Sunday School Lesson

LESSON III.
THE VICTORIOUS SERVANT
(Easter)
Acts 2: 22-36

Golden Text. — This Jesus did God raise up, whereof we all are witnesses. Acts 2: 32.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time.—The day of Pentecost, May 28, A.D. 30.

Place.—Jerusalem.

22. Ye men of Israel, hear these words. The apostle Peter begins the second part of his sermon by reminding his audience of their great privilege and honor in being members of the chosen race, of which he also was a member, and in this they stood together on common ground. Jesus of Nazareth. Many have been hearing rumors that this person had come forth out of the tomb on the third day. This is the first time, however, that thousands of these Jews had ever had an opportunity of hearing one of the Christian apostles expound the significance of the death and ressurection of this man Jesus. Approved of God unto you. The Greek word here means "demonstrated," "shown by argument." By mighty works and wonders and signs. Which God did by him in the midst of you, even as ye yourselves know. The miracles of Christ were so many, and had been performed in so many different localities, and there were so many thousands of people in Palestine who could bear testimony to their reality, that none of these Jews, if they pretended to be in their right mind, could deny that Jesus had performed them during his ministry.

Death of Christ

23. Him, being delivered up by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God. That Christ should die upon a cross, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost always knew. Jesus himself knew that this was his appointed mission, as he often said during his public ministry. His death upon the cross was the only way by which he could make propitiation for our sins, give us eternal life, and bring us into the presence of God (1 Pet. 3: 18). Ye by the hand of lawless men. Here the reference to the Roman soldiers who did not have the law of Moses, and who were, as the apostle Paul says "without law" Did crucify and slay. The death of Jesus, like the tragedy of Judas, had been foreordained, but that was no justification of the actors; their guilt remained. The resurrection of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit in all his illuminating power had revealed to the apostle Peter the true significance of the death of Jesus of Nazareth; and now, instead of shrinking from the fact (Matt. 16: 22), he boldly proclaims it as foreordained of God.

His Resurrection

24. Whom God raised up. This is the fourth time the apostle has referred to God in his relationship to Christ within two minutes of an address. Here is the crux of Peter's entire argument. All of his hearers knew that one Jesus had lived, had performed miracles, had died upon the cross, but thousands of them were not convinced that Jesus had risen from the dead, and that is why Peter devotes more than half of the second part of his sermon on Pentecost to an exposition of and a defense of the resurrection of our Lord. First he speaks of it as absolutely inevitable —Having loosed the pangs of death; because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. A more literal translation of the Greek word here translated "pangs" would be "birth-pangs," the resurrection of Christ being conceived of as a birth out of death.

25. For David saith concerning him, I beheld the Lord always before my face; for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved. 26. Therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh also shall dwell in hope.

27. Because thou wilt not leave my soul unto Hades, neither wilt thou give thy Holy One to see corruption. 28. Thou madest known unto me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of gladness with thy countenance. Of course David himself first wrote these words, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

David's Words

29. Brethren, I may say unto you freely of the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us unto this day. For references to David's tomb, see I Kings, 2: 10; 2 Sam. 5: 7. We do not know today where the tomb is, but all those who were listening to Peter on the day of Pentecost did know where the tomb was.

30. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins he would set one upon his throne.

31. He foreseeing this spake of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he left unto Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. As David could not have spoken this psalm of himself, he spake it of some other who was none other than the Messiah. The word "foreseeing" ascribes prophetic consciousness to David in the composition of the psalm.

32. This Jesus did God raise up, whereof we all are witnesses. This is Peter's third argument concerning the actuality of the resurrection of Christ: first, it was inevitable that he should rise from the dead, because death had no hold on him; secondly, it was predicted that he would rise from the dead by David, who, in such predictions was a true prophet of God; in the third pdace, he, Peter, with the other apostles and many others, had actually seen with their own eyes the Lord Jesus Christ gain and again after he had risen from the dead. The ground under Peter's feet when he was speaking of Christ's resurrection was just as solid and firm as the ground under his feet when he was talking about Christ's miracles and humanity. There is not anywhere in all of Christendom any argument, or any chapter, or any book which can stand the closest scrutiny of scholarship, that can in any way destroy or harm the united, overwhelming proof that Christ came forth from the tomb in his own body on the third day after his death, as he said he would.

