Sunday School Lesson

LESSON XII
THE SUFFERING SERVANT
Mark 15:22-39

Golden Text — For the Son of Man also came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time — Friday, April 7, A.D. 30.

Place Jerusalem.

"And they bring him unto the place, Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull." Golgotha simply means "skull," as Mark himself explains for use. This place was probably given such a name because it had a skull-like contour. The site cannot be identified with certainty. There are only two places that can be seriously considered to-day as the site of Calvary, one is the plot over which the church of the Holy Sepulchre now stands, and the other is the skull-shaped knoll above Jeremiah's grotto, outside the present north wall of Jerusalem.

The Crucifixion

"And they offered him wine that was mingled with myrrh, but he received it not." This was a drink mercifully offered to those about to be crucified, to produce stupefaction (i.e., as an opiate). Jesus intended to go through the final ordeal with a mind perfectly clear.

"And they crucify him." It is probable, though not certain, that our Lord was nailed to the cross while it lay upon the ground, and that it was then lifted into its position as is represented in the great picture of Rubens in Antwerp Cathedral. The cross of Jesus lifted his feet no more than a yard above the ground, for the short stalk of hyssop was able to reach Jesus' mouth. The agony of crucifixion needs no description. "And part his garments among them, casting lots upon them, what each should take."

"And it was the third hour, and they crucified him." Mark is the only one who gives the hour of Christ's crucifixion. The Jewish day began at six o'clock in the morning, and therefore the third hour would be about nine o'clock in the morning.

"And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS." This inscription on the Lord's cross was written by Pilate in Aramaic and in Greek, as well as in the official Latin, so as to be intelligible to all Jews. It was just this that the Jews refused to recognize, namely, that Jesus was their king.

"And with him they crucify two robbers; one on his right hand, and one on his left." These two men were not only robbers, but, as Luke tells us, they were malefactors, i.e., men whose business it is to work evil. Thus was the prediction of Isaiah nearly seven hundred years before this brought to pass. Though Mark does not recall it, all who do know the story of our Lord's crucifixion as given in the other Gospels will remember that, while at the beginning of this day both of the thieves railed upon the Lord Jesus, later on the same day one of them believed in him and thereby received eternal life.

Three Final Insults

"And they that passed by railed on him." These were either country folk on their way to the city, or citizens whose business called them into the country. The word here translated "railed" means, ordinarily, to speak reproachfully, to revile, to calumniate. "Wagging their heads, and saying, Ha! thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, 30. save thyself, and come down from the cross." The implication here is that if Jesus spoke the truth in asserting his ability to build the temple again in three days, he certainly would be able to pull his hands and feet free from the cross and to deliver himself from his impalement.

"In like manner also the chief priests mocking him among themselves with the scribes said, He saved others; himself he cannot save." Members of the priestly aristocracy were seen in company with scribes and elders deriding the sufferer. It is not true that Jesus could not save himself — he could have done so easily, instantly, with all the omnipotence of God, but he could never have saved us had he saved himself, for we are saved only by his death.

"Let the Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reproached him.

The Fourth Cry

"And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour." This darkness is also mentioned by Matthew (27:45) and by Luke (23:44), a darkness that began at high noon and ended three hours later, at three o'clock in the afternoon. So compare another famous period of darkness at the time of the redemption of the children of Israel from Egypt.

"And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" This fourth cry from the cross, also recorded by Matt. 27:46, is the only one of the seven words from the cross recorded in Mark's Gospel. This in one of the deepest, most inscrutable mysteries of all the word of God, and, reading these words, we can only bow our heads, and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal in our hearts some of the terrible meaning of this cry. The nearest we can hope to come to penetrating this mystery is to think of Jesus as covered with all the world's sin and curse; and when God saw Jesus thus, he turned away from him. And even though God turned from him and left him, he cries to him and holds fast to him as his God. Here the divine perfection of Jesus appears.

"And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth Elijah." There was something in the cry that recalled to the spectators the name of Elijah.

