

MY KINGDOM

For this is my kingdom: My peace with my neighbor. The clasp of a hand or the warmth of a smile. The sweetness of toil as the fruit of my labor.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

LIVING WITH PEOPLES OF OTHER RACES

Golden Text.—Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.—Acts 10: 34.

Lesson Text.—John 4: 5-10; Acts 10: 30-35. Study, also, 1 Kings 8: 37-43; Acts 17: 22-28. All one God's, Ps. 24: 1-10.

Time.—A. D. 28, 34. Places.—Sychar, Caesarea.

Exposition.—I. The First Gentle Convert to Christianity, 30, 33.

It is not possible, in the limited space at our disposal, to deal adequately with two such important incidents as Christ and the Samaritan woman and conversion of Cornelius. We shall therefore confine ourselves to the latter, except to remark that the meeting of Jesus with the woman at the well gave Him the opportunity to declare the universality of His Gospel.

The Jews had no dealings with the men of Samaria, yet the Master told this woman of the spreading of His truth.

The central figure in this lesson is a captain in the Roman army. The barracks at Caesarea would seem to be a most unlikely place to find the first Gentile convert to Christianity, but there is where he was found.

Cornelius was a God-fearing man. He was one who did not keep his piety to himself but called upon his whole household to share it with him.

He was a man of prayer and a generous giver. He prayed for light (cf. vs. 31, 32) and followed the light when it was given.

It was because he asked for light that he got it (cf. Jas. 1: 5). The alms he gave to others had much to do with God's giving the saving truth to him (v. 4; cf. Luke 6: 38; Prov. 21: 13; 2 Cor. 9: 6-8).

Cornelius does not seem to have been a proselyte of the Jewish faith (v. 28; cf. ch. 1: 3), and he certainly was not as yet a saved man (ch. 11: 13, 14), but he was on the road that leads to salvation.

He became a saved man by believing on Jesus Christ (v. 43; cf. ch. 15: 7-9). There are those who contend we should never get a man to pray until he is definitely saved, but it was in answer to prayer that Cornelius got the light by which he was saved.

God will always lead into light all those who sincerely desire it (John 7: 17). Cornelius was frightened by the celestial visitor (v. 4), as sinful man always is by the approach of the supernatural (cf. Dan. 10: 11; Luke 1: 12-19; 24: 5).

But Cornelius, while frightened, maintained his equanimity and was ready to obey his superior by a Roman soldier. He was encouraged by being told that God had noted and remembered his prayers and alms.

His prayers and alms did not save him (ch. 11: 13, 14; 10: 43), but they had prepared the way for his salvation. Cornelius' faith was put to a severe test: he was told to send to a certain unknown man who would tell him what he ought to do (cf. ch. 11: 14).

The angel himself might have told Cornelius this, but it is the plan of God to have the way of life made plain to man by man (cf. ch. 9: 6-17; 25). Cornelius proved his faith by his prompt obedience.

Cornelius' piety was of the communicative sort; for the soldier who waited upon him continually was also a religious man. While God prepared one man to hear the Gospel, He also prepares another man to preach it to him.

It certainly cannot be explained away as empty dreams of a fevered imagination that Cornelius at one end of the line saw an angel who bade him send for Peter; and that Peter at the other end of the line should have a vision preparing him for the call just before the messengers arrived, and should hear the voice of the Spirit bidding him go.

One can be an Atheist or a Deist or Agnostic only by deliberately shutting his eyes to the established facts of history. God knows how to time things just right: just when Peter was in a perplexity about the meaning of the vision of unseen beings, the "unclean" Gentiles are asking for him at the gate.

The Spirit was very definite in His words to Peter. He told him just how many men there were at the gate asking for him (v. 19). Peter had a very practical test as to whether it was the Spirit of truth that was speaking to him. When the Spirit sends there is nothing left to do but to go, and that without doubting, even though we do not understand at all (v. 20). Peter's faith was equal to the occasion, he obeyed orders.

