SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

January 2nd

Mark 1 : 1-22.

PRINTED TEXT, Mark 1 : 9-22.

GOLDEN TEXT—Repent ye, and believe in the Gospel. Mark 1 : 15.

MEMORY VERSE—I love thee, O Jehovah. Psalm 18 : 1.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time.—The ministry of John the Baptist occurred, for the most part, in the summer of A.D. 26. The baptism of our Lord occurred in January, A.D. 27, and His temptation, in January and February of that year. The events recorded in this lesson following His temptation, did not occur until a year later, in April, A.D. 28.

Place.—The ministry of John the Baptist, and our Lord's temptation, both occurred in the wilderness of Judaea. The baptism of Christ took place at the Jordan River, the exact spot, however, being unknown to us. The first disciples and the first teaching of our Lord took place in and near Capernaum, on the sea of Galilee.

The Final Preparation

"And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in the Jordan, and straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens rent asunder, and the Spirit as a dove descending upon him: and a voice came out of the heavens, Thou art my beloved Son, in thee I am well pleased. And straightway the Spirit driveth him forth into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days tempted of Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him."

Everyone asks the question, Why was Jesus baptized? It is true Jesus had no sins to be forgiven but He submitted to baptism for a number of reasons. First, no doubt, it gave divine approval to the baptizing ministry of John the Baptist. Secondly, it testified to the reality of the need of mankind in general, of a turning from sin and a washing away of sin. In the third place, He was baptized as a part of His humiliation, as a part of His identification with humankind, and His participation in all the needs, the limitations and acts of men, sin apart.

The dove speaks of peace, and gentleness, and purity, characteristics surely of our Lord during His years of labor among men.

Satan is here revealed, as elsewhere in the Bible, not as an influence but as a person, an individual, of supernatural power, though not omnipotent. He hates God. He tries in every way to lead men into sin, to prevent God from saving men, to spoil the lives of men, and to thwart the purposes of God. If Satan at this hour could have led Christ in any way to sin, then the gospel story would be over before it had hardly begun. No doubt the ministry of the angels took place at the end of the temptation. Probably they brought Him food, after Satan had left, and strengthened Him in other ways when the temptations had been resisted. The temptations were real, Satan was real, the victory was real.

First Preaching of Jesus

"Now after John was delivered up, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe in the gospel." Christ now asked men to turn to God, to believe He had come from God, to repent of their sins, to live godly lives. Wherever God rules in men's hearts there is a part of God's kingdom.

"And passing along by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea; for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them, come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. And straightway they left the nets and followed him." What now happens is that Christ asks them actually to leave their work and to literally go with Him, later devoting their lives to the proclamation of the gospel which He came to establish.

Christ's First Teaching

"And they go to Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at his teaching: for he taught them as having authority, and not as the scribes."

It is not indicated in this passage what our Lord taught. The important thing is the result of his teaching, namely, astonishment on the part of the assembled listeners, who recognized that here was one who taught with an authority which the scribes did not possess. The scribes, the doctors of the law, spent their time in setting before their audience numerous quotations and opinions from the learned rabbis, of their own and preceding days. They did not speak with any authority of their own, but they supported their interpretations by the authority of recognized scholars. Our Lord spoke out of His heart, out of the fullness of His knowledge, with an authority born of omniscience, an authority arising from a complete and perfect experience of life, an authority derived from the fact that He had actually, from all eternity, lived with God the Father.

PIPPINS

Washington State Apple Growers' Association looked at film actress Irene Manning, above, and decided she was just the type to cast in the role of "Pippin Girl." Above, she poses, picking another pippin.

Total Casualties Of R.C.A.F. 10,025

R.C.A.F. casualties since war's outbreak have totalled 10,025, Air Minister Power dsiclosed last week.

Of these 3,654 are known dead.

Another 3,249 are presumed dead.

Prisoners of war count 1,039.

Currently missing are 2,068.

And 15 are interned.

Those listed as presumed dead are not so reported by R.C.A.F. until after they have been missing for six months.

TIGERISH TYPHOON

Its wings gaudy with tiger stripings, this R.A.F. Typhoon fighter-bomber is pictured as it flashed on its way from England to strafe enemy airfields, attack railroad trains and down Nazi aircraft in Europe.

