Sunday School Lesson

LESSON IX

PETER IN SAMARIA
Acts 8:4-25

Golden Text—Come ye, buy, and eat: yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Isa. 55:1.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time.—It is generally believed that Stephen was martyred A.D. 35, and it was therefore in that year that the preaching of Philip in Samaria took place.

Place.—The city of Samaria is located in the midst of the province of Samaria, in which we might call central Palestine.

Instead of quieting those who were bitterly persecuting the early church in Jerusalem the martyrdom of Stephen seemed to have fanned into a hotter flame their hatred for the new faith. After the burial of Stephen there arose the greatest of all the persecutors of the apostolic church, Saul of Tarsus, who later was to be the greatest of all the defenders of the faith.

So often revivals are the cause of sharp words, of unjust criticism, and sometimes of public denouncements. This great work of Philip of Samaria had not proceeded many days before one appeared in these revival circles who, if allowed his way, would have wrought great havoc in the cause of the Christian faith in that city.

From the Mother Church

14. Now when the apostles that were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John. This verse shows that the church at Jerusalem was regarded as the mother church.

15. Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit: 16. for as yet it was fallen upon none of them: only they had been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. The apostles did not come down to collect money; they did not come down especially to catechize; they did not come down to make proselytes, but they did seek the spiritual enrichment of the lives of these young Christians.

17. Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. This experience of the Samaritans was exceptional, and was intended to teach that, as miraculous gifts might be withheld for a time from true converts, so in the future, as at the present day, conversion might be quite as real even though attended by no miracles or signs.

18. Now when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, 19. saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay my hands, he may receive the Holy Spirit.

Simon's attitude is that of a professional wizard convinced that strangers have at command magical powers of wonderful strength. He fancied that he could by money be instructed how to acquire, use, and impart, all in the way of trade, these powers. From this act of Simon's comes our word "simony," the crime of buying, selling, or bargaining for spiritual functions. The sin of Simon is virtually repeated when a man gets himself appointed to office in the church, not that he may do God's work, but that he may make a living or gratify his ambition.

Buying God's Gift

20. But Peter said unto him, Thy silver perish with thee, because thou hast thought to obtain the gift of God with money. 21. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right before God. Worldly power can be possessed, and often is,—the power of a great intellect, the power of ruling great multitudes, power for winning battles, power for making money,—by those who are not right with God.

22. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray the Lord, if perhaps the thought of thy heart shall be forgiven thee.

23. For I see that thou art in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity. The ancients considered that the gall of noxious reptiles was the source of their venom, and Peter warms Simon that unless repentance comes he will become worse and worse until he becomes all venom.

24. And Simon answered and said, Pray ye for me to the Lord, that none of the things which ye have spoken come upon me. Compare with this serve the words: "Like Pharaoh, Simon was frightened, but not reformed." He failed to see the right meaning of prayer. We must not go to God in supplication merely to escape judgment or wrath or penalty, but to escape sin.

25. They therefore, when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem and preached the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

It is interesting to note in this verse, which records the itinerant work of these two missionaires and their return to Jerusalem, three different phrases indicating their preaching activity. In the first place, they "testified," which is the translation of a Greek word meaning to give solemn testimony to some great fact, to cause it to be believed. The second phrase "spoke the word of the Lord," would certainly indicate that they believed that they were proclaiming divine truth, a message given to them by the Lord and concerning the Lord. The last phrase, "preached the gospel," comes from the word "evangelize," and so this last phrase could read, "evangelized in many villages of the Samaritans."

Former Czech President Comes To This Continent

Wearing a broad smile, Dr. Edouard Benes, former president of Czechoslovakia, is shown here with Mrs. Benes as they arrived in New York. Dr. Benes took up his duties as a visiting professor to the University of Chicago on Feb. 20.

Better Meals For Tourists Wanted Here

Canada Is Falling Down In This Respect It Is Believed

Really good yet simple meals are few and far between in Ontario's roadside eating places and there is undoubtedly much more room for improvement in this essential respect, says the Brockville Recorder and Times.

We can show a tourist the finest of scenery, give him the best of roads over which to travel, furnish him with the means of entertaining and enjoying himself, but if we fall down in such things as the meals we serve him and the beds that we ask him to occupy, his holiday will be spoiled and he may leave our country with bitter and disappointed feelings.

For some years the provision of better meals for tourists and other visitors has been part of Governmental activity in such provinces as Quebec and Nova Scotia, where it is realized that the way to a tourist's heart is as much through his food as through anything else. Classes in cookery, particularly for the tourist trade, have been started and emphasis has been placed upon the preparation of what might be considered native dishes. Ontario could afford to do likewise.

China Gets Ready For Long Conflict

Builds New Nation In Interior Of Asia Beyond Reach of Jap Forces

China is building a new nation in the comparatively undeveloped interior beyond immediate reach of Japanese forces, utilizing credits extended her by Great Britain and the United States.

