

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 1926

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTIANITY

General Lesson Title—Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

Scripture Lesson—John 13: 1-17

Golden Text—The Son of Man came to give His life a ransom for many.—Matt. 20: 28

Devotional Reading—Matt. 5: 1-12

The Text Explained

The last hours which Jesus spent with His disciples were so crowded with important lessons, it is not strange that the disciples did not understand many things until later events made them clear.

1. Before the feast—Before He ate the passover with His disciples, at which time He instituted the sacrament we call the Lord's Supper.

2. Knowing that the Father had given Him the Church, Jesus read in His mind the words of the Holy Spirit, and when Jesus was fully conscious of His having been thus honored by the Father that He turned the humble task of our lesson.

3. Laying aside His garments—The outer loose robes usually removed for work. Undoubtedly these garments were a close-fitting tunic.

4. Into the basin—Oriental houses have a large copper basin to be used for this purpose, doubtless by the owner of the house.

5. To wash my feet—Peter needs to be reminded that he does not know how to wash feet, but Christ wishes to teach, and is urged to be patient and tolerant.

6. Never—The emphasis is placed upon this word. Peter continues to refuse and is doubtless unconscious of the fact that he is assuming, to a certain extent, a false humility. No part with Me—This implies a loss of the friendship of Christ. The brevity of Christ's words causes a sudden revulsion of feeling and Peter's impulsive answer above itself.

7. Verse 10—In his remark Peter had gone as far as to say he had at first refused, but now he is ready to be washed. This is a symbolic act, and the words of Jesus may mean that the lives of the disciples (Jesus accepted) were clean, but that certain things were still in their hearts, such as over self-confidence, pride and ambition, needed still, like the dust on the feet, to be washed away.

8. He knew him that should betray Him—Verses 18, 21 and 26, and also Chapter 13: 27, show that for some time Jesus had fully realized the purpose of Judas Iscariot to betray Him. He knew this when He chose Judas to be a disciple. It is more than likely that he did not. He could not have been the Son of Man without out pointing the limitations to which men are subject.

9. Sat down. In Greek, "reclined," at the table implies that the meal had not yet been eaten, or, at least, not finished.

10. Ye also ought to wash one another's feet—Peter is sure that the disciples understood this command to be taken literally. They did not understand that they were to have a spirit of humility which prompted the act on the part of Jesus.

Lesson Themes

The Spirit of Christianity. The last hours which Jesus spent with His disciples are so filled with important lessons we cannot wonder that the disciples failed to understand the full meaning until later events made them more clear. Although Luke gives the story of the supper among the disciples regarding who should be the greatest as occurring after the supper, in this lesson, many are inclined to believe that Luke may have disregarded the sequence of events in his narrative and that this beautiful parable of the washing of feet was spoken to the disciples for this unseemly dispute, just as an earlier occasion Jesus "reproved them for their unwise ambition in placing a high chair in their midst and expounding what characteristics of childhood were also exemplified in their conduct. He inquires concretely the spirit if the Christian religion.

Creation of Service. When Jesus taught that the greatest man was he who served all men, it may have seemed to His listeners a strange doctrine. Service was usually performed by slaves, and the men who were supposed to be the greatest were the rulers and commanders. With the passing of the centuries, however, the people are coming to understand better the meaning of the words of Jesus. He is no longer or record of the deeds of kings and generals, but rather a servant of his people. The words of Jesus have worked for the common good. Statesmen, business and professional men are looked upon as having achieved true success when their efforts result, not first of all in the enrichment of the individual, but in the service of the community.

For Study and Discussion

Was this a more forceful lesson to the disciples than if Jesus had taught them by precept only? Mention other occasions on which Jesus enforced His lessons he desired to teach by illustration or by His own example. What suggestions may suggest how the teacher can apply Christ's methods of teaching? What examples can you give of men who have given service to their fellow men? In what ways is service restricted to any profession or calling? Can everyone's occupation, provided it is honorable and useful, be made to serve noble ends?