RADIO REPORTER By REX FROST

Sounds of laughter, the rustle of paper, ecstatic sighs of joy, happy exchange of greetings . . . yes, these are the familiar sounds which herald Christmas Day. The very air is laden with happy friendliness. And this year the air will veritably sparkle with specially bright sounds, for while everyone else has been busy buying and wrapping gifts, radio artists, producers, writers and musicians have been bedecking radio's Christmas Tree with an unusually fine selection of original Christmas Day programmes . . . radio's Christmas Tree really sparkles this year. Let's just take a preview peek at it, promising ourselves that on Christmas Day we'll gather around it for a long and happy visit.

* * *

The goodwill fairy on top of the tree is the Empire programme to be broadcast between 9 and 10.15 Christmas morning. With real fairy doll magic, from our place beside the tree, we visit every part of the British Empire, pausing in each sister Dominion to listen to a typical message. Our journey ends, as it began in London, England, the finale to the broadcast being a personal message from His Majesty, the King. All Canadian radio stations will carry it.

* * *

Among the lower branches of the Tree is an intriguing looking package marked "11 a.m. to 12 noon" . . . what is it? None other than that now essential part of every Christmas Day, a dramatised radio adaptation of Charles Dickens' famous "Christmas Carol"—the immortal story of Scrooge . . . to be heard over CFRB.

* * *

On another branch hangs what looks like a gay music box . . . yes, it's a boxful of Christmas carols in musical form. Gay figures painted on the music box indicate the carols are those of Britain, America and Russia . . . and will float over the CFRB airwaves between 2.30 and 3.15 p.m.

* * *

My word, this is a big parcel near the bottom of the tree, it's all aglow with tinsel and bright stars . . . the label on it invites everyone to a bumper Christmas Party of fun, merriment, music and dramatic interludes lasting for a full two hours between 4 and 6 p.m. over CBS and CFRB. Such well known stars as Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Jack Benny, Robert Young, Judy Garland and Lena Horne, the new singing sensation, will be among the many other top ranking personalities of radio, stage and screen, who will be on hand to welcome you and help make this radio party one of the happiest you have ever enjoyed.

* * *

Why, isn't that a hockey stick and puck lying under the tree among the tinsel? Sure it is—symbol of a special sports highlight this Christmas Day. In addition to all other festivities 9.05 p.m., December 25th will signal another coast to coast thrilling hockey broadcast.

* * *

For late Friday night listeners, the new series of dramatic productions, "Mrs. Miniver," is now being heard 11.30 to midnight over the Columbia Broadcasting System, and CFRB. The new weekly drama programme begins where the movie, and the novel of the same name ends. It brings to America the stalwart English couple who became endeared to millions on both continents. Judith Evelyn, well known to Canadian radio audiences interprets the role of Mrs. Miniver.

* * *

Your radio reporter takes this opportunity of wishing you all a most enjoyable Christmas. May the Spirit of the Yuletide Season be yours 365 days in the Coming Year.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

COULD BE WORSE

Winnipeg is complaining about long lines of people for hours, waiting services at the liquor stores and beer warehouses. The thing has become endemic. It is a blessing however, that these long lines of people are not being turned away empty handed from food shops in the country.

—St. Catharines Standard.

TALL TAX TALE

—o—

A biologist ventures the opinion that the people of this continent will be seven feet tall by 2043—a natural result, no doubt, of trying to keep one's head above the flood of taxation.

—Edmonton Journal.

—o—

NO SWAN SONG

We hear Alberta ducks are now singing "Praise the Lord, they're out of ammunition."

—Edmonton Journal.

—o—

BUSY FROM THEN ON

Then there was the tired husband who had just settled back in his easy chair to read a good murder mystery when his wife asked "Just what does inflation mean?"

—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

—o—

COLLAR BUTTON UTOPIA

In this post-war dream home, of glass construction throughout, one slips downstairs to spot the collar button beneath an upstairs dresser.

—Milwaukee Journal.

