Sunday School Lesson

LESSON IV.
RECEIVING VISION FOR SERVICE
Mark 9. 2-10

Golden Text: —This is my beloved Son: hear ye him. Mark 9:7.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time—Autumn. A.D. 29.

Place—Probably on Mount Hermon.

The transfiguration of Christ is recorded also in Matt. 17: 1-13, and Luke 9: 28-36, both of which accounts should be read with the one in Mark to get as complete a conception as possible of this remarkable event. Peter has an additional account of this miracle in his Second Epistle (1: 16-18).

2. And after six days. That is, six days after the confession of Simon Peter regarding the Messiahship of Christ. Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John. These three, the flower and crown of the apostolic band, Peter, who loves him so much, and John, whom he loved so much, and James, who should first attest that death could as little as life separate from his love. (Acts 12. 2). These were the three who, alone, were with the Lord at the raising of the daughter of Jairus (Mark 5: 37), and who were the only ones allowed to go with him into the Garden of Gethsemane on the night of his betrayal (Mark 14: 33, etc.). And bringeth them up into a high mountain apart by themselves. "The place of the transfiguration is not definitely located in the Gospels. Earlier tradition almost unanimously fixed on Mount Tabor. Modern opinion almost as unanimously regards as most likely Mount Hermon.

The Transfiguration

3. And he was transfigured before them.

And his garments became glistering. The word here translated "glistering" is applied to (1) the glitter of arms or of polished surfaces; (2) the flash of lightning; (3) the twinkling of stars, and is therefore peculiarly expressive. Exceeding white, so as no fuller on earth can whiten them. A fuller was one whose trade was to clean linen clothes.

We can never know fully exactly what this transfiguration was. In the circumstance that his glory was not one which was lent him, but his own, bursting forth as from an inner fountain of light, not merely gilding him from without, we have tokens of superiority, prerogatives of the Master above the servants. The veil of flesh which has concealed the glory of the Godhead, was, as it were, withdrawn, and the full blaze of ineffable light broke forth from within, while even his garments caught the wondrous rays, and shimmered with the dazzling brightness of sun-smitten snow.

4. And there appeared unto them Elijah with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. May it not be that Moses and Elijah are present because of their peculiar and miraculous exit from the world? Moses, as we know, died in a special way by the hand of God. Elijah, as we know, did not suffer death, but was translated in a chariot of fire to heaven. Moses of course represented the law, while Elijah was representative of the prophetic order, and thus in Moses and Elijah and the Lord Jesus meeting together, we have the trinity of the law, the prophets, and the gospel.

5. And Peter answereth and saith to Jesus. Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah. The tabernacles of which Peter spoke were little booths or huts made out of branches of trees or bushes, such as were constructed for the feast of tabernacles. Peter and his fellows were so taken with the sight of the felicity they saw that they desired to abide on the mount with Jesus and the saints.

A Mistake

6. For he knew not what to answer; for they became sore afraid. Had he said, Let us stay here and make three tabernacles, one for thee and one for me, and one for James and John, it would have had more of reason in it. Think of Moses sojourning in a tabernacle, or Elijah settling down to rest in a booth! The whole suggestion is grotesque. For him, as for all men in like circumstances, it were infinitely better to say nothing. He had lost the sense of the spiritual; and his mind, moving wholly within the realm of material things, imagined that the spirits of the just made perfect could find shelter in tabernacles constructed of boughs. The mistake is by no means an obsolete one. Men are still trying to make tabernacles, one for Christ, one for Confucius, one for Buddha.

7. And there came a cloud overshadowing them: and there came a voice out of the cloud, This is my beloved Son: hear ye him. This Voice was heard in three critical hours in Jesus' history; at his baptism (1:11), here, and when he was tempted to evade the cross, to leave his nation, and to go to the Gentiles (John 12: 28). The full text of the Father's witness (combining the three Gospel accounts) is—This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Hear Ye Him

We are to hear Christ regarding our own sinfulness. We are to hear him as he unfolds the truth concerning God. We are to hear him as he speaks of life to come. We are to hear him as he speaks of himself, the only begotten Son of God. We are to hear him as we hear no one else in the world, dead or living.

