SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON IX
THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST
Luke 19 : 1 — 20 : 8.
PRINTED TEXT, Luke 19 : 41—20 : 8.

GOLDEN TEXT—Why call me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Luke 6 : 46.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time—The conversion of Zachaeus and the telling of the parable of the ten pounds occurred during the end of March, A.D. 29. The triumphal entry was on Sunday, April 2nd, the cleansing of the temple on Monday, the day following, and the argument concerning Christ's authority on Tuesday — all in Passion Week.

Place—The conversion of Zachaeus and the teaching immediately following took place in Jericho, a city located on the Jordan just above the northern end of the Dead Sea; the remaining incidents of our lesson occurred in Jerusalem.

In this lesson we obtain a profounder conception of the absolute pre-eminence of the Lord Jesus Christ among men: in the conversion of Zacchaeus it is He who seeks and saves the lost; in the parable of the ten pounds, it is He who is represented by the nobleman who distributes possessions and calls for an accounting; in the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, it is He who is King; it is He who cleanses the temple; in the argument that subsequently arises, it is His authority that is questioned.

His Sorrow For the City

Luke 19 : 41. "And when he drew nigh, he saw the city and wept over it. 42. Saying, If thou hadst known in this day, even thou, the things which belong unto peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. 43. For the days shall come upon thee, when thine enemies shall cast up a bank about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, 44. and shall dash thee to the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation." This detailed prophecy of our Lord was literally fulfilled forty years afterwards, in 70 A.D., at the siege of Jerusalem under Titus. Why did our Lord weep? Perhaps because he knew that of this giddy thoughtless multitude, many who now cried Hosanna would, ere a little week was ended be joining in the cry "Crucify Him!" He knew, and this was a sadder thought still, that there was no part of this dreadful doom but might have been averted, if Jerusalem had chosen truly to listen to God's servants.

Cleansing of the Temple

45. "And he entered into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold, 46. saying unto them, It is written, And my house shall be a house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of robbers." Pilgrims came to Jerusalem from all parts of the world to keep the Passover, and at Passover times the city was crowded to excess. The money spent in the city during these feast occasions formed a great part of the livelihood of the native Jews. The mob of citizens were persuaded that Jesus meant to take the bread out of their mouths, and their Hosannas were changed to cries of "Crucify Him!" (For the convenience of visitors, one of the courts of the Temple was set apart for a market, where they could buy what animals they needed for sacrifice.)

Daily Teaching

47. "And he was teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people sought to destroy him: 48. and they could not find what they might do; for the people all hung upon him, listening." From Sunday on, Jesus Christ was teaching in the Temple, till He left it for good. Tuesday toward evening he informs us that the Sanhedrin was seeking to destroy Him; but with all their seeking and scheming, they were not able to find what they might do. The difficulty lay in "the people," the love of the pilgrims for Jesus.

His Authority Questioned

Luke 20: 1. "And it came to pass, on one of the days, as he was teaching the people in the temple, and preaching the gospel, there came upon him the chief priests and the scribes with the elders. 2. And they spake, saying unto him, Tell us: By what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority?"

The real Jewish authorities were the Pharisees and the Sadducees, primarily the Sanhedrin. They had not given Him any order to cleanse the Temple—if not they, then who? Furthermore, His teaching was diametrically opposed to the teaching of the Jewish authorities of His day. They emphasized obedience to legalistic formulas: Jesus was continually pointing to and insisting upon repentance, purity of heart, honesty, believing in Him, praying to the Father in sincerity, living a holy life before men, none of which things the Jewish authorities were speaking about. Where did He get this message? He had not been brought up in the rabbinical schools, He had not heard it delivered in Israel by any great teaching of His day. The Pharisees and Sadducees would never have asked this question if He was not stirring the city to its depths.

The Truth Not In Them

3. "And he answered and said unto them, I also ask you a question; and tell me: 4. The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or from men? 5. And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why did ye not believe him? 6. But if we shall say, From men; all the people will stone us: for they are persuaded that John was a prophet. 7. And they answered, that they knew not whence it was. 8. And Jesus said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things." Jesus did not answer their question directly, for one reason, because they were not sincere in their quest for truth. Men who do not want the truth will never find it.

