Sunday School Lesson

LESSON XI
Facing the Supreme Test of Service—Mark 14: 32-46.
Golden Text—Not what I will, but what thou wilt. Mark 14: 36.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time. — Evening of Thursday, April 6, A.D. 30.

Place.—The Garden of Gethsemane at the base of the western slope of the Mount of Olives.

The agony of Christ in Gethsemane is also recorded in Matt. 26: 36-46, and in Luke 22: 40-46. Between verses 25 and 32 of our chapter must be inserted all the teaching of Christ recorded in John 15, 16 and 17. These wonderful discourses were given on Thursday night of Passion Week.

32. And they come unto a place. The literal translation of the Greek, as the margin tells us, would read "an enclosed piece of ground." Which was named Gethsemane.. The word "Gethsemane" means oilpress, which would imply that this garden was located in an olive grove in the midst of which was a press for obtaining olive-oil. It was on the eastern side of the brook Kidron, at the base of the Mount of Olives. As John reminds us, it had been a favorite resort of Jesus.

The Lord now leaves eight of the disciples on the outer edge of the garden, while he takes what is known as the innermost circle of the apostolic group with him deeper into the garden itself.

Bearing It Alone

33. And he taketh with him Peter and James and John. These are the ones whom the Lord took with him up on the mountain where he was transfigured. And began to be greatly amazed. The word here translated "greatly amazed" means to be thoroughly alarmed, or even to be terrified. And sore troubled. The verb indicates a distress which follows a great shock. The weight of the world's sin was here being borne by him alone .

34. And he saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful even unto death: abide ye here, and watch. This phrase is also found in Matthew's account. The word here translated "exceeding sorrowful" means surrounded with grief or sorrow on every hand. We speak of "the Gethsemane agony," and in Luke's account of Christ's experience in Gethsemane we have the very Greek word agonia (Luke 22: 44), from which our word "agony" comes.

35. And he went forward a little. Our Lord in seeking solitude on the last night of his life on earth immediately preceding his crucifixion first departed from the noisy, crowded city with his eleven disciples to go out to a quiet garden spot on a lovely hillside; now to be absolutely along with God, he separates himself from even this inner group of three. And fell to the ground. To fall on the ground is an indication of utter prostration before God. And prayed. While the Lord always was in communion with God and always one with him, yet there were definite times in his life, undoubtedly definite times in every day of his life when he prayed to God, i.e., when he spoke to him definitely about specific needs, either of his own or of others. That, if it were possible, the hour might pass away from him. Of course the Lord Jesus means by "the hour" the entire period beginning now with his agony in Gethsemane and terminating with his death on the cross, the entire time of his suffering and anguish.

The Bitter Cup

36. And he said, Abba, Father. The word abba is the Aramaic word meaning "father," and both words were often used freely in prayers to God. All things are possible unto thee; remove this cup from me. This petition of Christ was not a command. Jesus did not ask anything that would in the slightest way contradict the Father's will. He does ask that the cup be taken from him if possible. On the other hand, he does not want the cup to be taken away if God wills it otherwise. What Jesus prayed to be delivered from in Gethsemane, was not death as a sacrifice voluntarily offered for the salvation of mankind; but this possible element in his death as a sacrifice, the hiding of the Father's face, and the withdrawing of his Father's hand from him. Howbeit not what I will, but what thou wilt. It is the human will of Jesus that here speaks. The agony in Gethsemane will always bear an element of mystery for us, because of the mystery in the union of Christ's two natures.

37. And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest thou not watch one hour?

38. Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. The spirit and the flesh denote the two extremes of human nature, "spirit" being the highest word used to describe the spiritual part of man, our "flesh" being used to denote everything that belongs to the lower nature. Jesus is not pleading this as an excuse for his disciples' sleepfulness, but as a reason why they should watch and pray. The spirit is eager, ready to stand by me even to death, as you have just shown in your protestations; but the flesh is weak, the lower nature fears death and danger, and exposes you to temptation.

Prayer Without Ceasing

39. And again he went away, and prayed, saying the same words. 40. And again he came, and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they knew not what to answer him. Our Lord himself is the perfect example of persistent prayer, of praying without ceasing.

41. And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest. It is enough. We do not quite know whether this means that they had slept enough, or whether the Lord had prayed enough; probably the reference is to the latter. He prayed until he got his answer. The hour is come.

The Betrayal

Behold the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. It is one thing for a criminal to be betrayed into the hands of those who keep the law and pretend to enforce righteousness; but it is the very opposite for the righteous One to be betrayed into the hands of lawless men.

42. Arise, let us be going; behold, he that betrayeth me is at hand. Now behold the glorious conqueror! He emerges from the horrible conflict in Gethsemane as if steeled both in body and soul. His whole bearing breathes self-possession, manliness, and sublime composure.

43. And straightway, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. The position of Judas in this verse would seem to indicate that he was the leader of this crowd.