8. And suddenly looking round about, they saw no one any more, save Jesus only with themselves. "Moses and Elijah had passed. The glory had vanished. The heavenly voice was silent, and they saw Jesus only. He was the same Jesus that they had known. But they never could think of him again as they had thought of him before. For once they had been permitted to look at him changed, altered, transfigured.

9. And as they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, save when the Son of man should have risen again from the dead. 10. And they kept the saying, questioning among themselves what the rising again from the dead should mean. What the rising from the dead is refers, not to the resurrection in general, but to the rising Jesus predicated to himself. On the fact of the final resurrection of the dead the disciples did not dispute, for they believed this. Jesus, however, had spoken of himself rising from the dead three days after his being killed. This was a different matter. If Jesus wanted to rise again, why should he permit himself to be killed? How could the Son of God be killed, and, if he could not be killed, how could he then rise from the dead?

Meaning of the Transfiguration

The life of Jesus was bound to reach this point of transfiguration. It could do no other In Jesus of Nazareth there was the perfect unfolding before heaven and before men, of the divine intention as to the process of human life. Beginning in weakness and limitation, passing through difficulties and temptation, gaining perpetual victory over temptation by abiding only, at all times, and under all circumstances, in the will of God, at last, all the testing being ended, the life passed into the presence of God himself, and into the light of heaven, not through the gate of death, but through the painless and glorious process of transfiguration, and as he was transfigured, he was filled with the answer of God to the perfection of his life.

A—C

Spurred By Spinach

We are told from childhood that spinach is good for us, but few people know why. At Carlsbad and other famous watering-places, spinach occupies an important place in the dietary because it reduces flatulence and has a strong action on the bowels. It is rich also in materials for replenishing the blood stream, and during the 1914-18 war spinach juice was mixed with wine in the proportion of 1 to 50 and given to the French soldiers who had lost blood.

It contains saponin, which promotes digestion, has more mineral matter than any other green vegetable, and because of its high iron content is prescribed in cases of anaemia. Spinach has more vitamin A than any common vegetable, is as rich in vitamin B as butter, and contains anti-scorbutic vitamins, too.

Churchill in Paris

Mysterious visit to Paris by Winston Churchill (above), British statesman, aroused much speculation in England. He's seen on arrival in Paree.

Ex-Premier's Son Becomes King's Bench Judge

Hon. Cyril Asquith, son of the late Earl of Oxford and Asquith, war-time British Premier, shown in ceremonial robes and wig, with his wife, and their daughter, Jane (background), as he left their Paddington home to be sworn in as a King's Bench Judge. 48 years old, Mr. Asquith is the second youngest of English judges.

Baltic - Black Sea Canal Will Fulfil Ancient Hope

1,000-Year-Old Dream Will Open Up Treasure House For Germany Throughout Balkans And Near East; Work to Be Rushed.

When history finally appraises Adolf Hitler's regime it may easily record that he could have done few things contributing more to the might of Germany than bring to fruition the 1,000-year-old German dream of a navigable waterway through the heart of Europe.

Hitler's dictatorship has provided such a rapid succession of epochal events that it is hard for the outside world to recognize another milestone in anything so prosaic as a waterway.

Still, there is vast importance in the announcement that work is to be rushed on the canal which will connect the Rhine and Danube rivers, thus providing a passage for ships a distance of some 2,500 miles, from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

Significant Project

This will mark a seven league stride in der Fuehrer's program for the creation of a great Germanic confederation. The significance of the river project is this:

It will open up an Arabian Nights treasure house of commerce for Germany throughout the Balkans and Near East.

It will enable her to undersell competing countries because of cheap transportation and easy access to markets.

It will give her the materials she needs to make her independent of other powers.

It will be of invaluable assistance to her in extending her economic and political dominance in the Balkans.

Take one item alone — though a most important one—that of the wheat for lack of which Germany went hungry during the Great War. The Danubian states grow more of this grain than any of the so-called big wheat countries, barring the United States.

