SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LLSSON XII

JOHN'S PICTURE OF THE TRIAL AND CRUCIFIXATION

John 18:1 — 19:42

Printed Text — John 19:4-9; 14-18, 25-30

Golden Text — "Hereby know we love, because he laid down his life for us. — 1 John, 3:16.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time — The arrest of Jesus took place some time late on Thursday night, April 7th, A.D. 30. Christ was crucified in the third hour of the next day, Friday (Mark 15:25), and he expired approximately six hours later, which would be about three o'clock that afternoon (Mark 15:33). Burial took place that day.

Place — Christ was arested in the Garden of Gethsemane, which was on the lower slope of the Mount of Olives opposite and east of Jerusalem.

"And Pilate went out again, and he saith unto them, Behold, I bring him out to you, that ye may know that I find no crime in him." If the charge had seemed reasonably, the governor would naturally have let the law take its course. That he had not done so, but brought the accused out again, was a clear proof that he held the charge against him to be groundless. His words are an appeal at once, to the sense of humanity, and to the sense of justice in Christ's accusers.

"Jesus therefore came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple garment." We cannot help but think in reading these words, of a time yet to come when the Lord Jesus, will be seen crowned with glory and honour (Heb. 2:7, 9); when upon his head there will be many crowns forever (Rev. 19:12); and he will be clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about at the breasts with a golden girdle" (Rev. 1:13). "And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!" Pilate spoke more truly than he knew. His words were probably uttered in contempt, but they really are an acknowledgment that the only perfect man was the one who stood before them.

"When therefore the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him! Pilate saith unto them, Take him yourselves, and crucify him; for I find no crime in him. The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God." It is sometimes said that Christ never declared himself to be the Son of God in a way that no other men could be sons of God, but such a conclusion is co tradicted by such words as are found in John 5:18 and 10:30, 33, and by the plain manner in which the Jews brought accusation against the Christ, which accusation our Lord never denied.

"When Pilate therefore heard this saying, he was the more afraid." The fact that Christ was said to have claimed a divine origin naturally deepened the strange fear which his presence inspired; Pilate not only was afraid but he was more afraid.

"And he entered into the Praetorium again." This word appeared previously in 18:28 (and also in Matt. 27:27 and Mark 15:16). Here it probably means the official residence of the procurator, though where Pilate's residence was in Jerusalem during the time of our Lord is not quite certain.

"And saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer." (Cf. Matt. 7:6; 27:12-14). Pilate would not have understood our Lord had Christ answered his question, and furthermore, the question had nothing to do with Christ's guilt. As Pilate continued to question the Lord Jesus and a Christ quietly spoke to him, more and more the Roman official became conscious of the greatness, as well as of the innocence of the one who stood before him, and he sought again to deliver the Lord. But the Jews very shrewdly reminded him that Christ had called himself a King, that thus he was a rival of Caesar, and that if Pilate should release a man making such caims, he would not be Caesar's friend. Of one thing Pilate was certainly afraid — offendin gthe powers in Rome by whom he had been give nall the lucrative positions which he had held.

"Now it was the Preparation of the passover; it was about the sixth hour and he saith unto the Jews, Behold, your King! They therefore cried out, Away with him, away with him, and crucify him! Pilate saith unto them, Shall crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king, but Caesar." About six o'clock on Friday morning, Pilate brought Jesus out, and, himself sitting down on the judgement seat, presented Christ to the Jews as their king. It is strange to hear Jews, who chafed under the yoke of the Roman government, and whose true king must needs be of the line of David, so easily forgetting all their past history and their present shame as to say they would have no king but Caesar, as uncircumcised, pagan, godless Gentile.

"Then therefore he delivered him unto them to be crucified." In none of the Gospels does it appear that Pilate pronounced sentence on Jesus; he perhaps purposely avoided doing so. But in delivering him over to the priests, he does not allow them to act for themselves — he delivered the Lord to be crucified.

"They took Jesus therefore; and he went out, bearing the cross for himself, unto the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha: 18. Where they crucifed him and two others ,on either side one, and Jesus in the midst." The picture of the Son of God walking out the Holy City, the city of Melchizedek, the city of David, the city of the great line of prophets, his head and body bruised and bleeding, and carrying on his shoulder the crushing weight of the wooden cross, and knowing in his heart that shortly he would himself be stretched upon it, is a scene calling more for meditati n than exposition.

