Sunday School Lesson

LESSON VII
TESTING DISCIPLESHIP BY SERVICE.—Mark 10:17-31

GOLDEN TEXT—Come, follow me. Mark 10:21.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time.—Late February or early March, A.D., 30.

Place.—Peraea, the portion of Palestine on the eastern side of the Jordan, opposite Galilee.

This fascinating story of the rich young ruler is also found in Matt. 19:16-22 and Luke 18:18-23. There is hardly anything in all the Gospels more gripping, more penetrating, with a lesson more important, than the meeting of Jesus with this young man.

17. And as he was going forth into the way. Of course this refers to Jesus, who is last mentioned by name in verse 14. There ran one to him. Matthew tells us that this person was both young and wealthy, and Luke tells us that he was a ruler in Israel, which, while in this place it could hardly mean that he was a member of the Sanhedrin, probably implies that he was one high in authority in some local synagogue. This person had much to his advantage—youth, power, and wealth. This man also was one of high character, as we discover in reading the story. And kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? To begin with, this man was not satisfied with what he had—his possessions, his authority, all the power and vigor and joy of youth, which he certainly possessed, were not meeting the deepest need of his heart, and he knew it. In fact, he did not possess the great thing—eternal life, by which is meant not only life that continues throughout all the eternities, but life which satisfies, which is always deep and rich and abundant, life that really comes from God, life that bestows perfect peace and abounding joy, life that grows more wonderful with every passing day. What he wanted was what all men in their better moments have longed for down through all the ages.

Something To Be Done

In the second place, we note that this man felt that there was something that he should do, some great task he should undertake, to obtain that which his heart most longed for.

In the third place, we must not fail to observe the true humility of this man.

18. And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good save one, even God. When the young ruler called Jesus "good" and asked what "good thing" he should do to gain life, the question was in what sense he meant "good." The question of Jesus was asked to bring home to the ruler the meaning of this word. To show what Jesus means, he points out that greatness in the true sense can be predicated only by God. So far is this from denying the Godhead of Jesus that it actually asserts it for him. The man is thus led to look at Jesus in a new way, that indeed Jesus may be God, essentially one with God as his Son.

Duty To One's Neighbour

19. Thou knowest the commandments. Do not kill, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor thy father and mother. Having declared that only God himself was good, the Lord Jesus now points the young man to God's commandments, which, coming from God, are often called "good" in the Old Testament and were given for our good. The Lord cites only the commandments which regulate man's duty to his neighbor, probably because they admit of a relatively simple application to the conduct of life.

20. And he said unto him, Teacher, all these things have I observed from my youth. The young man expected Jesus to make a great deliverance that would throw the needed light upon his own darkened soul.

21. And Jesus looking upon him, Loved him. And said unto him, One thing thou lackest. The verb here translated "lackest" is the same as that translated in Rom. 3:23, "fall short of the glory of God." Jesus knew and knows the human heart perfectly. He knew what this man needed without speculation or further questions; and when he finally diagnosed his case, the diagnosis could be absolutely depended upon. Go, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. Jesus does not tell all men who follow him to sell their possessions. What he is getting at is the one thing which this man has set up in his heart as an idol, the one thing that he thinks e hmust have, and that is, in this young man's case, his wealth. Now, no one can have eternal life when he puts his hope and trust in anything that belong to this earth, whether it be material things, a person, or an ideal. It should be a person, or an ideal. Eternal life can neither be had by giving up anything or everything on this earth.

No Sacrifice Wanted

22. But his countenance fell at the saying, and he went away sorrowful. The verb here translated "his countenance fell" is used of the saddening of either the face of nature or the human face. The answer did not exasperate, but it gave him pain, which was visible on his countenance. For he was one that had great possessions. This man wanted something better than he had, but he was not prepared to make any sacrifice to get it. If Christ could accept such, millions of people would join the church at once. He wanted God, but not at the cost of his gold; he wanted life, but not at the expense of luxury.

23. And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! This young man was undoubtedly prepared to do much and to meet Jesus half-way, but he was not ready to go the whole way and to put all at the service of Christ.