"And one ran, and filling a sponge full of vinegar, put it on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying Let be; let us see whether Elijah cometh to take him down." This verse can be understood only as we recall that the fifth word on the cross (John 19:28) was, "I thirst." See also Matt. 27:48.

Consequences of His Death

"And Jesus uttered a loud voice, and gave up the ghost." The word translated "ghost" is the word often translated "spirit."

"And the veil of the temple was rent in two from the top to the bottom." This veil is the one that hung between the hold place and the holy of holies described in Exod. 26:31, 36.35. The veil in the temple, as in the tabernacle, symbolized the fact that God was distinctly separated from men, and could not be approached by men except through a high priest. No Hebrew, in all the hundreds of years of Hebrew history, except the high priests, ever entered through the veil that hung before the holy of holies. The rending of this veil was certainly an act of God. The veil was tremendously heavy, and said to have been about forty feet in height. In the rending of the veil we have God revealed to men as he never has been before. We now know God through the Lord Jesus Christ and especially the love of God in the fact that Christ died for us.

"And when the centurion, who stood by over against him, saw that he so gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God." This centurion felt himself to be in the presence of a great mystery, and realized that Jesus was kin with divinity.

Music Is Urged As Our Unifier

Canadian People Could Be Drawn Together By Music Declares Eminent Glasgow Musician

Sir Hugh Robertson, adjudicator of musical festivals throughout Canada, and director of the famous Orpheus Choir, told members of the Association of Canadian Clubs at Montreal last week that music was the best unifier that Canada could have, for all question of color, religion or nationality sank when people joined together for music.

The eminent Glasgow musician said he had heard 40,000 children singing on his present trip to Canada, all of them animated with the one thought to do a beautiful thing beautifully. The children of today were the Canadians of to-morrow and as they looked to the education and enlightenment of those children so they could look for an enlightened Canada in the future, and anyone who begrudged opportunities for the children was no citizen at all, but was a traitor in the camp.

SIR HUGH ROBERTSON

Music For Her Soul's Sake

The propagation of culture was very difficult in new countries because the whole life in new countries was one of striving, but new countries required a cultural background and that was a work that lay to the hand of the Canadian Clubs. Canada needed music for her soul's sake and also for her nationality's sake.

The great problem of race assimilation can be met by music more successfully than in any other way, for hostility could not enter where music was, and therefore its unifying value was inestimable.

DONALD'S A TOLL-COLLECTOR

Nicknamed "Donald" by children and drivers, this pet duck in Dulwich Park, London, England, collects toll from all motorists passing through the park. Donald waits until a car stops beside the lake where he lives, waddles across and waits for tasty contributions. Photograph above shows Donald greeting a motorist and saying (in quack quacks) "Please, pretty please, what will you give me today?"

Movie Star Dust Radio

By VIRGINIA DALE

Carole Lombard and Clark Gable really ought to go into the dress-making business. They co-operated on a sports jacket which Alice Marble, the United States' Number One tennis player, will wear when she steps out on the courts of Wimbledon, England, to battle for a championship.

Carole designed the jacket, (she is Alice Marble's best friend) and Clark had his tailor make it. It's a knockout. And Alice, tall, blonde and pretty, will wear it.

Remember "Dawn Patrol," in which Richard Barthelmess starred, and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., after pleading and fighting for the role, played the second lead so ably that he stole the picture, and proved

ERROL FLYNN

himself a good actor? Well, it's to be made again, with Errol Flynn, Patric Knowles and Basil Rathbone in the leading roles.

Claudeete Colbert, who recently got home from that European vacation, likes simple clothes — but listen to the description of the dress recently designed for her by Travis Banton, one of moviedom's ace designers. It's frilly, it's frothy, it's of white organza, covered with a printed pattern of cherries in black. The skirt is shirred and full, the neckline is outlined by a large flounce, with wider flounces forming the sleeves. Sounds anything but simple!

Alice Brady has had years on the stage and years in the movies, but when you hear her on the radio you may be sure that she is nervous. The microphone simply scares her into such a state of nerves that the pages of her script have to be pasted on cardboard, to keep them from rattling.