"These things therefore the soldiers did. But there were standing by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour the disciple took her unto his own home." The first cry from the cross was a prayer for God to forgive those who had crucified him (Luke 23:34); the second utterance was to the thief crucified with him (Luke 23: 3); the third cry was the one here given, words to Mary and to John the Apostle. It is recorded only in John's Gospel. By making provision for his mother's comfort, Jesus fulfilled the commandment, "Honor thy father and thy mother" (Ex. 20:12), and thus, from the pulpit of his cross preaches to all ages a sermon on the Fifth Commandment.

"After this Jesus, knowing that all things are now finished, that the scripture might be accomplished, saith, I thirst. There was set there a vessel full of vinegar, so they put a sponge full of the vinegar upon hyssop, and brought it to his mouth." The fourth cry from the cross is not recorded by John (see Matt. 27:46, 47); the fifth cry, 'I thirst," is recorded in none of the Gospels except in John. This incident should be carefully distinguished from the one recorded in Matt. 27:34; Mark 15:23; and Luke 23:36. The Holy Spirit led John to see in this incident a fullfillment of Psalm 69:21. The vinegar was a sour wine drink made by the soldiers. The branch of hyssop was from a plant possibly one and one-half feet high on the end of which the sponge was placed. In his love he suffered men and women to minister unto him and at the last received gently and humbly this solace from a foe.

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, it is finished, and he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit." This is the sixth cry from the cross, and is found only in John's Gospel. So many men have come to the end of life conscious that they have not at all completed the work they had expected to do. Victor Hugo said: 'Life is too short for a man to carry out all that he has planned.' Danton, about to be guillotined said: 'I leave it all in a frightful welter.' 'It is Christ's declaration that the final revelation of God has been given, that all alienation between God and man has ended, that all other religious rites and ordinances are abrogated, and that henceforth there is only one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.

Arrives to Visit His Fiancee

William J. Babington Macauley, Irish Free State Minister to the Vatican, arriving in New York on S.S. Conte di Savoi, to visit his fiancee, Mrs. Genevieve G. Brady, widow of Nicholas Brady, utilities magnate.

G-Men Successful In Hunt for Relaxation

J. Edgar Hoover (left), Chief G-Man, enjoys a game of backgammon with his assistant, Clyde Tolson, in Miami, where he recently set up a new bureau of the F.B.I. Special Agent Guy Hottel is the spectator.

Lends Color to Texas Anniversary Dinner

Miss Elsie Houston, descendant of Sam Houston, first President of Texas, pictured with Dr. Rafael C. de Oliviera as they attended New York dinner of Texas University ex-Students Association to celebrate Independence Day.

Tells of Rail Deal

Emphasizing his testimony with a wave of his hand, Thomas W. Lamont tells Senate Railroad Finance Committee how J. P. Morgan and Co. auctioned securities of Van Sweringen rail ompire.

Namby - Pamby Feeling Towards Cancer Must Stop

BUFFALO, N.Y.—Thirty thousand women who die each year from cancer could be saved if they knew how to recognize its warning signals, a state cancer expert avers.

Dr. Louis C. Kress, assistant director of New York State's division of cacer control, said at a meeting of health officers that 16,000 women die yearly of cancer of the uterus, and 14,000 from cancer of the breast.

"There's a namby-pamby attitude that prevents plain talk about this enemy of mankind," Dr. Kress said.

"The biggest public service we can do to cut the toll of lives is to inform all women in plain language of the danger of a lump in the breast, and of the warnings of uterine tumors. Any lump, large or small, in the breast should be reported to a physician, and his advice asked.

Queen Elizabeth Orders 26 Frocks

London.—Queen Elizabeth has ordered 26 frocks and evening coats for her spring wardrobe, her dressmaker said recently. They comprise only a small part of her Coronation season clothes.

A lightning flash lasts approximately one-millionth part of a second.

Brighter Colors For Hospitals

MONTREAL — Australian hospitals are going in for brighter colors according to D. K. Turner, Sydney official who is gathering information for a proposed central hospital in Melbourne. A patient may wake to find a blue, green, or even apricot-colored ceiling above him, said Turner, during a visit here. The new hospital will have a different color scheme in rooms on each floor.

FARM NOTES

Conducted by PROFESSOR HENRY G. BELL

With the Co-Operation of the Various Departments of the Ontario Agricultural College.

1. Question:— "Will you please tell me what can do for Cut Worm or Wire Worm"—H. H., York County.

Answer:— Almost every Spring cutworms do considerable damage to corn, cabbage, tomatoes, tobacco and some other crops by cutting them off at the ground. The insects work at night and hide by day just beneath the surface of the soil or under rubbish or any good covering. They are stout, smooth caterpillars and when at rest are usually curled up into a circle.