24. And the disciples were amazed at his words. Then, as now, there was an established relation in which wealth enabled its possessor to come to the front and occupy the more prominent position. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! 25. It is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. Jesus meant an actual gnat and an actual camel, so here camel and needle's eye are actual. Jesus means that it is impossible for a rich man who trusts in riches to go into the kingdom.

26. And they were astonished exceedingly, saying unto him, Then who can be saved?

27. Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for all things are possible with God. What Jesus meant was that God would be able so to change a man's heart by the movement of the Holy Spirit, by the sacrifice which the Lord Jesus Christ was soon to offer, that, however great the man's wealth might be, his heart would not be resting in his wealth; but he would love God with all of his heart, with all of his mind, with all of his strength; and thus in spite of all of his wealth he would be saved.

28. Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. From their position the question was inevitable. Instead of adding to their worldly goods this association had diminished it. They had borne everything for him. What return would be in his greatness make them?

29. Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or mother, or father, or children, or lands, for my sake, and for the gospel's sake. 30, But he shall releive a hundredfold now in this time houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. When one gives up a life of sin and lives for Christ, he has a clearer mind, and a stronger body, and a peace in his heart he never knew before, and a wisdom that comes down from above, all of which will enable hin to do in his life what he could not so successfully do previously.

There is a higher meaning to our Lord's words also. One house gone, but one hundred doors open. One brother in the flesh lost; but a thousand brethren in the spirit, whose love is deeper and whose kinship is profounder, gained.

31. But many that are first shall be last; and the last first. Many who are first here in this life, even in religious matters, in church affairs, because of great gifts, or congenial personality, or because of self-seeking, will in the kingdom of God he last, i.e., they will have a minor place; whereas many who now are in oblivion, whose names are not even known, will, because of the purity of their lives, the absoluteness of their love for Christ, be given first place in the kingdom where love and sincerity and holiness will be the virtues by which men will be judged by the King himself.

A—C

Canine Is Tried On Murder Charge

Idaho, a dog which appeared in court in New York on a charge of drowning a small boy in a canal, has six months of a "jail" term still to serve.

Although acquitted of wilful murder at his trial in August, 1936, Idaho was sentenced by Justice of the Peace Homer Benedict to 787 days' confinement.

The sentence provided that he should not be allowed to leave his owner's yard.

Experts Are Here Seeking Planes For Britain

These five Britons arrived in New York aboard the Queen Mary bent on a study of the possibilities for purchasing military aircraft in the United States and Canada. Left to right, they are, Commodore Sir Arthur T. Harris, commander of the Fourth Bombing Group; Reserve Commander James G. Weir; Commander Casper John, of the Fleet air arm; Squadron Leader Charles E. Horrex, and Frederick Rowarth, civilian engineer.

Industrial Accidents Down But Traffic Toll Increases

Safety Convention Is Told That Streets Are More Dangerous Than Factories; Industry Is Pointing Way for Reduction of Auto Accidents

Industry can point the way in accident prevention and a way must be pointed to stop the wholesale slaughter automobile traffic is piling up to greater heights every year, Louis Blake Duff, of Welland, declared last week in Toronto at the annual convention of the Industrial Accident Prevention Associations of Ontario.

Accidents in industry have been steadily declining, he emphasized, while automobile deaths are increasing to an appalling extent. Industry has been so successful in its accident prevention work that a man is safer today in the midst of whirling wheels and speeding machinery than he is in his home or en route between his home and the factory where he works.

Home Is Very Dangerous

Home is one of the most dangerous places, Mr. Duff said, because a slippery rug, a bathtub or a chair that is not where the sitter thinks it is are greater hazards than electricity or disease. Accidents in the home are responsible for 35 per cent. of all deaths, the automobile causes 24 per cent. and industry is responsible for only 17 per cent.