The mighty Danube will open up a lot of territory for Germany. It flows from Germany across Austria, along part of the Czechoslovak border, through Hungary, across a corner of Yugoslavia, along the Rumanian-Bulgarian border, and through Rumania to the Black Sea. Sixty navigable streams join it from the North and South.

Control of this waterway and of the Balkans would make Germany virtually invulnerable in war, so far as supplies are concerned.

China's New Deal 2,000 Years Ago

Chicago Scientist Says Reform Came Before Its Time

China had a "new deal" 2,00 years ago, but the xperiment failed for lack of technical knowledge, C. Martin Wilbur, of the Field Museum of Natural History, told the Mid-West branch of the American Oriental Society, at Chicago, last week.

The enterprise was engineered, Mr. Wilbur said, by a Prime Minister who was named Wang Mang, who became Emporer in 9 A. D.

Advanced Socialization

"Wang Mang's social experiments," the scientist related, "included nationalization and equal distribution of land, government monopolies and the manufacture of salt, wine and iron, control of mines and other natural resources, aid to farmers by agricultural price control through government buying of excess crops in good years and through storage in government granaries for sale in bad years, and government loans to business for productive enterprises at moderate rates of interest.

Plans Avoiding Ancient Curse

British Baronet Perpetuates 800-Year-Old Ceremony of Distributing Flour

An 800-year-old curse lay behind a ceremony held at Tichborne, England, in which flour was distributed to 800 villagers of Tichborne, Cheriton and Lane End, in Hampshire.

Sir Anthony Tichborne, 23-year-old holder of an ancient baronetcy, helped to distribute the historic Tichborne "dole" instituted in the 12th century. Each adult received a gallon of flour; every child half a gallon.

In the 12th century the aged and ailing Lady Mabella Tichborne crawled around part of the estate while a torch burned. Her husband, Sir Roger de Tichborne, had offered to give to the poor a portion of the produce of the land enclosed by his wife's crawling journey. Lady Mabella vowed if the gift from the estate were discontinued the Tichborne family would lack male heirs.

"I shall continue the ancient custom," said Sir Anthony at this year's ceremony. "If I fail, legend says all sorts of dreadful things will happen to the family."

Their Food Prices Highest In Years

Britain Sees Big Decline in Bacon Produced From Home Pigs

LONDON, Eng. — Food prices in Great Britain in 1937 were the highest since 1930 and were 46 per cent above the index figure for July, 1914, according to the annual report of the food council.

The council criticizes the government's bacon production policy and it says bacon output from home-produced pigs declined by 16 1-3 per cent in 1937. A greater proportion of pigs was sold for pork apparently due to the breakdown in the contract system.

Last December's census showed a reduction during the year of 3½ per cent in the pig population of England and Wales. The council suggests it might have been wiser to leave curers in restricted competition with one another rather than regulate their sales by quota. It urges supervision of the industry by an independent body such as the bacon development board.

The highest average percentage increases over the 1900 average were in flour, bread, cheese, sugar and margarine. Butter and meat prices showed substantial increases.

Saturn's Lost Moon

The existence of a geometrical law concerning the distances separating not only the planets in the solar system but also the moons of Saturn is offered in support of the discovery of the tenth moon of Saturn which was reported by the American astronomer, Dr. W. H. Pickering. This tenth moon, reported in 1905, has since been lost and astronomers have been unable to rediscover it.

That it should exist is claimed by Dr. J. Miller, the English astronomer, who offers the geometrical law in support. He shows in a communication in "Nature" that the distance between the moons, starting from the first moon, and not the planet, are in close approximation to the geometrical series, 3, 6, 12, 24, and so on.

If this is applied to the Saturnian moons there is a place for one between Iapetus and Phoebe, which are respectively 3,094,700 and 7,918,700 miles from the planet.

Be Indifferent, Handling Bees

Expert's Advice Says Treat Them "Yawningly"

If you are one of those who would be on good terms with a bee, just be nonchalant. Light a cigaret, yawn lazily or appear quite indifferent to their presence. If you must study them or invade their homes, be a bit desultory in your probings. There is no good reason why you should ever give a bee the slightest excuse for stinging you.

