

The Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 1949

BEHOLD THE MAN!

Golden Text: Christ... when he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten. 1 Pet. 2: 21, 23.

Lesson Text—John 19: 1-16.

Exposition—1. "Suffered under Pontius Pilate." 1-9.

In the crowds of all Christendom is writ the epitaph of Pilate. For fear and self-interest he gave over to death Him Whom in his heart he knew to be innocent of any wrong. The Sanhedrin, who had jurisdiction over ecclesiastical offences, long before had determined that Jesus must die (18: 14), the preliminary trial before Annas (18: 13-24), and Caiaphas (18: 24, 28) were empty farce. But the power of life and death was in the hands of the Roman governor. Hating in their impotence, knowing that Pilate had scant patience with their theological quarrels, they brought forward a trumped-up charge of sedition (Luke 23: 2, 3) and demanded immediate sentence. But the presence of Christ is always a searchlight. Struck by the majesty and nobility of Jesus' men, moved with pity and respect, Pilate was convinced of His blamelessness and made up his mind to release Him.

Again and again he sought some way out which would satisfy the Jews and still leave his conscience clear (vs. 21, 24, of Luke 23: 7-14, 20-22; Matt 27: 24). The scourging of Jesus was one such effort. He seems to have thought that the rage and hatred of the Jews would be appeased by this punishment of Jesus, a punishment so terrible it was reserved for slaves so frightful that it was known as "the intermediate death." Then he brings Jesus forth to them in all His suffering majesty, a sight so pitiable that his own calloused heart is moved with compassion. "Behold the man!" But there is no hate so virulent as religious hate. The priests are implacable, and again in a mounting crescendo of fury rises the cry, "Crucify Him!"

In answer to his taunting refusal (v. 6) at last they come out with their real reason which they had been loath to disclose, namely, Jesus' claim to divinity. Pilate cannot escape the dilemma of a decision. He must make up his mind as to what he thinks of Jesus. Every living soul must make this same decision and upon its ultimate conclusion depends our everlasting destiny.

Christ vs. Caesar 10-16. Filled in their effort to have Jesus sentenced on their real ground of complaint (v. 14), the Jews again reverted to their first charge against Him, that of disloyalty to Caesar. The accusation was so worded that Pilate sensed in it a threat of an appeal to Rome against his decision. The injustices and cruelties of his administration had already made his position precarious so for the sake of his own safety and ease he reluctantly handed Jesus over to His enemies for crucifixion. It is by just such selfish motives that men are actuated in every-day life. Not what is "right", but what is "expedient" is their motivating thought. Pilate wanted to do right, but he lacked the strength of his convictions. His own self interest led him to acquiesce in the greatest crime in all history. For fear of the King of Rome he gave over to His enemies "the King of Truth". They took Jesus and laid Him away they crucified Him.

The nation which had been born under Sinai, acknowledging no kinship but that of Jehovah, wilfully flings its birthright away its chief treasure

—the flower and crown of its heritage. Deeply as they hated Caesar, they hated still more the searching spotlight of the spiritual teaching of Christ on their sin and materialism. "Hath not the most cruel of tyrants than the King of righteousness?" From their choice has come all their sorrow. Because of it, they have, for the time, been set aside by God, their very name has become a reproach in all the earth.

The whole trial of Jesus was illegal. It was held in an atmosphere of malice. The judge (Pilate) was a weak politician who failed to uphold the Roman law. Jesus was beaten needlessly and He was mocked and scorned mercilessly. The yelling mob, stirred up by the priests, drowned out all sense of justice. Jesus submitted to it all. "He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth" (Isa 53: 7). Wicked men piled offenses upon their natural guilt and in their hatred they killed Him. One Who had come to save them. But through it all Jesus was a calm sufferer. He had a work of redemption to accomplish in Divine love and so He endured all things. He was their King. Pilate was right but the Jews cried "Away with him!" (v. 14). What that refusal has meant to the Jews all history since that time reveals. Had they accepted Christ as their King, how different would have been their story.

How Gentile unbelievers should take heed to this lesson in history. For the Jew is not alone in rejecting Christ as King. The Gentiles have likewise denied the rule of Him Whose right it is. And what has it meant to them? Centuries of cruel and bloody wars, untold strife and struggle between classes, unbrotherly relationships between men and moral corruption. Nor will the situation improve as long as men and nations reject the rule of Christ. There is no peace for them who turn away from God (Jer 25: 31, Isa 57: 20, 21, 66: 12-14).