33. Being therefore by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he hath poured forth this, which ye see and hear. That Christ ascended to the right hand of God means, of course, that all that Christ did, God approved; that he has the right to sit at God's right hand, being God the Son. In other words, this man, a carpenter of Nazareth, who walked among these very Jewish people for years, whom they crucified, thereby rejecting, God had approved and raised up to sit at his right hand.

34. For David ascended not into the heavens; but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou on my right hand. 35. Till I make thine enemies the footstool of thy feet. This quotation is from Ps. 110: 1. St. Peter does not demand belief upon his own assertion, but he again appeals to the Scriptures and to words which could not have received a fulfillment in the case of David. In this appeal he reproduces the very words in which, some seven weeks before, our Lord himself had convicted the scribes of error, in their interpretation of this same psalm. No passage of Scripture is so constantly referred to in the New Testament as this 110th Psalm. The psalm was always regarded as Messianic by the Jews. In these fourteen verses Peter has carried the history of the Lord Jesus from his humanity up through his death and resurrection to the very throne of God to which he ascended, from the earth to heaven, from humanity to deity, from then to eternity, from death to everlasting life—all molded, predicted by the very Scriptures which these men had heard taught, and had been reading themselves from the time they were boys.

Both Lord and Christ

Acts 2: 36. Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified. The sermon of Peter is about to come to an end, and he concludes it with a glorious sentence of climax. In this one sentence he clinches his entire argument. In the word "Lord" power and sovereignty are there expressed; in the word "Christ" his saving work is indicated. What these Jews to whom Peter was speaking that day were to know assuredly is exactly what all men are to know with the same assurance today. He is our Lord and our Christ.

A—C

Born In 1766?

A "miracle man" has recently appeared in Allahabad and claims to be 172 years old. He is a Hindu named Sannaysi, and is reported to have cured people of blindness and to have made old men young.

IS THIS YOUR BIRTHDAY?

By A. R. WEIR

What the Stars Foretell For Those Born on April 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21.

For the 15th to 20th the Zodias sign is Aries. For the 21st it is Taurus.

People born between the 15th and 20th of April are usually headstrong, temperamental and have great mental energy. They object to opposition, are very positive by nature and very definite about everything. They are witty, congenial and good hearted. Friends always have a good time in their company.

Those born on April 21st love comfort and pleasure. They are trustworthy, reliable and capable of rising to responsible positions. An important change in business affairs is indicated and some benefit by speculation.

For complete birthday horoscope for any birth date in the year, send 10c to A. R. Weir, 73 Adelaide St. W., Toronto. Please print your name and address plainly.

A New Departure — Lie Detector Introduced in Trial

For the first time in New York criminal procedure, a lie-detector was introduced and its evidence accepted as accurate, when Raymond Kenney, on trial as a second offender, was found not guilty, due to use of the detector. Father Walter Summers, S.J., is developer of the detector.

Urges New European Pact Within Scope Of League

Economist Has Plan to Bolster Peace — Suggests New European Agreement On Collective Security.

Creation of a new European pact within the scope of the existing League of Nations as a step towards ultimate collective security and positive peace was advocated last week at London, England, by Professor J. M. Keynes, noted economist.

Constitution of such a pact would relieve the old League of its inoperative organs and would be extremely simple, Professor Keynes writes in the New Statesman and Nation. It would become the first offspring of the old League dwelling with amity in its parents' house and sharing its common interests and activities.

Voting Power

Under the proposed pact, participating members would be called on to give definite undertakings to one another with the power to act by the voice of the majority. Professor Keynes suggests that voting power could be apportioned on the following basis.

Great Britain, France, and Russia, 10 votes each; Poland and Czechoslovakia, four; Switzerland, Holland Belgium, and the Scandinavian and Balkan countries, two each; and the Baltic States and Spanish provinces, one each.