Dislike Quick Motion

That's the advice given this week, to Windsor Kiwanians by one of the big bee-and-honey men of the province Dr. E. J. Dyce, professor of apiculture at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, reports the Windsor Daily Star.

A bee, according to Dr. Byce, is disturbed by quick motion on the part of anyone or anything within its sight. Even the wink of an eyelash will attract and arouse curiosity; hence the prevalence of bee stings on the eye or face. Whether the bee fancies those movements are coming from another bee or just an insect enemy probably never will be determined. The fact is, that beekeepers, although they may leave arms unprotected as far as the elbows or higher, usually cover their faces. Even an experienced handler doesn't relish being stung in the eye.

Don't Pull "Stinger"

If you disregard this advice and become the victim of an angry or a curious bee, don't pull at the "stinger" which is left in your flesh, but rather cut it off or slide it off with the use of a fingernail. The sooner this is done after the sting has occurred, the better, Dr. Dyce explains.

Ethiopian Gains Embarrass Italy

Seen As Cause of Duce's Willingness to Make Treaty Concessions.

Vernon Bartlett, diplomatic editor of the London News Chronicle, last week wrote that stiff resistance from five Ethiopian armies as well as smaller bands is seriously hampering Italian efforts to dominate the colonize the lands taken from Emperor Haile Selassie.

Only this and the hope of loans, he declared, can explain the reported Italian willingness to promise to withdraw all troops from Spain.

They've Been Gaining Ground

"The Abyssinians have been gaining ground, particularly in the west," Mr. Bartlett declared. "The province of Gojjam is said to have freed itself almost entirely from Italian troops, and recent reports said an Italian offer of autonomy is dictated by stern necessity.

"In the southwest there have been serious revolts at Bako, Gimma, Kaffa and Guarafarda. Italian garrisons have had to be withdrawn from the three last named places.

"Even in the centre the Italians are unable to ensure order. The main road from Asmara to Addis Ababa has been cut in several places.

It is impertinent to disbelieve in the existence of angels and demons, declares the Bishop of Ely.

Will Have To Give Up Her Pets Or Her Home

Helen Felton, one of the residents of an apartment built in New York under a FHA loan, is one of the tenants whose lease will not be renewed unless she gives up her pets.

Can A Handwriting Analysis Help You?

By LAWRENCE HIBBERT

(Well-known Psychologist and Handwriting Analyst)

Every reader of these articles will, I suppose, at some time, say: "Can a character-analysis help me?" and "Exactly how can it help?"

There are so many ways in which a character-reading can be helpful. In the first place it is beneficial in your contacts with others.

In domestic circles it can promote mutual understanding, and will in many cases help to eliminate the dissension that shatters the peace of so many homes.

In business and financial matters it can steer you past the traps set by the unscrupulous or over-optimistic.

And in love affairs it can be a guiding star that leads you to happiness.

Any thing that facilitates your judgment of others must be a boon, for there is probably not one of us but has lost money, happiness, comfort or security through miscalculating the character of someone with whom we have been in some way concerned.

And above all, character-analysis gives you a clear-cut picture of your own character and potentialities. It reveals unerringly what you are and what you might become. There is no false modesty about a handwriting analysis. It shows with crystal clearness exactly what you are like.

One of my recent correspondents, a girl of 20 years, told me that she is in love with a married man. In sending me some of her friend's handwriting she was obviously hoping that I would confirm her friendship.

Now I have no intention of discussing the ethical angle of this case. In any event, it is unnecessary, for this man's writing showed too clearly what an unsuitable friend he is for this girl. If she refuses to sever the acquaintance she will pile up a lot of unhappiness for herself.

I mention this case to show that a handwriting analysis plays no favourites. It only tells the truth.

Can you doubt that it will help you, too?

Whatever your problem may be, this well-known psychologist and handwriting analyst can help you. You can write to him fully and frankly, for all letters are confidential. Send specimens of the writings you wish analysed, and enclose 10c for each specimen (coin or postal note preferred). Enclose with stamped addressed envelope, to: Lawrence Hibbert, Room 421, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto, Ont.