie—This is the true freedom from sin.

Lost—a Patient

Mr. Birrell, when Irish Secretary, told this story about the only time he ever wanted to consult a doctor.

"Once only in my life did I feel persuaded that I was smitten with a mortal disease. I started on my way to consult a distinguished doctor.

"It was a hot July day and I thought the time was come for my last walk. I walked from my home to Harley Street. I found the great physician's room crowded with patients, and, while waiting, I saw on the table a book written by the great physician on the subject of this particular disease.

"The first words which caught my eye were these: 'The patient who is suffering from this disease never perspires.' I picked up my hat and walked out."

What New York Is Wearing

BY ANNEBELLE WORTHINGTON

Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished With Every Pattern

With the delightful new Victorian fashions which are considered so ravishing, particularly for youth and the youthful type of woman, one needs a slimming costume slip.

Note how this charming model is cut with fitted brassiere and its unbroken line through the waist and its snug hips A nice fulness is given the hem through the slightly circular skirt part.

It will take the minimum of making and its small cost will be a revelation.

Style No. 3437 is designed for sizes 14, 16, 18 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust.

Size 16 requires 2 yards 35 or 39-inch with 3 yards lace edging.

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.

Professor Einstein In California

Professor Albert Einstein, propounder of the theory of relativity, pays tribute to the prize-winning float in the annual tournament of roses pageant at Pasadena, California.

Caves of Ice

The shadow of the dome of pleasure
Floated midway on the waves;
Where was heard the mingled measure
From the fountain and the caves.
It was a miracle of rare device,
A sunny pleasure-dome with caves of ice!

A damsel with a dulcimer
In a vision once I saw.
It was an Abyssinian maid,
And on her dulcimer she played.
Singing of Mount Abora.
Could I revive within me
Her symphony and song,
To such a deep delight 'twould win me,
That with music loud and long,
I would build that dome in air,
That sunny dome! those caves of ice!

—Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Poems.

They Didn't

A dentist was about to extract the tooth of a girl who declined an anaesthetic but resolutely closed her jaws whenever he approached her with the forceps.

At last he whispered to his assistant: "Quietly stick that needle in her back. That will make her open her mouth!"

The assistant carried out his instructions. The girl opened her mouth and the tooth was removed.

The dentist said: "I hope you didn't experience much pain?"

"No," she answered, "but I never knew the roots went down so far."

The Other Clan

The foreman of a big motor works was interviewing a number of applicants.

Presently a lean, angular man was shown into his office.

"Well," asked the foreman, "are you a mechanic?"

The applicant shook his head.

"No, sorr," he replied gravely, "I'm a McTosh."

Mrs. Flat—"It's so close in here, can't you let in a little fresh air?"

Flat (absently)—"No; there's absolutely no room for another thing."

Briefs Abroad

The ordinary type of cold costs Gt. Britain at least £6,000,000 a year in loss of working time.

England's army of Civil Servants shows an increase of more than 5,000 over the figures for a year ago.

The last sailing-ship to be built in Britain was the Archibald Russell; she was built in Glasgow in 1905.

It costs £50,000 for the voyage to Canada and back of the new Canadian Pacific liner, Empress of Britain.

The only private "army" maintained in Britain is that of the Duke of Atholl. It is one thousand strong, and is complete with artillery.

Buses now being built for London traffic will seat sixty-three passengers, room being made for the ten extra fares by extending the top deck over the driver's cabin.

In the Vatican Library, the roof of which suddenly collapsed recently, were 400,000 printed books, 53,000 MSS., and 6,000 works of art. Most of these were, however, undamaged.

Penguins' eggs, which are bigger than those of the turkey, take half an hour to boil. They are already in use in South Africa, and it is planned to put them on sale in Gt. Britain at $1.10 a dozen.

Men are said to be more susceptible to colds than women. Gt. Britain's figures go to prove that seventy-seven per cent. of the male patients suffer from colds, as compared wth sixty per cent. of the women.

England's roadways have become still more dangerous to pedestrians, according to police figures. In the year just ended fifty children under five years of age were killed, as compared with thirty-eight the previous year.

German women and girls spend, on an average, twice as much on cosmetics and perfumes as do the women of Gt. Britain. According to official figures, this expenditure in Germany works out at one shilling per person every 200 days.

During the last twelve months 27,000 people were reported "missing" in Paris, and more than 25,000 in New York. Britain's annual figure, of women and girls, for the whole country, is about 15,000, of which number less than one-tenth remain undiscovered for more than two weeks.