Daily Readings For Next Week

Monday—John 14: 1-15

Tuesday—John 14: 16-24

Wednesday—John 15: 1-10

Thursday—John 15: 11-17

Friday—John 17: 1-19

Saturday—John 17: 20-26

Sunday—John 17: 27

A CLUE AT LAST

You remember that a handsome watch I lost five or six years ago.

Yes.

You remember how I looked high and low for it and could find it no where? Well, yesterday I put on an old waistcoat I had not worn for years and what do you think I found in the pocket?

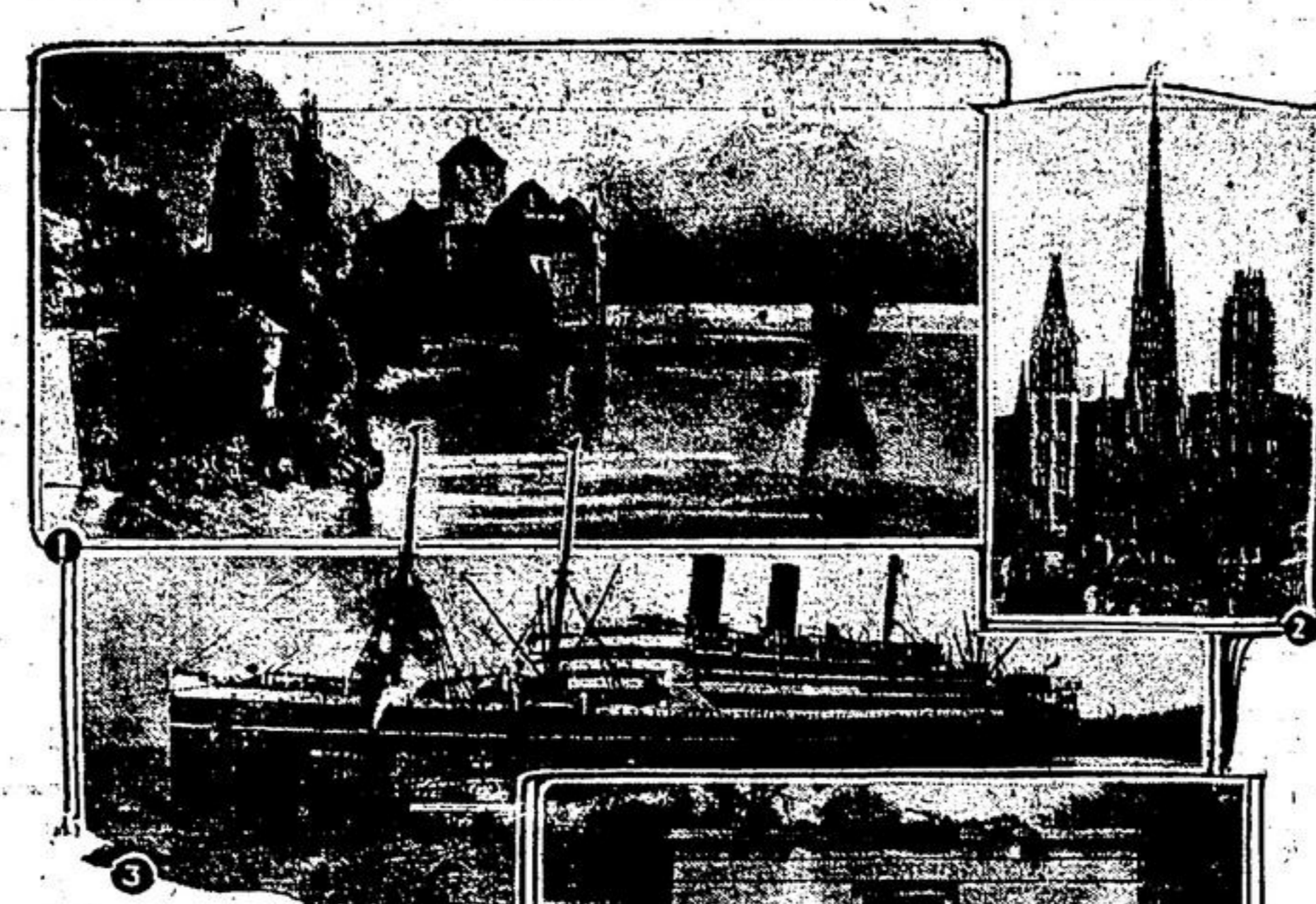
Your watch? Let me congratulate you.