To control them use a poison bait. There are several formulae for this but the following is about as good as any:—

Bran	25 lbs.
Paris green or fine white arsenic	1 lb.
Cheap molasses	1 qt.
Water enough to moisten, about	3 gals.
Bran	5 lbs.
Paris green or fine white arsenic	3 ozs
Cheap Molasses	½ qt.
Water enough to moisten, about	½ gal.

Mix the bran and Paris green thoroughly until the green can be seen everywhere through the bran. Add the molasses to the water, stir, then pour the sweetened liquid over the poisoned bran and mix until all is moistened and will fall almost like sawdust through the fingers.

If the plants have been set out and are being attacked, drop a small quantity of the bait—one-quarter of a teaspoonful—alongside each plant. Do this late in the evening so that it will be fresh when the worms begin to feed. If the plants have not yet been set out and cutworms are known to be in the soil, prepare the ground well and then an evening or two before setting out the plants, scatter the bait thinly, as one would do in sowing grain, over the plot or field. The cutworms will feed upon this and be killed before they can do any damage

One application is usually sufficient to control any ordinary outbreak and when scattered thinly, the larger quantity will cover about one acre.

CAUTION: Do not inhale the dust from the poison when mixing, and beware that cattle or other domestic animals do not get access to the bait.

WIRE WORMS

The chief methods to keep free of wireworms is by practising a short rotation of crops. This removes the main breeding places; namely, the old pastures and meadows. When breaking up such a field, a good practice to follow is either to plough it early, work it up and sow wheat the same fall or, if this cannot be done, plough it later in the fall. and next spring sow oats or barley. In either case, put in red or sweet clover in the spring. Next year take off the clover, plough early and put in wheat, adding a clover again the following spring; or oats or barley with a clover may again be used. After this crop of clover has been harvested or ploughed under, usually any crop may follow.

Peas, buckwheat and flax, being like clover, very little attacked by wire-worms may also be used in the rotation until the soil is free from the worms. Alfalfa, too, is seldom injured but does not work well into a rotation.

Corn and potatoes being very susceptible should never be planted in any soil which is known to contain wireworms.

It has been observed that wireworms are usually worse in poorly drained soil, hence tile draining will probably also be of value, at least in assisting plant growth.

The more rapidly the plants grow, especially in spring, the less likely they are to be killed by wireworms; hence before planting the field, prepar the soil well and, if poor, add commercial fertilizer and lime where needed.

Baits may sometimes be used on a small scale, especially in gardens and green houses, to capture the wireworms. Potatoes may be placed about three inches deep in the soil and 10 feet apart. Stick a short wire painted into each potato to mark its position Examine the potatoes once a week and destroy the wireworms present. Replace the potatoes and repeat. This may be done for three weeks in succession and would result in getting rid of many of the wireworms. It should be begun in spring as soon as the ground is warm and the wireworms have come up, as can be determined with a shovel.

Movie-radio gossip

By DOROTHY

Susan Fleming thought that she had retired from the screen when she married Harpo Marx, but she made the mistake of stopping in at the studio to have luncheon with her husband, and first thing she knew the director called out, "That girl over there—she's just what I have been looking for." So. she is playing in "A Day at the Races" witih her husband and his giddy brothers.

Ginger Rogers is not only the most popular girl in Hollywood these days; she is the most surprising. Night after night she is out dancing with one of her many beaux—Jimmy Stewart, or Cary Grant, or the visiting socialite, Alfred Vanderbilt—but all that gayety hasn't stopped her from breaking into a new career. She has written a song called "I Can't Understand." Maybe you heard Fred Astaire introduce it over the air recently. That is team work for you.

Myrna Loy isn't complaining, but she does think wistfully nowadays months and the end isn't anywhere in sight. John Stahl, who directed "The Magnificent Obsession" and many other thrilling pictures, is very deliberate about his work, and in making "Parnell" he is just as apt to have Myrna and Clark Gable do scenes over and over as he is to repeat the scenes of minor players.

Myrna Loy

Odds and Ends: No love scenes have been filmed in any of the studios for the past week and more because of the flu epidemic . . . with the rest of the country rhapsodizing over spring flowers, Claudette Colbert is surrounded by blizzards, dog teams, and mountains of snow at Sun Valley, Idaho . . .the eleven most beautiful artist models who usually smile at you from cigarette advertisements have been signed to appear in "Vogues of 1937," a musical Walter Wanger is making.

Her Model Vacation

Babs Beckwith can't get away from cameras even on her vacation. Back home in Miami Beach, from where she went to New York City to become one of the most photographed models in the country, she poses again.