The Arrest

44. Now he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that is he; take him, and lead him away safely. In the confusion there was the possibility of escape, and there was a desire to make everything sure. This sign was the ordinary form of salute.

45. And when he was come, straightway he came to him, and saith, Rabbi; and kissed him. 46. And they laid hands on him, and took him.

A—C

World's Largest Canine Is Dead

Claimed to be the largest dog in the world, Yocub, a St. Bernard, has been killed by kindness. He was "loved to death" at a Dayton, Ohio, dog show, where he was petted so much that he died in his master's car on the way home after the show.

Yocub measured 7 ft., 2 ins., from the tip of his nose to the end of his tail, weighing nearly 252 pounds, and stood 3 ft. 1 in. high at the shoulder. His head was 13½ inches from ear to ear.

Was Once a King

Crown Prince Michael is now heir to the throne of Roumania. The bemedalled youth will be 17 in October.

Duchess Is Guest at a Nursery Tea

The Duchess of Gloucester opened a new garden estate at Somers Town built by the St. Pancras House Improvement Society to replace slum dwellings. The estate consists of 230 flats and the Bishop of Oxford blessed the last two blocks of flats which completed the estate. The Duchess visited the nursery school for forty children at the top of one of the new blocks, and the picture shows her receiving tea from a tiny member of the nursery.

Movie Star Dust Radio

By VIRGINIA DALE

Andrea Leeds has been stepping right along since she did so well in a minor role in "Stage Door." She went on to do well in "Goldwyn Follies," is working now in the picture "Letter of Introduction," and will play opposite Joel McCrea in a picture called, so far, "Youth Takes A Fling."

Which all goes to show that she was right when she refused to go on as just one more contract player. She felt that she wasn't getting

Andrea Leeds

anywhere, you'll remember, and got out of her contract, and all Hollywood had said she was crazy, as she had just one performance to her credit at that time.

And then — "Stage Door" and all the opportunity in the world!

The "Lone Ranger" craze is now growing every day. The actor who plays the "Ranger" in the screen serial may go on a personal appearance tour. National Broadcasting company has arranged for the transcription rights of the radio program for the South, Canada and Australia — at present it's heard on a 42-station tie-up three times a week. There's talk of a circus stunt and of a cartoon strip for the newspapers. And the country will be flooded with books, cowboy suits and chewing gum, and sweaters, and all the other merchandise that can be used in profitable tie-ups.

Charlie Chaplain's latest discovery, Dorothy Cummingore, has been given a contract by Warner Brothers, and you'll see her first in "Three Girls on Broadway."

Bing Crosby can continue with his present radio sponsors for ten years if he wants to. It's said the advertising agency involved would like him to sign an agreement for that length of time, with the usual year to year options. His present contract still has 8 months to run. Of all the Hollywood folks who have gone on the air, Bing has been the most successful and shows no sign of diminishing popularity.

Bing Crosby

The picture business being a bit slow at the moment, picture stars are doing quite a bit of vacationing — Miriam Hopkins and her husband, Anatole Litvak, the director, are at her charming little house in New York. Fredric March expected to have to cut his New York vacation short, and then got word that he might stay on indefinitely. Madeleine Carroll and Wendy Barrie are among the toasts of New York.

Benny Goodman recently gave his second concert in Boston, before a packed house; as in Carnegie Hall, in New York, the first things anybody knew the younger set in the crowd was out in the aisles beginning to "shag." An usher hurried forward to stop them, whereupon a conservative looking, middle-aged gentleman stopped the usher. Seems he'd decided to learn the "shag" and thought that was as good a place as any to begin.

ODDS AND ENDS — Paul Muni seems to be all set to do "The Life of William Tell", ... When Frank Lloyd directs "If I Were King," with Ronald Colman, Frank's own daughter, Alma, will play "Colette" ..... Joe Penner's new picture, "Go Chase Yourself," is his best one yet ..... Walt Disney divided $50,000 among the people who helped him make "Snow White" — Max Baer is coaching Robert Taylor for "Knock Out" ..... The objection to Shirley Temple's making personal appearances has been that she was too young to appear behind the footlights ..... But Mary Pickford began when she was five, and it didn't seem to hurt her any ..... In "Four Men and a Prayer" you'll see Richard Greene, recently arrived from England, who, it is said, will be groomed for stardom ..... Now it's announced that Maude Adams' movie tests were so successful that she will not appear in "The Young in Heart," but in a production giving more scope to her talents.

Carefree Furnace Needs No Stoking

For jaded furnace stokers, science offers today a permanent vacation.

Details of a coal burning heating plant that operates for a year without stoking, damper settings or ash removing were disclosed last week by the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research.

This vacation from furnace tending was explained by E. T. Selig, Jr., industrial fellow at the institute, who aided in the development of the unit.