Well-informed persons, who disclosed this week for the first time what China was doing with the credits, said that nation's only chance of defeating the Japanese was to wear them out by creating a virtually new China in what was once the Hinterland.

Natives carried machinery with them when they evacuated manufacturing centres, and are setting up new factories in cities virtually unknown to the occident. Now they are buying machinery in Gt. Britain and the U. S. with which to equip the factories. Some of the machinery probably will be used in making arms and ammunition.

Between 1,000 and 2,000 freshly-ordered trucks will be used to connect China with the sea over the new 2,000-mile road opened between the provisional capital of Chung-king and Rangoon, Burma, American Ambassador Nelson T. Johnson reported recently that the road was completed in eight months solely by native labor directed by Chinese engineers. Johnson made the trip from Chungking to Rangoon in 17 days by automobile.

Airway Services Given $5,389,456

Dominion Government Allows $70,000 For Subsidies to Amateur Flying Clubs Across Canada.

The Dominion Government will continue its subsidies to amateur flying clubs across the Dominion with a $10,000 increase over last year's allotment for fostering flying among Canadian youth, according to estimates tabled in the Commons.

The transport department will ask Parliament for $70,000 for grants to flying clubs in 1939-40, compared with $60,000 last year. Included in the grant, as last year, is a special grant of $5,000 to the Canadian Flying Clubs Association.

Growth of the national network of airways has made necessary a greater appropriation for radio, weather bureau, lighting and airport facilities. Vote for airway services has swelled to $5,822,540, an increase of $433,084 compared with $5,389,456 last year.

The transport department provides ground services, radio range stations, airports and meteorological service for Trans-Canada Airlines and increasing activity of that enterprise has meant a jump of $368,526 in cost of these services.

The estimated average price of a troy ounce of fine gold in Canadian funds was $34.99 in 1937, while in 1938 the corresponding price was $35,165.

RADIO NOTES AND NEWS

By MADGE ARTHUR

THE GREAT PIANIST

Those who were unlucky enough to miss the recital broadcast by Ignace Jan Paderewski from Lausanne, Switzerland, last September, will be able to hear the great pianist from Radio City in New York on Sunday, February 26, at 2 p.m. On that date the entire Magic Key of RCA will be devoted to Paderewski's playing.

Paderewski arrived in New York on Tuesday, February 21, by the Ile de France, to begin his 20th concert tour of North America. He made his debut on this continent 47 years ago.

If his broadcast from Lausanne last September 25, is any criterion Paderewski's title as the poet of the pianoforte still holds good in spite of his 79 years. His playing then was unforgettable.

For many years Paderewski did not favor radio and refused consistently to broadcast. He consented, however, in September, and his music heard at the height of the crisis, came from Europe like a voice of peace in the midst of the noise of war.

Paderewski's last composition was his Symphony in A minor describing the tragic fate of his native Poland and hinting prophetically of its resurrection. The Symphony was performed in Boston in 1909. Ten years later Paderewski was the first Prime Minister of Poland. Last year he published his autobiography.

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AROUND THE DIAL

Bert Lytell, native New Yorker who has been on the stage since early childhood and also been featured in leading screen roles, has been signed for a series of radio plays to be presented from NBC Radio City studios each Friday night over the NBC network from 10.30 to 10.45 p.m. The new series based on short short stories will be known as "Bert Lytell in Drama Time."

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President Roosevelt, speaking before a joint session of Congress on the 150th anniversary of the first Congress ever held in the United States, will be heard over the combined Blue and Red networks of th NBC and over the Canadian network on Saturday, March 4, from 12.00 noon to 1.00 p.m.

Donald Dickson, who has taken Nelson Eddy's place on the Chase and Sanborn Hour, is by no means a newcomer to radio. In fact he got his start on the networks and was broadcasting when he was signed by the Metropolitan Opera Co. as one of its principal baritones. From radio to opera in New York and then to radio in Hollywood, such is his subsequent career in a nutshell.

Donald Dickson

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Erika Mann, daughter of Thomas Mann, and a famous writer and lecturer in her own right, will be heard in a quarter hour's talk on the present education of children in Germany, from Montreal and over the Canadian network on Monday, February 27, at 7 p.m. Miss Mann speaks from direct evidence as a result of a visit incognito to Germany in 1937. She disguised herself as a peasant and stole back to the Thomas Mann house in Munich to rescue the precious manuscript of her father's recently published novel "Joseph And His Brethren".