Encouraged by its success in the building up of Ginger Rogers as a dramatic star, RKO is going to try to do the same thing with Ruby Keeler, the dancer who is Mrs. Al Jolson in private life. You'll see the first results of the new campaign in "Mother Carey's Chickens." And with Fay Bainter and Ralph Morgan also in the cast, the girl will have to act or be utterly swamped.

Bob Ripley has discovered in his search for "Believe It Or Nots," that it is three and two-thirds times as easy for a man to become an amazing person as it is for a woman to do so. He finds that amazing women are just as interesting as men, but rarer. The only reason he can give is that they don't have as much chance to distinguish themselves as men do.

The first thing any of us know, someone is going to form an organization to protest against radio programs which are awfully amusing to the audience in the broadcasting studio, but pretty dull to those who just tune in, and can't see what is going on. Eddie Cantor is one of the worst offenders. After all, radio is supposed to be heard, not just seen. And I know of more than one instance in which a listener, at home, swore never to buy the sponsor's product because it was so annoying to hear the laughter and not know what was so funny.

Eddie Cantor

ODDS AND ENDS — Paramount may follow Metro's example and launch an air show in the fall ..... Stan Laurel and his Russian bride plan a fourth wedding ceremony ..... Frank Black saves the stamps from foreign letters, and gives them to his friends — which keeps his office filled with both friends and stamps ..... Around Hollywood they are calling "The Adventures of Marco Polo," "Mr. Deeds Goes to China" ..... Gale Page, known to radio but not to movie fans, has been made a star by Warner Brothers.

Heads Weekly Publishers

At the annual convention of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association in Toronto (Ontario-Quebec Division), Mr. A. E. Dobbie, managing editor of the Record-News, Smith's Falls, Ont., was elected president of the organization for the coming year.

A Handwriting Analysis Will Help You To A Better Life

By L. HIBBERT
(Psychologist and Handwriting Expert)

Is it possible to foretell the future from one's handwriting? This is a question that is frequently asked. Unfortunately, we cannot tell fortunes from handwriting. I wish we could, sometimes!

What, then, will handwriting reveal? It will show the character of a writer. There are, of course, many things we know about our friends, acquaintances and people with whom we come in contact. But there are other, deeper traits that don't come so readily to the surface, or are deliberately hidden. These are revealed unerringly in handwriting.

Handwriting doesn't stop at revealing the writer's character. It shows the hidden potentialities and talent that often lie dormant within a person. Many persons are working in "blind alleys," or are realising but a tithe of their possibilities, merely because of a lack of knowledge of their own powers.

A handwriting analysis is often the first step towards a better position and greater earning powers. Every reader will appreciate the importance of this, especially in these days of fast competition and reduced earning outlets.

Can handwriting analysis be depended upon? There WAS a time when many so-called graphologists were nothing more than charlatans, preying on the gullible. There was also a time when many medical "experts" were quacks! But you do not put any less faith in your doctor today because many years ago there were medical quacks, do you?

In the same way, graphology has passed the elementary stages and is now recognized as a science.

Have YOU discovered what your handwriting shows about your real self? Would you like to know the truth about your sweetheart, relatives or friends? Or are you interested in finding what talent you have? Send specimens of the writing you want analysed, enclosing 10c for EACH specimen. Enclose with a stamped addressed envelope, to: L. Hibbert, Room 421, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto, Ont. Your letter will be treated in confidence.

Grants To Help Finance Roads Into Mine Areas

Dominion Minister of Resources Gives Details of Assistance the Provinces will be given To Aid in Development of Mining Sections — Will Improve Transportation—Ontario to Get $250,000.

Resources Minister Crerar last week announced tentative allocation of the $1,300,000 vote included in the supplementary estimates to assist the provinces in improving transportation into mining areas.

The proposed allotments follow: Nova Scotia, $25,000; Quebec, $250,000; Ontario $250,000; Manitoba, $225,000; Saskatchewan, $125,000; Alberta, $50,000; British Columbia, $240,000; Northwest Territories and the Yukon, $93,000.

Agreement With Provinces

Initiated in the fiscal year 1936-37, the assistance scheme was undertaken to reduce transportation costs into mining properties where the government thought such costs were likely to retard development a departmental statement said.

