Sunday School Lesson

LESSON VI
CO-OPERATING IN SERVICE
Mark 9:30-41

Golden Text—For he that is not against us is for us. Mark 9:40

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time.—Autumn, A.D. 29.

Place.—The words of Christ concerning his death and resurrection were spoken in Galilee, while the rest of the teaching recorded in this lesson was given in the city of Capernaum, at the northern end of the Sea of Galilee.

30. And they went forth from thence, and passed through Galilee and he would not that any man should know it. "Our Lord left Hermon and the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, and returned to Capernaum. As he wished to avoid notice, he probably went from Hermon westwards.

31. For he taught his disciples. He meant to spend the time in the uninterrupted teaching of his disciples, not merely the Twelve, but all who remained faithful. The end of his work was near at hand, and he spent all his time in trying to prepare his followers for the events. And said unto them, The Son of man is delivered up into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he shall rise again. Christ had previously announced his death to the disciples when they were at Caesarea Philippi (see 8:31), but here he adds one detail, i.e., that he would be delivered up to men, which means he would be betrayed by some one to his enemies. Such statements as this absolutely contradict any theory that makes the death of Christ an unexpected accident in his life. Jesus knew it would take place, and, had he chosen, he could have avoided such a death on the cross. Inasmuch as this predicition was most wonderfully fulfilled just when Jesus said it would be, we cannot escape the conclusion that he was what he claimed to be, and that he rose from the dead because God was satisfied with his work on the cross, and his own holiness prevented him from remaining in the power of death.

Wanted Earthly Kingdom

32. But they understood not the saying, and were afraid to ask him. It was almost imposible to get the disciples to abandon their cherished dreams of an earthly kingdom. They still desired salvation without atonement. They were simply afraid to ask him because they guessed pretty well what it meant. They did not want to be brought face to face with the cross that lay ahead of him and the issues it opened up for them. They understood enough of Christ's meaning to know that their hopes of an earthly kingdom were doomed . . .

True Creatness

33. And they came to Capernaum. Capernaum (Mark 1:21; 2:1) had ceased to be the centre of Christ's ministry, but it was a convenient terminus to the northern journey and starting-point for a fresh field of work in the south; and Simon's or Levi's house (Mark 1:29; 2:15) afforded a shelter there. And when he was in the house he asked them, What were ye reasoning on the way? 34. But they held their peace: for they had disputed one with another on the way, who was the greatest. What a comment on the hardness, and the selfishness, and the unspirituality, of the normal human heart to find these disciples quarreling among themselves concerning their own position in the kingdom, when they should have been comforting the Lord Jesus as he approaches death, offering him the worship and adoration which were his due, and preparing their own hearts by drawing near to God for the crisis, which, actually, they were afraid to face.

35. And he sat down, and called the twelve. Jesus sat down in Oriental fashion, his legs crossed beneath him, and we assume that the Twelve, all of whom were summoned, sat before him in the same way. This action indicates that Jesus is about to convey rather important instruction to the disciples. And he saith unto them, If any man would be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all. The rank and standing of a disciple with Jesus is determined by the way he makes himself a minister of all, by the character and amount of service he renders to as many as possible. He corrects the false, earthly idea of greatness in the minds of the disputing disciples, by laying before them the true, spiritual reality of greatness. This he prompts them to attain. And he prompts them mightily by showing that its atainment is posible for them all.

Serving Others

36. And he took a little child, and set him in the midst of them: and taking him in his arms, he said unto them, 37. Whosoever shall receive one of such little children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever receiveth me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me. Jesus impresses the leson by an acted parable of peculiar beauty. To care for a little child or for one who, like a child, needs our sympathy, protection, and guidance, and help is really doing a great thing; so great, indeed, that to do so in the name of Christ, and for the sake of Christ is really to render the service to Christ. True greatness, then, consists not in attaining the first place in the notice and praise of the world, not in being served by many, but in being willing to stoop down to a humble place, not for the sake of self-effacement, but in order to serve others for the sake of Christ. No doubt natural benevolence has its blessings for those who exercise it; but that which is here spoken of is something much deeper than nature, and wins a far higher reward. Unselfish deeds in his name open the heart for more of Christ and God, and bring on the doer the blessing of closer communion with the Lord."