Suggests Sanctions

Professor Keynes suggests sanctions attached to the new pact should be of three orders: financial assistance and rupture of relations; blockade; full military alliance.

"Smaller powers with less than four votes should not be committed to join any sanctions without their own assent in any particular case," the professor says. "Members of the pact among themselves of course accept the results of arbitration endorsed by a majority vote . . . renouncing altogether the instrument of war.

Open for An American League

"Their general staffs would be in regular collaboration with reference to air defence and blockade. But they should be concerned no less with the arts of peace and aim at becoming the nucleus of a new system of freedom of trade and intercourse so that a citizen of the European league would again enjoy his own personal liberties.'

When the European league decided to act, members of the old League would be invited of their own free will to participate in the decision.

"The hope would be for the blessing of other offspring, in particular an American league, headed by the United States, and perhaps by the Pacific and African leagues, and a league for Middle and Nearer Asia."

Stamps Changed

New stamps to replace the existing five and ten shilling issues were released by the Australian Postal Department this month. Above is the larger denomination, the smaller is of the same design but bears a portrait of the Queen instead of the King.

Thunderstorms To Be Forecast

Weather research scientists announced last week at Cambridge, Mass., they believed they had found a way to forecast thunderstorms 24 to 36 hours in advance. They found the method last summer was 90 per cent. accurate.

Their progress was reported in the bulletin of the American Meteorological Society by Jerome Namias, research assistant at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The forecasts are based on knowledge of the "flow patterns" of the various levels of air in the atmosphere.

Air Sounded Daily

Each day the weather men take airplane, balloon and radio-meteorographic soundings from all over the country. These readings are plotted on maps. When the sounding points are connected with lines they show "valleys" and "mountains" along which flow moist and dry air currents. The result is an "isentropic chart" or contour map of the air above the United States.

When the moist air reaches from the surface of the earth to high levels, with dry air massed in the higher atmosphere, the radiational cooling between the two causes huge draughts which cannot be equalized, and along comes the summer shower or thunderstorm.

Giant Panda Market Suffers Big Slump

Quotations Drop As More And More of These Rare Animals Are Being Discovered

The world market in baby giant pandas pointed downward this week after the arrival in Chengtu, China, of Floyd Tangler Smith, American big game hunter, with four of the bear-like animals.

News of his record catch came only a few days after the death of Su-lin, which was purchased by the Chicago Zoological Society for approximately $10,000. Mei-Mei, a younger panda, was placed in the society's zoo at Brookfield a short time ago. Both females were captured by Mrs. William H. Harkness, Jr., in the wilds of Western China.

Su-Lin, who completed a year at the zoo on February 8th, won fame as the first giant panda ever exhibited in the United States.

Commenting on Smith's big capture, Francis E. Manierre, a member of the society's animal committee, said "we certainly are interested."

"That fellow got right in the middle of Panda town. Whether we will buy any or not is another question. We don't even know whether he will sell them."

Zoo officials said Smith was a partner of William H. Harkness, Jr., who died in Shanghai early in 1936 while searching for a panda.

At Chengtu, Smith said he would go to Hong Kong by chartered plane, thence to the United States by fast boat in order to get the animals, including three males, into a zoo before they succumb to climatic conditions.

Hearts-Ease

Since I gave my heels to the road
O God and O Mary,
What a heart-breaking load
Has fallen from me.

Since I laid my ear to the wind,
O God and O Mary,
What a load from my mind
Has fallen from me.
—Corinne Thomas—(after an old Gaelic Song) in "Path of Beauty"

Nazi Youths Must Start At Twelve

A whole generation of "future Adolf Hitlers" is being groomed in Germany. At the age of 12, the pick of the boys of the nation are being launched on a course of training which will not end until they are 29 years old.

The first stage of trains, from 12 to 18 years, will be completed at "Adolf Hitler Schools" of which there will be one for each of the 32 German districts. Here the "future Fuehrers" will not be taught but must work themselves into National Socialist ideology, according to Dr. Robert Ley, Nazi labor leader.