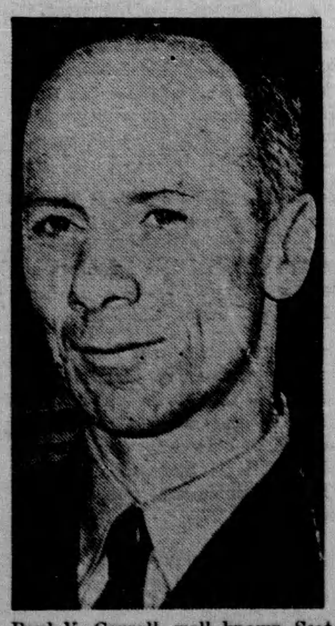
"What shall it profit," he asked, "to save a man in the shop or save him in his home if he is to go out and get killed on the highway or kill someone else?"

Last year automobiles killed 766 people in Ontario, as many men, women and children as make up an average incorporated village, the speaker pointed out. The army of injured and maimed mounted to 12,092. If the automobile has any "luck" this week-end, Mr. Duff said, it will kill five persons and injure 40 in Ontario.

One of Largest Jobs

"The job of accident prevention is one of the largest jobs we have in Canada. There is only one better field on this earth for activities of this kind, for Canada ranks second only to the United States in mortality from accidental causes," he declared.

Sails For His Home



Paul V. Carroll, well known Scottish teacher-author, sails from New York aboard the Queen Mary. Carroll arrived on this Continent with one battered suitcase. He sailed with three trunks full of clothing, bought here.

How Canada Wars On Forest Fires

OTTAWA. — Constant experiments and research on the part of forest authorities in Canada during the last twenty years have brought about great advances in the development of equipment and technique for detecting and controlling forest fires. The use of the airplane for fire patrol and transportation, the development of light portable fire pumps and linen fire hose, light-weight radio apparatus for communication, hand spray pumps, and miscellaneous equipment are a few of the results.

Locate Fire First

In fighting a forest fire, the most important thing is to locate it as soon as possible after it has started. In an up-to-date forest administration high towers of wood or steel, usually with a cabin on top, are erected at suitable points. When a fire is spotted by the look-out man, he takes a bearing on the smoke by means of a special instrument called a fire-finder and telephones this bearing to headquarters. If two or more bearings can be had in this manner from other lookouts, they are laid out on the map at headquarters, and the point where all such bearings intersect is the location of the fire.

Decrease In Area

When a fire is located, it is important to get fire-fighters to the scene as quickly as possible. The means of transport for men and equipment may be by motor truck, power boat, airplane, canoe, or on foot, depending on the region and terrain. If the fire is small, or if there is no water available, it is controlled by removing all inflammable material down to the mineral soil in a strip around the fire. The fire is prevented from crossing this cleared strip, and burns itself out. If a source of water supply is available, gasoline fire pumps and long lines of fire hose are used, much as in a city fire. The men also use hand spray pumps fed from water bags or tanks carried on their backs.

Reflecting the efficiency of Canada's forest fire protection organizations, statistics compiled by the Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa, show a decrease of about 60 per cent. in the area of merchantable timber burned per fire during the period 1918-1937.

Power of Pen

One's pen is a very precarious thing to depend on for a living, but relying on it is a great adventure, according to Leslie Gordon Barnard, president of the Canadian Author's Association.

In a world that is sharpening its sword, it is a good thing for the writer to sharpen his pen, that he may have some saving stimulus against indignation over the world's behaviour, he told the Canadian Women's Press Club, at Montreal.

"Never Too Serious"

Mr. Barnard described "moments in the life of a writer." Among these "moments" he said, were the stories "that come as gifts from the subconscious;" periods of hard work and discouragement; when the job is done; when the cheque or acceptance comes, and seeing the story actually between the two covers of the book.

The power of the pen and of the press mattered tremendously, declared Mr. Barnard, and "we must never take ourselves too seriously and become ponderous." Two essentials in writing, he found, were distinction and vitality.

Must Indicate Proper Weight

Bunches of Asparagus and Rhubarb Come Under New Regulations

In bunching asparagus and rhubarb merchants are required this year by new government regulations to put them up in bundles of specified weight.

Asparagus must be put up in eight ounce or 16 ounce bunches. A little leeway of one ounce is allowed for shrinkage after they are bundled at these weights. They must not weigh less than seven or 14 ounces respectively when sold. But when they are put up they must weight the eight and 16 ounces specified.