"A test of democracy is its ability to act and to act successfully in meeting the issues upon which the very life of a democracy depends."
—Henry L. Stimson.

First View of Modern U.S. Infantryman

Just what the U.S. army infantryman will wear into battle is shown for the first time by George M. Welch, 19-year-old Worcester student who is now training at Camp Edwards with the famous Emmett Guards, Co. B, 101st Infantry. All his equipment is new, from trench hat to shoes.

Good Racing Stock Scarce in Canada

T. J. McCabe of Toronto, president of the Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society, said in his report at the annual meeting of the society that Canada is "unfortunately lacking in good brood mares."

"Those interested in racing and breeding know too well how vitally racing is dependent upon good blood-stock. We must consider every means possible to encourage the bloodstock industry."

He said British bloodstock breeders had been asked in the past year to send their prime bloodstock to Canada and United States to prevent possible injury during wartime, and that small shipments had been made to the United States. He said "shipping facilities, climatic conditions and various other reasons" were given by British breeders in declining to send their stock here.

"You can't wake people in a democracy up unless there is something to scare them."
—Joseph P. Kennedy.

New Year Day in Scotland in 1599 and in England 133 years later.

New War Clouds Darken The Far East

A series of sudden moves by governments with interests in the Far East last week created another tense situation in the area shown in the ABOVE Central Press map. While the Dutch East Indies government (1) was ordering its merchant ships to put into neutral harbors, the advisory war council in Australia (3) issued a warning that the war has entered a "new phase, one of the utmost gravity." There were reports that a Japanese battle fleet has been concentrated off Haiphong, French Indo-China (2). Japanese warships previously had arrived off Bangkok, Siam, 800 miles from the British Singapore base, and London said Japan might suddenly enter the war on the side of her Axis partners. In addition, the U.S. consulate general in Shanghai issued an urgent warning to Americans in the Far East to return home.

Farm Notes . . .

Fertilizer Booklet Contains Pointers

Recommendation of Advisory Fertilizer Board of Ont. for 1941 are now available in pamphlet form.

A forty page booklet containing 1941 recommendations for soil management and use of fertilizers, prepared by the Advisory Fertilizer Board for Ontario, is just off the press and may be obtained by farmers from the Agricultural Representatives in their county, or by writing direct to the Statistics and Publications Branch, Ont. Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto. There is no charge.

With farmers everywhere anxious to increase production this year in order that food supplies may be kept flowing in adequate volume to Great Britain, this fact-packed booklet takes on special significance.

The Fertilizer Board is composed of experts headed by G. N. Ruhnke, Professor of Chemistry, O.A.C., Guelph, and has examined experimental data from all reliable sources. The booklet contains recommendations justified by such data and approved farm practice.

Fertilizer recommendations are outlined for cereal crops on heavy and light land, hoed crops, pasture and hay, vegetables, canning, muck soil crops, tree fruits, strawberries, raspberries, grapes and tobacco.

This booklet undoubtedly has a place on every farm book shelf and will make profitable crop-increasing reading for every farmer. Write for it now.

Teacher Shortage Signs Increasing

Survey Shows National Crisis In Canadian Education Likely Next Year

The shortage of teachers, signs of which are evident to educational administrators will be on a national basis, according to information obtained last week in the department of education at McGill University.

Department members have been in touch with educationists who have conducted a survey. This survey indicates that the shortage of instructors will make itself increasingly evident during the present calendar year and may become critical to the maintenance of educational standards in the next school session.

Teachers stated last week that they were leaving the profession for two reasons. One is the call to national service, which is taking an increasing proportion of the male teachers, and the other main reason is low salaries.

A statistical study has been made by the Canadian Teachers' Federation to show that teachers are not only the lowest paid professional group but in many cases are receiving a great deal less than other large classifications of trained and semi-skilled workers. This condition must be remedied, teachers claim, if education is to maintain itself proportionately to other community and national enterprises.

Ancient Chinese Raised Rhubarb

As Long Ago As 2,700 B.C. They Dried the Root and Used It As Medicine—Greeks Brought It From Asia

Has it ever struck you that someone, somewhere, sometime, had to risk his life by sampling the various roots, pods, stalks and leaves which we call vegetables? That was once the only means of determining whether the stuff killed you or not.