Three Months Per Year

Successful matriculants from these schools will next enter one of four "Universities for Nazi Leaders" for courses in rifle shooting, equestrian sports, light athletics, flying, skiing, mountain climbing, and spiritual development. Twelve weeks each year will be devoted to practical work in political offices.

The student is then released to complete his academic work or learn a profession after which he will qualify for the degree of "Political Leader" by a six-months study of the German east.

Canadians Are Popular Abroad

Passports Like Magic—But They Have Trouble In Establishing Nationality

The most valuable thing a Canadian owns is his passport. But it is only after he has travelled in Europe for some time that he realizes the citizens of no other country in the world enjoy his privileges — not even the Briton, says Gladys M. Arnold, in a Canadian Press despatch.

The Canadian passports read "good for every country in the world." The average Canadian passes that by with hardly a glance. But if he looked into the passports of the people of other nations and discovered the barriers and trouble and expense that present themselves automatically every time they wish to travel, he would begin to realize that he is among the favored.

Doors Ajar

The real reason for our unique position, however, is that we are, because of our Empire ties, a European nation, and the only one in North America. Thus we may circulate freely in the Empire; pass European frontiers with the greatest of ease and find the American door at least always ajar for us.

The person from Germany or Italy or France or England is pounced upon, his passport examined minutely, his person observed carefully, and one feels that he must be at the very least, an arms runner or international spy. But us? Canada — Canadians? Who ever heard of them? And if so, what did they ever do? A harmless waste of snow somewhere in the north? Regretfully we are forced to realize that for those who guard the frontiers of Europe, we are of very little significance.

"Might As Well Be French"

If our passport is a magic one assuring us safe-conduct in every corner of the world our nationality is another story. The Canadian has probably more difficulty than any other person in establishing his nationality.

In European countries other than France our nationality is finally greeted in a guttural voice with "Ha, zoh—Breeteesh!"

In France they know about Canadians. The only criticism is that they are almost too friendly. "Canadian?" they say, a smile broadening, "Canadian—tiens! You might as well be French."

"War has become a shameful and infantile futility, the exact antithesis of all creative effort."—Thos. Mann.

African Penguins Make Themselves At Home

This pair of black-footed, or rock-hopper, penguins from South Africa seem to be discussing their new home at the Marine Studios at Marineland, Fla. The birds are exceptionally fast swimmers.

What Type Of Man Should You Marry?

By L. HIBBERT
(Psychologist and Character-Analyst)

Should a girl marry a man whose ideas, interests and tastes are similar to her own? Or should she choose a man of a different type from herself, in the hope that they will complement each other?

Speaking generally, it might be said that there is more likelihood of happiness where a couple has a community of interests and a mutual outlook. But there are many happy marriages where the couple have different tastes and interests.

Temperamentally, too, people often prefer opposites. The domineering, assertive man will marry a quiet, timid woman, and on the other hand, a self-willed and determined woman will choose as her mate the man who "can't make up his mind on anything."

Much can be said for these tendencies. One complements the other, as it were. However, there are cases where a divergence of interests between a married couple results in indifference and a gradual loosening of the bonds.

One cannot draw up hard and fast rules for ideal marriage, any more than one can formulate the ideal diet that will suit everyone. Much depends on the individuals.

What is essential, however, is mutual understanding. A couple may have totally different interests and yet live together harmoniously and happily, because each has a sympathetic regard for the other's ideas.

Here is where a handwriting analysis is of the greatest help. A girl may be courting a young man for ages without really getting to know him fully. But a handwriting analysis will show the true characters of each. In love affairs it is a veritable divining rod.

Handwriting shows the truth about people, whether they be sweethearts, business acquaintances or friends.

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Do YOU wish to know what your handwriting shows about your own character, disposition and potentialities? And would you like to know what your sweetheart is really like? Perhaps you have friends or business acquaintances you'd like to know more about? Send specimens of the handwritings you want analysed, and enclose 10c for EACH (coin or postal note preferred). Enclose with stamped addressed envelope, to: Lawrence Hibbert, Room 421, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto, Ont. All letters are strictly confidential.