No, I not I found the hole I must have lost it through.

Step the Cough—Coughing is caused by irritation in the respiratory passages and is the effort to dislodge obstructions that come from inflammation of the mucous membrane.

Treatment with Dr. Thomas' Eclectic Oil will allay the inflammation and in consequence the cough will usually stop. Try it and you will be satisfied.

STUDENTS TO VISIT FRANCE AND ENGLAND



(1) Chateau Chillon, near Lausanne, on Lake Geneva.

(2) Cathedral of Rouen.

(3) The Empress of Scotland.

(4) The monument to the dead, "Aux Morts," one of the crosses of the Pere-Lachaise Cemetery in Paris.

Limited to graduates and undergraduates of Canadian universities, a comprehensive tour through France and England will be arranged for this summer, starting in Quebec on May 26, with the departure of the Empress of Scotland, under the auspices of the French Government, the French universities and the Hon. Philip Roy, commissioner-general of Canada in France.

This tour has been organized by the Hon. Mr. Justice E. Faure Sarveyer, president of the Canadian Authors' Association, in collaboration with Professor Rene du Roure, director of the French summer school of McGill University. An entire month will be spent in France, although those who wish to do so may remain over and make an excursion, at their own expense, to England.

Arrangements have been made for the travellers to visit many universities in France, and to see the most interesting sights in the country. By motor car they go to the Chateaux of the Loire and will also journey from Orleans to Paris via Blois, Amboise, Langeais, Azay-le-Rideau, Chenonceaux, all steeped in historical lore and filled with beautiful objects of art and of architecture.

At Pontiers, the tourists are to be tendered a reception by the rector of the university, and from there they

will continue to the attractive commercial port of Bordeaux, where another reception is to be held by the university, and by the city. While in the city, there is also to be seen a remarkable imitation of the Basilica of St. Mark at Venice.

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CAUGHT ON THE RUN

The Judge listened intently to the man's story, says a writer in the Indianapolis News. The man was the plaintiff, and had charged his wife with cruel and abusive treatment. He was a small man, and his wife—well, it was at least evident that the charge rested on a basis of possibility.

After the plaintiff had finished his testimony, the Judge decided to ask a question.

"Mr. Frobbie," said he, "where did you meet your wife, who has treated you this way?"

"Well, Judge," returned the man, somewhat meekly, "you see, it's this way: I never did meet her. She just kind of overtook me."

WHY THEY DO

"Is it true that statisticians show that women live to be older than men?"

"They ought to. 'Taints a great preservative, you know."

STATION STOVE POLISH QUICK BRILLIANT LASTING. The Cape Polishes Ltd. Hamilton Ont.

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Table with columns for Railway, Direction, and Time. Includes Canadian National Railways and Canadian National Electric Railways.

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Look! Money!! TAKE NOTICE that we will handle your troublesome notes and accounts on a strictly commission basis—NO COLLECTION NO CHARGE. We place 34 years' experience at your disposal, and assume all your collection troubles. Send us your list, we will do the rest.

J. Cadesky OF TORONTO EYESIGHT SPECIALIST. WILL BE AT A. T. BROWN'S DRUG STORE, ACTON Monday, April 5th. Anyone suffering from Eye-strain, Defective Vision or Headaches should not miss the opportunity of consulting this eyesight specialist.

Children Cry for Hatcher's CASTORIA. MOCHER—Fletcher's Castoria is especially prepared to relieve Infants in arms and Children all ages of Constipation, Wind Colic, Diarrhea, To Sweeten Stomach, Regulate Bowels.

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