"Extreme" marriages last year in England included three girls of twenty who wedded men of seventy or over, one girl aged seventeen who married a bridegroom of sixty-seven, a man of twenty-two whose bride was aged sixty, and a twenty-eight-year-old groom who mated a woman of seventy.

Painters of Child-Life

If we could gather into one great gallery all the paintings of child-life which the world has ever produced, there would be scattered here and there some few works of a distinctly unique character, before which we should rest so completely satisfied that we should quite forget to look at any others. These choice gems are the work of those rare men of genius who, looking beyond all trivial circumstances and individual peculiarities, discovered the essential secrets of child-life, and embodied them in ideal types. They are pictures of childhood, rather than of children, representing those phases of thought and emotion which are peculiar to the child as such, and which all children possess in common. In their presence every mother spontaneously exclaims, "How like my own little one!" because the artist has interpreted the real child nature. Such pictures may justly take rank among the highest productions of creative art, having proven their claim to greatness by their unquestioned appeal to universal admiration.

In work of this kind one name alone is prominent, a name which England is proud to claim as hers, but to which all the world pays honor—the name of Sir Joshua Reynolds, Prince of Child-painters. A simple-hearted man, of sweet, kindly disposition, the great portrait-painter, bachelor though he was, possessed in rare measure the mysterious gift of winning the confidence of children. The great octagonal studio in Leicester Square must have often resounded to the laughter of childish voices as he entertained his little patrons with the pet dogs and birds he used in their portraits, and coaxed them into good nature with a thousand merry tricks. Although the greater number of these little people belonged to the most wealthy and aristocratic families in England, their pictures do not in any way indicate their rank. Still less do they show any distinguishing marks of the artificial age in which they lived. Dressed in the simplest of costumes, of the sort which is never out of fashion and always in the best taste, and posed in the natural attitudes of unconscious grace, they are representatives of childhood, pure and simple, rather than of any particular social class or historical period.

A list of Sir Joshua's child pictures may suitably begin with one which, in his own opinion, is among the best and most original of all his works. This is the Strawberry girl, exhibited in 1773, and repeated many times by the painter,—"not so much for the sake of profit," as Northcote explains, "as for improvement." The model was the artist's pretty niece, Miss Theophila ("Offy") Palmer who was named for his mother, and whom he loved as his own daughter.

The little girl stands with head slightly drooping, in the sweet shy way so natural to a timid child. The big eyes are lifted to ours half confidently, half timidly while a smile hovers bewitchingly over the mouth. A long pointed basket hangs on one arm, and the little hands are folded together in front like a little woman's. The child wears a curious round cap on her head, under which, presumably, her hair is gathered up in womanly fashion, for there are no stray locks to be seen except the two soft curves on the forehead.—From "Child-Life in Art," by Estelle M. Hurll.

The Cobbler

A little cloud in a golden veil
At setting of the sun:
And I a cobbled working—working;
Work is never done.

A little cloud in a golden veil;
And I am mending shoes,
Never a feathered sandal thing
Such as a cloud may use.

A little cloud in a golden veil,
Along the bright highway:
And but for her, tomorrow were
Another yesterday.

And this will stay, though she melt away
After the moon sets sail.
For no man's sky is always gray,
—Cloud in a golden veil.

—From "The Collected Poems of Josephine Preston Peabody."

Rubbing It In

An actor consulted his doctor, saying he felt seedy.

"No wonder," said the doctor, who knew his man. "You never leave the theatre till midnight. Then you hang around the club talking and smoking till early in the morning. What you want to do is to go straight home from work rise with the lark, and have an early-morning walk."

The actor determined to do so.

Next morning he was up at six, had a walk round the park, and reached home just as the milkman was leaving.

The milkman touched his cap and said: "Good night sir."

"Does he blow his own horn?"
"Not much! Hires a chauffeur."

"One can teach tricks to a monkey but never ideas."—Gabriel Wells.

"Women never get too old to want to love and be loved."—Ruby M. Ayres.

"Standing on one's dignity is the pinnacle of all absurdities."—Reginald Berkely.

"Take your work, but never yourself, seriously."—Sir Arthur W. Lewis.

So They Say:—

"Even when things are slow the business of the United States is pretty big."—Henry Ford.

"It is labor, not metal, which is the fundamental coin."—Mahatma Gandhi.