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GEORGETOWN

A number of local merchants met for dinner in the McGibbon House last Wednesday to discuss plans for forming a Retail Merchants Association in town. Deputy Reeve James Goodlett acted as chairman for the meeting and after dinner an informal discussion took place with several of those present airing their views on what could be accomplished by such an organization.

Joe Gillivet of Mimico a former Georgetown boy, was one of the stars in the Toronto Secondary Schools annual track and field meet last week. Joe ran second in the senior 100 yd dash and also second in the senior 220 yd dash. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Gillivet.

A local man John Wilson has been commissioned a Flying Officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force, and is home on furlough before returning to his post with Northwest Air Command. Mr. Wilson re-enlisted after serving with the air force during the war. Herald.

GOOD CEMENT

A good rule to remember in the mixing of cement is - change the proportion of sand and gravel but do not change the proportion of water and cement. Four Imperial gallons of water are recommended per sack of cement used in most types of farm construction. With this amount of water and cement, 24 cubic feet of sand and three cubic feet of gravel are suggested.

The average Canadian woman 15 years of age and over used 7 1/2 pairs of full fashioned hosiery in 1948.



HUGHES CLEAVER, M.P.

To the Electors of Halton.

You have elected me as your Federal member since 1945. I was nominated last week as the Liberal candidate in the coming election and am once again asking for your support.

On this occasion the elections are being held because the present Parliament will soon have expired. There is no special issue involved in this election. The choice which the electors will have to make is as to whether the Liberal or the Conservative party will be the best party to govern Canada during the next few years. The C.C.F. party has openly conceded the fact that it cannot hope to obtain a working majority at this time as the choice lies between the two old parties as to which will form the next government.

The Conservative party has been in opposition now since 1942 and will of course seek to gain office by criticizing the work of the Liberal Government. During the war the Liberals were sharply criticized for their war administration but this is all past now and most folk, even the Conservatives, freely admit that there is not much to complain about our war administration. There is certainly nothing but pride to extol about Canada's war effort and the wonderful strides which we made toward full nationhood during the war years.

The Conservative criticism now are that we have kept some of the controls on too long and that we have taxed the people too heavily. The Toronto Globe and Mail have unsuccessfully tried to blame the Government for the use of Rolls Royce-Merlin Engines in our North Star planes. It now turns out that the criticisms all come from a disgruntled employee of T.C.A. who was fired. The merits of these engines was clearly demonstrated during the war. Whether or not they are the best available ones now is an engineering problem which I think could best be left to our T.C.A. engineers. The fact that these engines remain in our North Star Canada Air Lines has the best operating record so far as safety is concerned, of any airplane in the world. The Globe and Mail will doubtless continue to try to worry you about the engine issue but I doubt if many of us feel competent to personally reach a conclusion about it. Certainly no blame can attach to your government in regard to it.

I would like to discuss the two main complaints made by the Opposition with respect to the Liberal Government. First, in regard to the remaining controls. If elected to office the Conservative party is pledged to remove all of the remaining controls immediately, with the possible exception of rental control. We Liberals do not like controls because they are unproductive. We don't like to be pushed around but we are pledged to retain the Foreign Exchange Control and most other controls as may be necessary to maintain our national economy and our standard of living, which by the way is the highest of any country in the world excepting the U.S. The question you will have to decide is as to whether you want to run the risk of removing the controls. The speculators in U.S. securities would of course profit by their removal but would we benefit or hurt our nation? The answer to this question I am quite content to leave without further comment on my part. Today this country is more prosperous than it has ever been before and we are enjoying this prosperity in a world which is still very unpeaceful. We all know what would have happened to our own national economy had we not protected our position by controls.

Now as to the second main criticism that we are taxed too heavily. In regard to this question you will find a sharp difference between Conservative and Liberal policy. During the first Great War the Conservative party was in power and during that war all of the cost of the war was added to the public debt for future generations to pay. Did this help Canada in the post-war period after that war? I leave the answer to you. During the last Great War you had a Liberal Government in office and it collected from you during the war something over half the total cost of the war. Since then we have continued a high level of taxation. You have already repaid something over 1500 millions of dollars of the war debt. During the immediate post-war period we would have had serious inflation problems if any more spending power had been available to compete for goods in short supply. We are now moving out of shortages of goods and in some instances competitive selling is evident so our Budget this year gave you substantial tax cuts. The Liberal policy is to continue to give tax cuts and to quickly as our financial position will permit this to be done. We are still however budgeting to continue to reduce the national debt. If you want this policy to be continued or do you want a Tory spendthrift policy which will give us temporary relief but very quickly get us into trouble?