Virtue of Tolerance

38. John said unto him, Teacher, we saw one casting out demons in thy name; and we forbade him, because he followed not us. A man who did not belong to the recognized company of disciples had been discovered by the disciples using Christ's name to cast out demons. It is a remarkable evidence of our Lord's influence that his name should be thought so powerful. The disciples reveal a contemptible spirit of intolerance when they attempt to prevent the man from continuing in the gracious work he was undertaking for one single reason, because the man did not belong to their particular company. He was undoubtedly, as the text clearly indicates, a true follower of the Lord Jesus. There are many men throughout Christendom who are not connected with any of great denominations of the Christian world to-day, who are doing a great work for the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, there are some denominations in our country which will not recognize the Christian standing of members of other denominations, and will not even allow them in their pulpits to preach, because they have not been ordained in exactly the way they think ordination should be instituted. When Christians are of one faith, and one hope, and one doctrine, and have one Lord, none other than Jesus Christ, the Son of God, there is no reason why they should not encourage one another and approve one another's work.

39. But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man who shall do a mighty work in my name, and be able quickly to speak evil of me.

To test whether one is fit to perform an act is the performance of the act. But here there was a further question involved, whether the man really belonged to the disciples of Jesus, and so had a right to use the name that he had used in casting out the demons.

That authoritative, unconditional "Forbid him not" ought long ago to erance and to have ended the temperance and to have ended ethe temptation to idolize "conformity" and to confound union to organized forms of the Christian community with union to Christ. But bigotry dies hard.

Spiritual Quality of Acts

40. For he that is not against us is for us. The opposite law is given by our Lord in Matt. 12:30 and Luke 11:23. One cannot be both for and against the same person at the same time.

41. For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink, because ye are Christ's, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward. See Matt. 10:42. Here Jesus explains what it means not to be against him, and how such a man is already for him. A little test may reveal the way his heart inclines. Jesus sees the spiritual quality of the act, giving the drink for his sake.

A—C

Boils Eggs Inside Radio

How do you like your eggs? You can have them done on a high-frequency short wave oscillator if you go to Norman Clark, of Brantford. The device is a 3.7 meter affair and the egg is set inside a coil, where in 15 minutes, it is "done" to within a shade of hard-boiled. Clark, a Brantford boy recently returned from the Washington Technical School at Seattle, where he taught radio-physics, demonstrated the outfit here last week. He said his youngsters — Evelyn, five and Norman, Jr., 2½ — had their eggs cooked that way, too, on Easter morning. "Do you think this method will ever replace the old-fashioned saucepan?" the experimenter was asked. "No," he admitted frankly.

Hearing cries for help coming from a farmhouse at Gisay, near Bernay, France, police entered the house and found a 12-year-old girl whose hands and feet were chained. When her parents were arrested they stated that they had chained her to cure her of her heavy eating habits.

New Type Truck Is Useful in Handling Plane Accidents

This is the first of the new, six-wheel trucks completed in Rockville Centre, L.I., for use as "crash trucks" by the U.S. Naval Air Force. The truck holds a crew of fifteen, makes fifty miles an hour, has a special crane, and holds ten carbon monoxide cylinders for use in smother-ing flames.

New Towns Are Springing Up As Oil Industry Booms

In Alberta, New Frontier Opens Up, One of Derricks and Drills "Mushroom" Communities — Millions Invested.

A new frontier is opening in Alberta—different from pioneer days of the cattle men and the homesteader.

It is a frontier of oil derricks, dotted with a 15-mile front with "mushroom" communities and millions of dollars being invested in the search for "black gold."

Where but a few months ago cattle grazed, oil derricks, giant frames of steel and iron, shoot skywards while huge drills plunge into the earth, in many wells reaching a depth of more than a mile.