Rhubarb was known as long ago as 2,700 B.C., when the Chinese dried the root and used it as a medicine; and a medicine it remained for 4,500 years. From Asia, its use spread westwards to Arabia and Tartary, whence the early Greeks and Romans brought it to Europe. By the beginning of the Christian Era it was a well-known commodity in eastern Europe, and a big trade was done in it.

The early physicians named the herb Rha. Cleopatra's doctor, Dioscorides, called it Rhia. Marcellinus, writing in the fourth century, said it got this name because it was found growing on the banks of the River Rha—now the Volga.

The Romans named the herb Rha-barbarum — in other words, the barbarian plant from the Rha. From Rha-barbarum it was a short cut to the Rheubarbe of the early English herbalists, and so to the modern Rhubarb.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson

ANSWER: Right. Dry sand is heavier, measure for measure, than wet sand . . . up to a certain percentage of moisture. Sand, on being dampened moderately, increases in volume all out of proportion to the amount of water added.

NEXT: What has four fingers and two thumbs?

GOD OF THE SEA

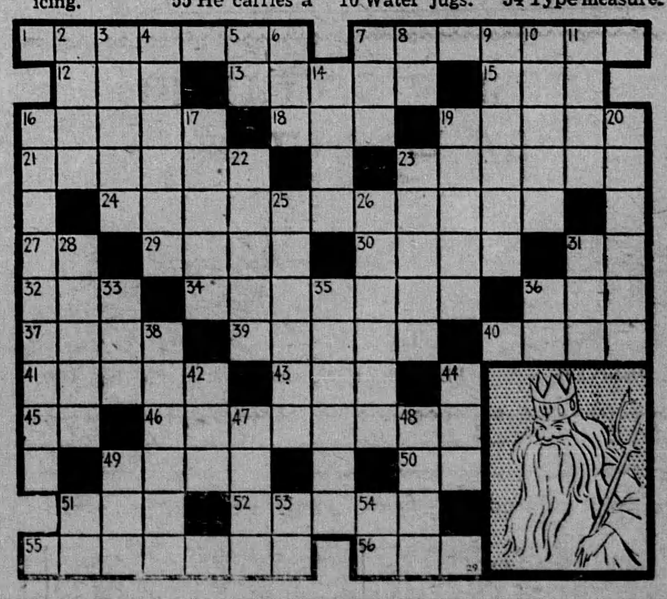
HORIZONTAL

1 Old Roman god of the waters.
7 The most remote known —— is named for him (pl.).
12 Malt drink.
13 Extreme.
15 To be obligated.
16 Injustice
18 Cow's call.
19 Horse.
21 Forward.
23 Vehicle carrying coffins.
24 Offsets in walls.
27 Street.
29 Corrupt.
30 Comfort.
31 Plural pronoun.
32 Headgear.
34 To eradicate hair.
36 Boggy land.
37 Covered with icing.
39 Stocking damages.
40 Sum of money.
41 Withered.
43 Fish.
45 And.
46 Musical entertainments.
49 Genus of frogs.
50 All right.
51 Total.
52 Puzzler.
55 He carries a trident as his ——.
56 Fresh.

VERTICAL

2 To merit.
3 Farming tools.
4 Card combination.
5 Primeval fluid.
6 Tree.
7 In behalf of.
8 Note in scale.
9 Marked with spots.
10 Water jugs.
11 Golf devices.
14 Ponderous volume.
16 He was once —— or revered in Rome.
17 Solemn.
19 Intelligence.
20 To guard.
22 Leaks
23 Warms.
25 Kind of hospital.
26 Poor in quality.
28 Silent.
31 Tumor.
33 Six plus four.
35 Drains.
36 Prefecture in China.
38 To abscond.
42 To put on.
44 To question.
47 Back of neck.
48 Ripped.
49 To feel sorrow.
51 South Carolina.
53 Either.
54 Type measure.

Answer to Previous Puzzle



POP — What a Tuning Up He Could Give a Square Meal

By J. MILLAR WATT