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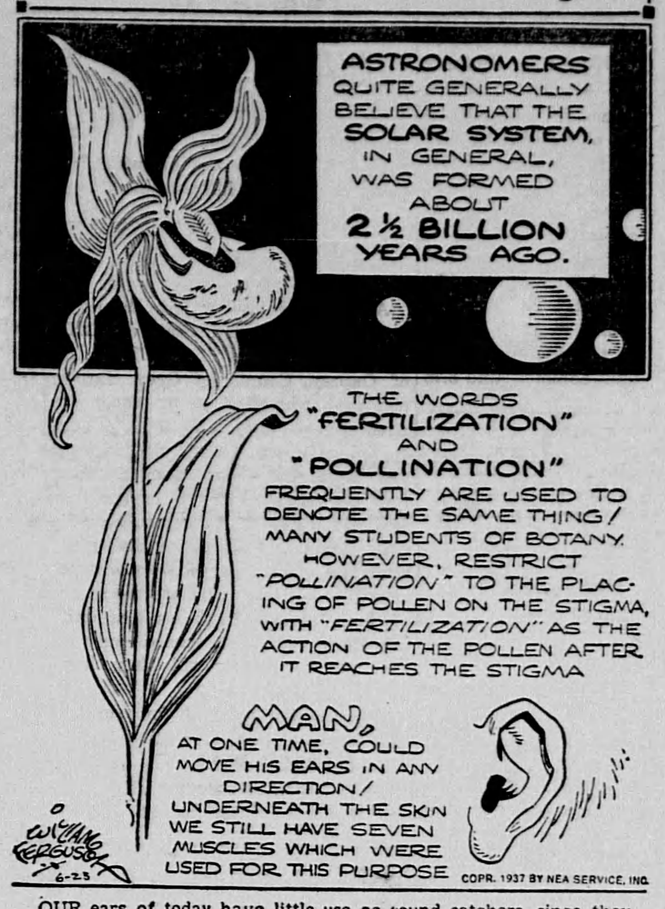
TO BE HEARD—BBC broadcast, Lord Somers speaking to Boy Scouts of Canada, Feb. 23, 5.45 p.m. CBC. A Young French Canadian looks at English Canada, a young English Canadian looks at French Canada, "National Forum" Feb. 26, 10.00 p.m. CBC. Amos and Andy, special half hour broadcast, Feb. 27, 7 p.m. NBC, Robert Taylor, Jeanette MacDonald, "Screen Guild Show" Feb. 26, 7.30 p.m. CBS. Raymond Paige, 99 men and a girl, new series of shows heard for first time Tues., Feb. 22, over CBS. Beethoven Symphony No. 1, Montreal Orchestra, March 2, 8.00 p.m. CBC. Bertha McGregor, only woman patent lawyer, guest "It Can Be Done," March 8, 10.30 p.m. CBS. Paul Leyssac, noted translator of Hans Andersen fairy tales, March 9, 11.15 p.m. CBC.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



OUR ears of today have little use as sound catchers, since they are too flat, but once, when man's life depended on his ability to hear the approach of other animals, he could turn them in different directions, just as a horse does. Today the muscles that made this possible, although still present, are useless.

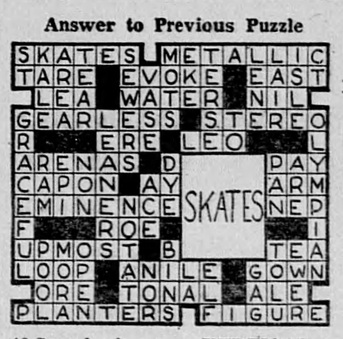
NEXT: Does the air get its warmth directly from the sun?

Great Opera Star

HORIZONTAL

1 Modern opera star singing in America.
13 To soak flax.
14 Pertaining to the lore.
15 Sailor.
16 Back of the neck.
17 To love excessively.
18 Person opposed.
20 Skillets.
22 Chair.
24 Files.
27 Keno.
30 Artifices.
31 Fragile.
32 Ascended.
33 Queried.
34 Still.
35 Before.
36 Right.
37 Note in scale.
39 Followers of fashions.
44 Dentists' instruments.
49 Sound of sorrow.
50 To flit.
52 Instrument.
53 Duration.
54 To place in line.
55 New star.
56 She is one of the greatest of living ——.
57 She specializes in the music of ——.

Answer to Previous Puzzle



VERTICAL

2 God of war.
3 Corded cloth.
4 Level tracts without forests.
5 Enthusiasm.
6 Bows.
7 Away.
8 Gibbons.
9 On the lee.
10 Machine parts.
11 Light brown.
12 Work of skill.
16 She is a native of ——.
19 One of her favorite roles, ——.
21 Maintains.
23 Forage plant.
25 Irish tribal society.
26 Coin slit.
28 To seize.
29 Row of a series.
36 Part of a stair.
38 Lengthwise.
39 Door rugs.
40 Hodgepodge.
41 Moist.
42 Comparison word.
43 Song for one voice.
44 Measure.
45 Company.
46 Black.
47 To wander.
48 To scorch.
51 Force.

REG'LAR FELLERS—Good in Everything

By GENE BYRNES