AID TO DEFENSE

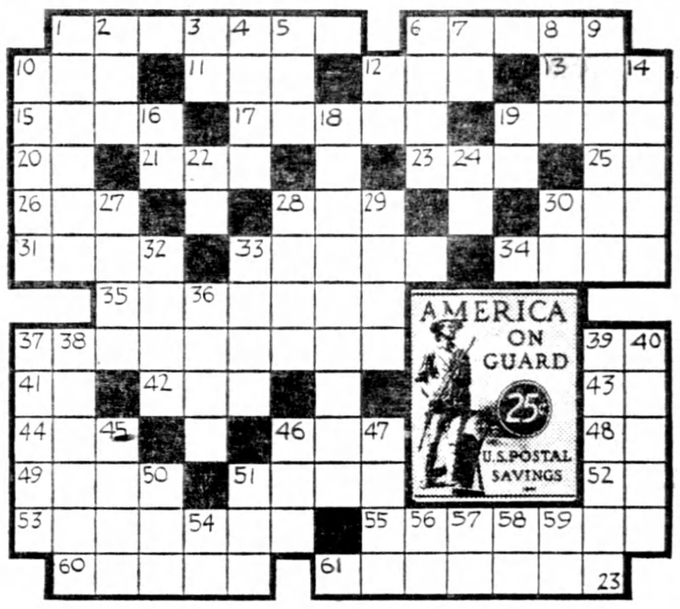
HORIZONTAL

1,6 Pictured U. S. defense aid.
10 Beverage.
11 Perish.
12 Also.
13 Over (poet.).
15 Value.
17 Gem carved in relief.
19 Portend.
20 Whether.
21 Garden tool.
23 Cravat.
25 District attorney (abbr.)
26 Insect.
28 Writing fluid.
30 Aged.
31 Finishes.
33 Bear.
34 Plunder.
35 Type of sailing vessel (pl.).
37 Printed cotton fabric (pl.).
39 Therefore.
41 Him.
42 Half ems.
43 Type measure.
44 Tree.
46 Aeriform fluid
48 Music note.
49 Author of a poem.
51 Ridge of sand.
52 Within.
53 Messages.
55 Russian coins.
60 These stamps can be used to buy U. S. Defense ——.
61 They are sold at U. S. post ——.

VERTICAL

1 To make deaf.
2 Devour.
3 Editor (abbr.)
4 Refined.
5 Body of water
6 Black substance formed by combustion
7 Toward.
8 Low.
9 Sell house to house.
10 Clan.
12 Symbol for tellurium.
14 Prepared.
16 Exclamation.
18 This stamp depicts a —— ——.
19 Exist.
22 Upon.
24 Hypothetical structural unit
27 Brink.
28 Metal.
29 Osculate.
30 Either.
32 Satisfy.
33 Receptacles.
36 Lengthy.
37 Metal tip of a scabbard.
38 Reabsorb.
39 Sequence.
40 Signs.
45 Demigod.
46 Nickname for Augustus.
47 Slave.
50 Brown.
51 Doctor of Dental Surgery (abbr.).
54 North Dakota (abbr.).
56 From.
57 University of Idaho (abbr.).
58 British Columbia (abbr.).
59 French article.

Answer to Previous Puzzle



Threepence A Day For Wearing Beard

Corporal Alexander Campbell, a piper of the Camerons, claims to be the only man in the Eighth Army who wears a beard—and he gets an extra threepence a day for wearing it. Pipers and pioneer sergeants are the only men in Highland Regiments allowed to wear beards.

SERVING THE UNITED NATIONS WITH WAR ALCOHOL

TARGET FOR TO-NIGHT

Films Made With War Alcohol—The last aerial photograph fits snugly into place—and there lies the blueprint of another German target due for a pasting by our fighting airmen. Pictures taken by aerial reconnaissance are vital links in the chain which will lead to the ultimate destruction of the Axis war machine. Another link is the camera film on which these pictures are recorded. In making this special film alcohol is used, just as it is used for many other essential war purposes—for plastics, explosives, anti-freeze and navigational instruments. In the factory, on the field of battle itself, Alcohol is making a direct contribution to Victory. Because it is so urgently needed in such fabulous quantities, our plants are operating at peak capacity.

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