"All uncles believe that all babies like to listen to watches."—A. A. Milne.

"Nobody could ever earn seventy or eighty bucks a year by being a crab."—Babe Ruth.

"Once I thought city folks were brighter than the villagers, but the reverse is true"—Ruth Chatterton.

"Men make money by looking after the public."—George Bernard Shaw

"The first requirement of a sound law is that it should correspond with the actual feelings of the community, whether right or wrong."—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

"Much is needed to bring us grief, little to console us."—Jean Rostand.

"There is no pain quite akin to that of regret."—Fannie Hurst.

"Our capitalistic form of society must be flexible enough to adjust itself to changes in world conditions."—Newton D. Baker.

"Authority must in the final resort rest upon force, but the force I would provide would be internationally owned."—The Aga Khan.

"War is no longer the private affair of belligerent nations." Frank B. Kellogg.

"A woman's best bet is just in being feminine—when the man is boss there is greater happiness in the home."—Ruby Ayres.

"Any one man is different from any other man."—Gabriel Wells.

"The State exists for man, not man for the State."—Albert Einstein.

"There is a great deal that the wealthy can learn from the poor."—Mrs. August Belmont.

"The fear of losing money is the one fear that has always kept men from making it."—Edwin LeFevre.

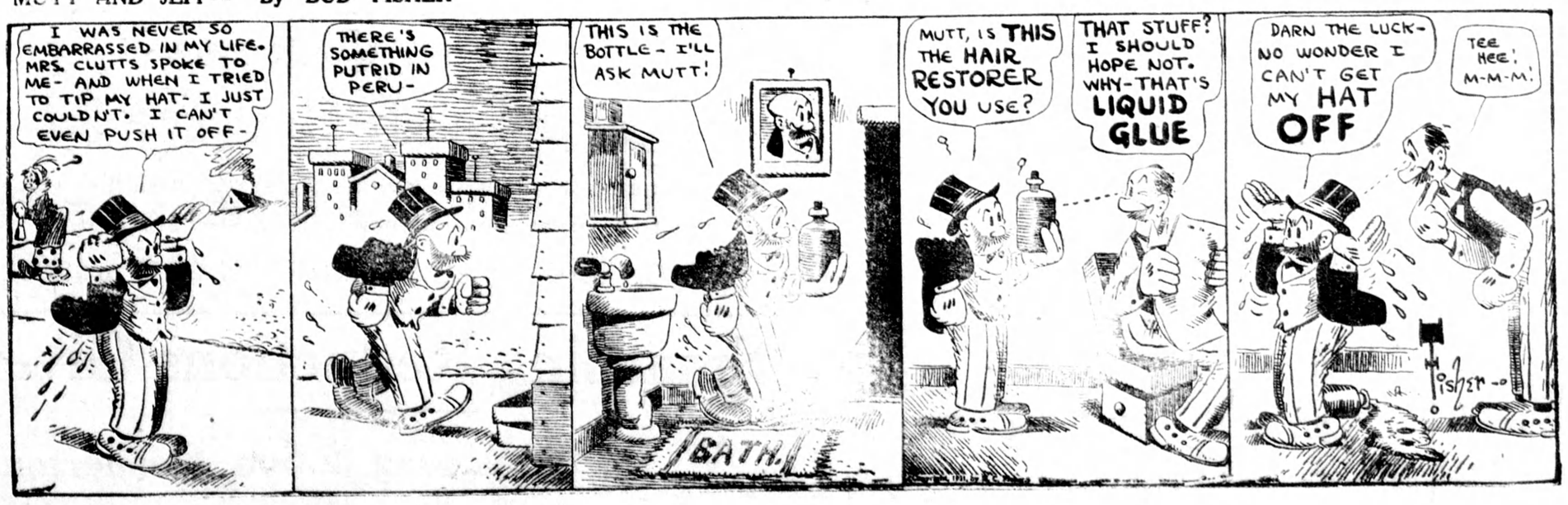
"America and Siam are the only countries outside the international copyright union."—Inez Haynes Irwin.

"Adequate preparation against war does not mean aggression."—John J. Pershing.

"I once said civilization was a race between education and catastrophe. That is not so. Education has not yet started."—H. G. Wells.

"The only power now ruling the United States is purchasing power."—Du Pont Lee.

"Teach cooperation as the first necessity of competition."—Will Durant.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER

You Can't Grow Hair On a Billiard Ball Anyway.