"Carefree heating," he said, "is obtained by using Pennsylvania anthracite coal, usually of buckwheat or rice size, which is conveyed from coal bin to the fire through a small conveyor tube.

Completely Automatic

"After the anthracite is burned the ash falls by gravity over the edge of the burner into a dust-tight storage pit beneath the floor, which is large enough to provide for several months' to a year's operation. The entire system is controlled by room thermostat and is completely automatic in operation."

The size of the ash pit varies with the heating unit. However, Selig's charts show that a furnace burning seven tons of coal during a winter will need a pit approximately five feet deep and four feet wide.

For those who don't want even the task of shoveling out the pit once a year, a specially designed can may be placed in the pit to receive the ashes. It is removed through a trap door.

Big Ben Revered By Whole Nation

Old London's Famous Bell Is A Household Name—Weighs Thirteen Tons

Everybody who visits Old London from distant places feels that he has missed something if he returns home without hearing "Big Ben," the bell of the clock in the tower of the parliament buildings at Westminster, says the Toronto Star Weekly. In British countries and in many other lands Big Ben is a household name. The special broadcasts by the King have been featured by the sound of the tolling of Big Ben which has been carried by means of radio to the ends of the earth.

Seven Feet High

Big Ben tolls out the hours of the day and night. It weighs more than thirteen tons and stands more than seven feet high. It was made in Whitechapel and its removal to Westminster was made a great occasion. Sixteen horses were used to draw it on a truck through the streets of the metropolis. Multitudes of people gathered from near and far to see it go by surmounted by a Union Jack.

Wound Twice a Week

Four quarter-hour bells are associated with Big Ben. Together they cost $30,000. The clock cost $20,000, and the clock chamber and clock faces $60,000. For many years the clock was wound by hand, a procedure requiring five hours. Now two men climb into the tower twice a week and wind it by motor in half an hour.

When the bell needed repairs shortly after it was installed a group of members of parliament objected to the noise of Big Ben as a serious inconvenience to which the House had been subjected for the benefit of people living in the county of Middlesex. They proposed that it should not be permitted to toll again. Such is the reverence with which Big Ben is regarded today, almost as a prized institution, that the people might sweep out of office a government that proposed to silence the great bell. Superstitious persons might feel that such a development would be an omen of doom to the empire.

It is claimed that mankind and probably womankind will be entirely bald by the year 2500, due to our custom of cutting the hair.

There is only one scaly-backed ant-eater in captivity, called the African Pangolin, and it is in the London Zoo.

Women Blamed For Depression

Toronto Professor Urges Them To Wear More, Stop Reducing

Take it from Prof. Norman W. DeWitt, of Victoria College, Toronto, one of the main reasons for the depression was because women wanted to weigh less and wear less.

Prof. DeWitt told a service club in an address that every time a woman tried to reduce a pound, threw away a petticoat or cut another inch from a skirt length she depressed the market in food and dress stuffs.

"There are in America some 26,000,000 women who have reducing in mind," he said. "If each of these women lessens her food consumption two pounds a week, there is a direct loss in food sale of 52,000,000 pounds. Along with this cause we must place the reduction in the amount of clothing worn by women with an amazing reduction in the total yardage in women's wear goods. No wonder we had a depression."

Symbol of His Country's Spirit and Strength

Symbolizing the spirit of his country, this Czech infantryman is getting ready to toss a nine-second hand grenade, during manoeuvres of the army at Eger.

CHARACTER FROM HANDWRITING

More Secrets From My Mailbag!

By LAWRENCE HIBBERT
(Graphologist and Psychologist)

Mrs. "Perplexed" writes. "I am in my early thirties and have been worried for some time because my husband is neglectful. He is cool towards me and I'm sure no longer loves me. Recently I met a widower who thinks a lot of me and I am afraid I have become very attached to him. I am wondering ——"

I am glad that you sent specimens of all three handwritings. Beware of your widower friend. You say you do not know much about him, and judging from his writing I am sure that you do not! Or you would not want to know him any longer! He is not to be trusted.

Your husband's writing suggests that he is worrying about something; perhaps he is worrying about YOU? Certainly he seems a straightforward sort of man. Now YOUR writing shows that you have a liking for novelty, gaiety and action. You are inclined to be flighty and, do you mind if I add, flirtacious?

A girl of 19 writes: "I am in love with a man, aged 28, who wants us to get married. Am I too young?"

I see nothing in either of your writings to make me discourage you. On the contrary I think you are well suited. The age difference is not an insuperable barrier. If you are sure you love him, and finances are satisfactory, go ahead, and good luck.

Do YOU wish to know what your handwriting reveals of your character and disposition? Have you a sweetheart or friends about whom you would like to learn more? Send specimens of the handwritings you want analysed, enclosing 10c for EACH specimen. Send with stamped addressed envelope to: L. Hibbert, Room 421, 73 West Adelaide Et., Toronto, Ontario. All letters are confidential.