It is the southern frontier in Turner Valley, Canada's major oil development area extending far south of the old Discovery well which brought its first petroleum boom in Calgary in 1914.

Picturesque towns, reminiscent of mining communities with their false-front stores, have been established and more will follow this spring.

In the rolling foothills valley with a background of snow-capped Rockies, are the towns of Little New York and Little Chicago. Little Brooklyn or perhaps a Tulsa—a name hasn't been decided on yet—is in the making but a short distance away.

Surrounded by wells which last year played a major part in Alberta's production of nearly 3,000,000 barrels of oil valued at around $5,000,000, the "mushroom" towns are thriving. Prosperity is there. Few are unemployed.

A little more than a year old, Little Chicago has a population of 2,000 and Little New York with 1,000, is growing fast.

Southwest of Calgary

They are law abiding communities. Crimes are few and there is only one policeman in the district—a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police—who is stationed at Turner Valley, pioneer valley town, 12 miles away. Little Chicago has its lawyer with traditional "law office" shingle hanging over his doorway.

Calgary's larger stores have established branches in the oil towns, selling at "city prices," and there are beauty shops, modern garages and machine shops, movie theatres and community clubs.

In their wake the new towns have left a ghost town, Hartell, five miles to the north. It is practically deserted today. It's stores and houses —on skids—have been moved to Little Chicago and Little New York.

All this is but a short motor ride from Calgary, 45 miles to the southwest.

Inspired By Disney

Another of the innumerable adaptations from "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" is Vicki Lester's "Snow White" coiffure. It was inspired by the little heroine of Walt Disney's masterpiece, and features two forelocks rolled under to conform with soft curl of her long bob.

Nationwide Hunt For Meteorites

Smithsonian Institution Encourages Search For Valuable "Stones From Heaven"

"Stones from Heaven" may be worth more than "Pennies from Heaven," the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, D.C., said in requesting a nation-wide search for meteorites.

E. P. Henderson, of the museum's geology department, estimated that thousands of meteorites — or fragments of shooting stars — are scattered throughout the United States. Each meteorite, he said, would "bring a very good return for a day's work," although it wouldn't make the finder rich.

Henderson said scientists had to depend on the average citizen to find the "stones from heaven," because most "shooting stars" are high above the earth and usually appear to fall miles from their actual landing place.

White-Hot Exterior

The best way to recognize a meteorite, Henderson said, is by its extraordinary weight. Meteorites, often composed almost entirely of iron and nickel, are among the heaviest of rocks.

The star fragments do not always show signs of burning. The stones, although actually burned because of friction with air, probably are cool enough to handle when they strike the earth, Henderson said.

He explained that a meteoroid is nearly at absolute zero—270 degrees below zero Centigrade—when it enters the earth's atmosphere. As the meteor plunges through the atmosphere in a few seconds, the exterior becomes white-hot before the interior is heated above ordinary earth temperatures.

Love of Flowers Strong in Briton

German Writer Finds It One Of Most Distinctive National Traits

Praising the Briton's love of flowers, Dr. Kurt von Stutterheim, the well known London correspondent of the "Berliner Tageblatt," draws interesting conclusions with regard to the British character.

"It shows us how careful we must be in saying that the Briton is the greatest materialist in the world," he writes. "However calculating he may be, he spends enormous sums on 'useless' flowers.

"Where the German settles he plants a forest, the French settler makes a vegetable garden, but the Englishman a flower garden, so that the latter has come to be a symbol of British dominance."

The Real British Season

Comenting on the extraordinary prominence given by the press to "the first crocus" and similar signs of approaching spring, Dr. von Stutterheim says:

"Nobody can reproach the Briton for his enthusiasm. Spring is the real British season and spring flowers are Britain's most beautiful flowers.

Different Attitude to Nature

"Britain, in spite of all claims of the South, is the land of flowers.

"When the German strolls through forest and meadow, the Briton walks and works in his garden. His yearning for his garden is the counterpart of the 'wanderlust' of the German people. Master of the wide world, the Briton seeks his little garden while the German, within the narrow confines of his homeland, wants to feel the immensity of nature.