And Baskets of Potatoes

Formerly retailers could put them up in any sized bundles with the result that customers could not tell what value they were getting.

Forced rhubarb can only be offered for sale in bunches from 16 to 17 ounces in weight when packed and not less than 15 ounces per bunch when offered for sale.

It is also required by the regulations covering fruit and vegetables that potatoes can only be sold by weight. A basket of potatoes must weigh ten pounds for six quarts and 18 pounds for 11 quarts.

Stolen Pictures "White Elephant"

They're Too Valuable to be Marketed by Thieves Anywhere In the World

LONDON.—The sensational theft of £100,000 ($500,000) worth of Old Masters from Chilham castle was no nearer solution this week.

Police inquiries yielded no developments. An art expert termed the robbery a "white elephant picture theft," saying: "There is no available market for the pictures anywhere in the world. They are too famous to be sold or to be enjoyed by a secret buyer."

He predicted they would remain hidden in the hope they could be returned to the owner, Sir Edmund Davis, art collector and mining company director, for ransom.

One Was a Rembrandt

The robbers entered Sir Edmund's castle in Kent County by cutting a pane from a window. They cut from their frames five celebrated paintings of which the most noted was Rembrandt's portrait of his first wife, "Saskia At Her Toilet."

Two paintings by Gainsborough, "Lady Clarges" and "Pitt," "The Earl of Suffolk" by Sir Joshua Reynols, and "Man With Dog" by Van Dyke, Flemish painter, completed the loot.

Fully Insured

A special watch was set up to prevent the pictures from being smuggled out of England.

Detectives were inclined to think the paintings might have been carried away in an airplane. One guest at the castle recalled being disturbed by a droning noise "like an aeroplane" the morning of the robbery.

Sir Edmund said he was not worrying, as the pictures were fully insured, "not only against all risks but even against there being any dispute over the insurance claim."

Your Handwriting Shows What Talent You Possess

By LAWRENCE HIBBERT
(Graphologist and Psychologist)

Are you discontented in the work you are doing? Do you feel that you are a square peg in a round hole, tied down to work that is distasteful to you?

If you are, you are but one of a vast number of people, for one of the most frequent queries that is put to me in the host of letters I receive is: "Can you tell from my handwriting whether I have any talent? I would like to get into work that is more congenial and better-paid."

Handwriting analysis plays an important part in bringing relief to a lot of people. Because your handwriting DOES show what talent you have. It may be only a latent talent that needs much developing before it can be put to practical use, but it is there. And if you can but realise it, you can set to work to elaborate on it and realise your destiny.

Some time ago a young man living in Northern Ontario wrote to me. He was a grocery assistant, earning a beggardly pittance. He was naturally dissatisfied. Could I give him any advice about possibilities of improving himself?

His handwriting showed two things plainly. He had musical talent, but had not cultivated it to any extent. And he lacked self-confidence.

I told him frankly that he needed firstly to develop more self-assurance, and then to cultivate his musical talent. Without the one the second would be no use to him for he would lack the confidence to impress others with his talent.

It was a considerable time before I heard from him again, but when he did write it was to tell me that he was in Chicago and earning a fairly good living in an orchestra.

As he says himself, without a handwriting analysis, he probably would have been struggling along in a village store.

Do YOU wish to know what talent you possess? Would you like to know how to make the most of your own abilities? Have you any friends whose real characters you would like to know? Send fairly long specimens of writing, and with EACH specimen enclose 10c to help defray cost of handling. Enclose with Stamped addressed envelope to: Lawrence Hibbert, Room 421, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto, Ont. All letters are confidential.

Ghandi Says His Days Are Ending

BOMBAY.—M. K. Gandhi has predicted his early death.

"My days are numbered," the 69-year-old nationalist leader wrote in the newspaper Harijan.

"For the first time in 50 years I find myself in the slough of despondency. All about me is darkness; I am praying for lights . . . I have detected in me a flaw which is unworthy of a votary of truth."

Englishwomen Turn to Turbans For Sports

Intent upon "shooting" the action at Brooklands Track, England, this fair spectator is unaware of the interest in her chapeau, as she is pictured by another photographer.