In that year agreements were made with the provinces concerned whereby the work was carried out under the direction of the provincial governments with the understanding that two-thirds of the total expenditures in each case would be contributed by the Dominion and one-third by the provinces.

All projects carried out were recommended by the provinces and were subject to the final approval of the Dominion. All work undertaken in Yukon and the Northwest Territories was done by the federal government. The same arrangement will prevail this year, the statement said.

100 Producing Areas Aided

In the assistance scheme work is being given mainly to persons taken from relief rolls, or classified as needy unemployed. During the past two years the joint program has been of material aid in expanding the tonnage treated daily in gold and other metallurgical plants throughout Canada.

Upwards of 100 producing or soon-to-be producing gold mines have been given improved road assistance essential to profitable operation, and besides, active development has been encouraged in many promising mineral areas hitherto devoid of suitable transportation facilities.

Say Hill-Billies Like Opera Best

Prefer It To Mountain Music, Declares Col. Bovey of McGill, on Return from Visit to Arkansas.

There ain't no hill-billy music! Kentucky and Arkansas mountaineers prefer symphony orchestrations and opera. They disclaim utterly the brand of savage discord which is described as "mountain music."

This is the verdict of Col. Wilfrid Bovey of McGill University who represented the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation at the recent round table conference on radio held under the auspices of the National University Extension Association at Hot Springs, Arkansas.

The ex-governor of the CBC and McGill extension head was much intrigued by the University of Kentucky's mountain radio listening center system. The University of Kentucky has for years recognized the radio as an excellent medium for the stimulation of educational, cultural and recreational activities. During the past season 15 or more educational, agricultural and musical programs have been broadcast weekly from the university studies in Lexington.

It was found early in the experimental broadcasting that large sections of Kentucky lacked the facilities for receiving broadcasts, especially in the mountains. A system of radio listening centres was established. The university provided radio receiving sets, of adequate power, and placed them under the community centre directors. This scheme has been a marked success.

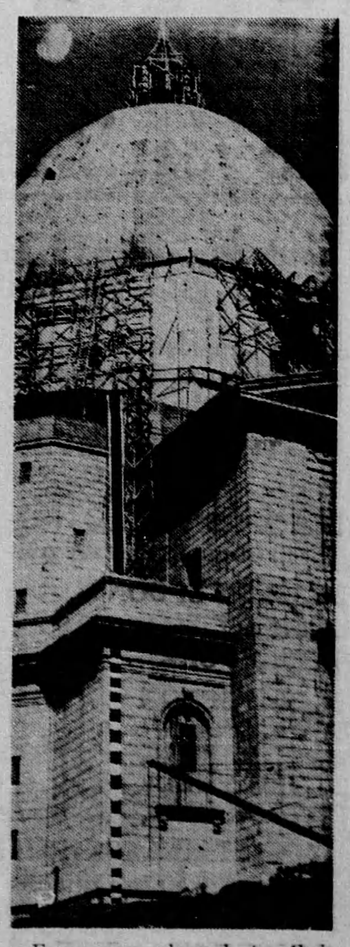
Do Investigate Before Buying

Methods of operation of the Toronto Stock Exchange, which, he said, is a "much misunderstood institution" were outlined by Norman C. Urquhart, exchange president, to Kincardine business men at their spring banquet.

"I have little sympathy with anyone who buys stock without investigating," he declared. "The majority of people will buy stock on a tip and very rarely will investigate. If they did, it would greatly benefit the country."

He warned against considering penny stocks as an investment and pointed out they were only a gamble.

Tragedy Strikes Church



Four men plunged to their deaths as they rode an elevator down the 300-foot shaft of the dome that crowns Brother Andre's $1,000,000 shrine, St. Joseph's Oratory, Montreal. The men fell to their deaths when a beam, supporting the hoist, shifted, plunging the men nearly 60 feet. The black line, ABOVE, shows where the elevator fell to the church's main floor. One of the victims plunged through the floor of the hoist and again through the wooden flooring of the church, as indicated by the broken line.