"In this attitude to nature lies one of the greatest differences between the two peoples."

Solid Stone Trees

A forest whose trees have been turned to solid stone has just been discovered in Northern Rhodesia. It was stumbled upon by Messrs F. B. Macrae and Gordon Lancaster, both well known for their archaeological work in South Africa. The forest is called by the natives Visiwa, from the name of the small river near its site, which is about seventy-five miles to the north of Fort Jameson, in the Lundazi district.

It is thought that the infiltration of lime and other mineral-bearing water has caused the wood to turn to stone. The actual trees are small, their average length being under two feet. A variety of stone tools chipped from the forest show that in ancient times it was a regular toolshop for the natives.

Adding Bees To Farm Live Stock

One or two colonies of bees on the farm will prove a profitable and interesting sideline. Where alsike or white Dutch clover are grown, bees will gather enough honey to supply the household needs and a surplus for which ready sale can be found in the immediate neighborhood.

Bees do not require a great deal of attention. During the months of April, May and June, when the colonies are building up for the main honey flow, which usually commences about the first of July, bees require only enough attention to see that stores are present and the queen has enough room for maximum brood production. July and August are the two busiest months for the beekeeper. A thorough weekly examination should be given in order to control swarming, and to provide supers for the honey crop. Colonies headed by young prolific queens in the Fall and fed ample stores, will come through the Winter in good condition if well protected.

For the beginner in bee-keeping, the purchase of an over-wintered colony from some reliable bee-keeper is recommended. This colony is usually strong, has a young queen, and plenty of stores and requires less attention to prepare for the main flow. Starting with package bees requires some experience but once well established will yield as much as over-wintered colonies.

A Handwriting Analysis Will Help To Solve Your Problems!

By LAWRENCE HIBBERT
(Psychologist and Handwriting Analyst)

Most of the problems that are raised in my daily mailbag are representative of the problems of many of my readers, and I am dealing with one or two individual cases in this article. YOUR problem may be similar and perhaps my answers will help you to dissolve your worries.

Miss L. G. writes: "I am a stenographer, just over 20 years of age, and am considered good-looking. I find it easy to acquire boy friends, but they do not last! Is there anything in my writing which shows what is wrong with me that I cannot hold a boy friend very long?"

Yes, Miss L. G., one characteristic stands out like a lighthouse. You are sarcastic. You probably do not realize that this is so; it is one of the traits that people seldom realize they possess, but it is a very irritating one. You say clever, but cutting, things about people. This is a habit that can be checked and overcome. Watch yourself; weigh up what you say and then put yourself in the other person's place, asking yourself, "How would I like it?" In time you will find that you have lost the habit—and then you will keep your boy friends.

Mrs. E. C. writes: "I am a young widow, living in a district where there are no eligible men. Through a correspondence club I became acquainted with two men, but have not met either one yet. I prefer the man who wrote specimen A., but would like your frank opinion of these two men, both of whom wish to marry me."

Your instinct is right, Mrs. E. C. The writer of specimen A. is much more suitable than your other correspondent, and when I compare your character, as shown by your handwriting, with his, I cannot help but remark how much you have in common. He is a little more easy-going than you are and is probably a trifle careless about money; he is not a spendthrift by any means, but may allow himself to be imposed upon by friends. Your own character would be something of a brake.

Have YOU any problems? Would you like to know what YOUR handwriting shows about YOUR character? And have you a sweetheart, friends or relatives you'd like to know the real truth about? Send specimens of the writings you wish analysed, enclosing 10c for EACH specimen. Enclose with stamped addressed envelope to: Lawrence Hibbert, Room 421, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto, Ont.

What They Looked Like After the Election

There were many casualties in the Egyptian elections. Here you see the Wafdist (Nahas party) deputy from Damiette, bandaged heavily after receiving rough treatment following an electoral speech. On the right is Hon. Mohammed Bassiouny, president of the Senate.