Most people do not worry about past mistakes. They have been done and there is nothing to be gained by worrying about them but most people do not repeat their mistakes. Do you want a repetition of what happened from 1930 to 1935 when the Conservative party was in office?

There is another point which I think will have considerable bearing on the decision which we are to make on Election Day and that is the question of a stalemate. With three parties seeking election, even though the C.C.F. party leaders concede that they cannot hope to

win, there is the danger that no one party might have an over-all majority. This feature I would like to discuss fully in my letter to you next week.

Yours sincerely, Hughes Cleaver

Lesser Plant Food Not Often Needed

What is the value to the farmer of the lesser plant food content of a particular mixed fertilizer in addition to the nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash? It would be wise to consult the county agricultural representative, or the soil authorities of an agricultural college and university, before paying a larger price for fertilizer claimed to contain lesser plant foods. It may be found that the extra cost is unnecessary.

Most of the mixed fertilizers sold in Canada contain in addition to nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, some magnesium, calcium and sulphur and traces of the other elements. They contain calcium and sulphur because the superphosphate used in mixed fertilizers is a mixture of calcium sulphate and calcium phosphate which in addition to supplying phosphoric acid supplies both calcium and some sulphur. Most mixed fertilizers contain also some dolomite limestone as filler and this supplies both calcium and magnesium. Farmers have been getting mixed fertilizers containing these lesser plant foods for a long time without even being told about it.

Special kinds of lesser plant foods such as boron and manganese are needed only under very special conditions and may damage crops seriously if not used as prescribed by recognized authorities on their use.

R. Robt. Hamilton OPTOMETRIST OF GUELPHI will be at Dr. G. A. Sirrs' Office TUESDAY, JUNE 14th 7:30-8:30 P.M. COMPLETE EYE EXAM SERVICE

To Young Men who are Planning their Future. You may be wondering what career or profession to take up... what will be best for you in the long run. Like all young men, you want certain fundamental things in the work you do—the kind of work you can put your heart into because you like it; an assured, good income; encouragement for promotion; time and opportunity for recreation and a pension to look forward to when your working days are over. Thousands of young men of high calibre are today enjoying these advantages in the R.C.A.F. And they are not only leading a satisfying life, but are rendering a real service to Canada. For you, as for them, the R.C.A.F. can set the pattern now for a future of personal achievement. In planning your future you would do well to examine first the advantages which the R.C.A.F. has to offer young Canadians. A talk with a member of the recruiting staff may help you make this decision which is so important to you—and of course, you do so without obligation. ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE AF-30-WA

KITCHENER UPHOLSTERY. It doesn't matter how badly your Chesterfield or Chair are worn. We can make them look like new. 3 Piece Re-Upholstered for as low as \$89.00. 1 week's service. FREE PICK-UP AND DELIVERY. PHONE 103 - ACTON

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PLYMOUTH GIVES YOU MORE! MORE FOR YOUR MONEY... AND MORE THAT'S NEW! Plymouth gives you value where it counts! Here's the new Plymouth... a car that likes to be compared for value! In the new Plymouth, Engineering magic greets you right from the start. You don't grope for a starter button. You don't pull on a choke. You simply turn the ignition key and the engine starts! In the more powerful 97-horsepower engine, there are many Chrysler-Engineered features, such as: Frang pistons for better compression, fuel and oil economy; a floating oil intake and oil filter for longer, more efficient engine life. Your dealer will show you many more. Plymouth doors are wide at the bottom to allow easy entrance. Interiors are roomy and restful, with plenty of headroom. Seats are chair-height, wider and deeper from front to back. Windshield and rear windows are 1/2 larger for better, safer vision. Get the most for your automobile dollar. Compare Plymouth on all counts! When you do, you'll agree that feature — dollar for dollar — the great new Plymouth is Canada's best price-buy! *Plymouth Two and Four Door Sedan Models are extra equipment. YOU MAY SEE THE 800-VALUE PLYMOUTH, THE ELEGANT NEW CHRYSLER AND THE MONEY-SAVING FARGO TRUCKS AT— Acton MacSwain Motors Phone 85