Acceptable to God, 34-5. It was while Peter was in prayer that the guidance came to him (v. 9). Cornelius was eagerly waiting for the message that should bring him salvation.

He calculated when his messengers would get back with Peter and was waiting when they arrived. He was not content to learn the way of life by himself alone; he gathered together his kinsmen and near friends to hear with him these supremely important words that had power to save. Cornelius had much to learn; he fell down to worship Peter. But not for one moment will Peter accept that which belongs to God alone. God had taught Peter a great lesson, viz., not to call any man common or unclean. Have we, too, learned that lesson? Deeply suggestive is the statement of Cornelius regarding himself and his friends (v. 33). That is the way to learn, (1) to come into the presence not merely of the man who is speaking as God's messenger; but into the presence of God Himself. (2) To come "to hear." (3) To hear "all things." (4) To hear that which is commanded of the Lord and not merely the man's own thoughts.

SON AND HEIR A young woman, more beautiful than bright, feeling ill, went to visit her doctor.

"What you need, young lady," advised the man of pills, "is a little sun and air." "Why, doctor?" exclaimed the sweet young thing, "how dare you! You know perfectly well I'm not even married."

For Sprains and Bruises.—There is nothing better for sprains and contusions than Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. It will reduce the swelling that follows a sprain, will cool the inflamed flesh and draw the pain. It will take the ache out of a bruise by counteracting the inflammation. A trial will convince any who doubt its power.

POPULARITY OF WASHING MACHINES

Doing the family washing by hand is surely going out of fashion in Canada. The washing machine now does much of what was formerly a somewhat heavy muscular exertion. In the years 1921 to 1931 a total of 638,732 washing machines were manufactured in Canada, valued at \$52,147,836, as a recent report issued by the Canadian Government Bureau of Statistics discloses.

A GREAT WORK

There was a banging at the door of a Red Cross Outpost Hospital in Northern Ontario early one winter morning. So early it was that the sky was still dark except for a few pale streaks in the east, and so cold that the blowing snow felt like sharp needles on the cheeks.

A SMILE

A smile cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.

From NOVEMBER to MAY

Citizens of this community have to burn fuel. As fuel merchants we strive to provide heat units at reasonable cost. By selling for cash we are able to do business with less margin between cost price and delivered price. By selling for cash before we place it in your bin, we are only asking what the Postal system asks when they demand that you place a postage stamp on your letter before they undertake to deliver it, or the railway or bus who demand that you pay transportation charges in advance.

Table with 4 columns: Fuel Type, Per Ton, Per 1/2 Ton, Per 1/4 Ton. Rows include Nut Size, Stove Size, Pea Size, Nut Size Coke, Range Size Coke, and Pocahontas.

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Well Dressed Windows Will NOT Sell Goods

Of what use is an attractively dressed window if no one will look at it and study the values of the merchandise on display?

To-day people must be invited to even look at the windows regardless of the contents and the values offered. People can be interested in merchandise if the proper appeal is provided.

Invitations must be issued in attractive form to create interest. Your goods displayed attractively in your windows will help tremendously, if you are able to attract customers to your store, but to make attractive displays inside and outside your store is worse than useless unless you are able to create sufficient interest to bring the people there.

Then count on your windows, your inside displays to help you sell your well-assorted stock. Business can be made better if proper methods are employed and the public can be made interested in the goods you are offering for sale.

The Best Method

The simplest and least expensive method to issue your invitations is through the columns of the local paper—

The Acton Free Press

TIME TABLES AT ACTON

Table with 2 columns: Direction and Time. Rows include Canadian National Railways, Going East, and Going West.

TRAVEL BY BUS

Table with 2 columns: Direction and Time. Rows include Eastbound and Westbound.

ARROW

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Policies to suit your needs: Family Income, Child's Thrift, Retirement Income, Pension Bonds, Endowment for Protection, Investment, Business and Savings.

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