

Sunday School LESSON

Jesus' Human Affliction

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1st, 1941

GOLDEN TEXT: "We have met an high price which cannot be bought with the feeling of our infirmities." Hebrews 4: 15.

LESSON PASSAGE: Luke 13: 1-5, 13-17.

Look to this day—
For it is life,
That every life of life!
—From the Serenities.

Tragedy, I have been wishing the other happiness for the New Year. In this lesson, a study of human affliction. The subject may not be inappropriate, because any realistic view of 1941 will foresee a large amount of human suffering. We are living in a world of blood, tears, and death. Much of this suffering has been prevented by artificial means, and in many instances, the suffering is avoidable. There will always be some inevitable misery through want, bereavement and natural disasters such as earthquakes, cyclones and drought. The largest amount of suffering in the world is that which is caused by human hands. One of the things that any world government must first undertake is to provide the right of individuals and nations to the pursuit of happiness. Whole nations are now in distress and the mortal life of the world has been dis-

arranged. It is no longer possible to have a Pollyanna view of life.

Jesus frequently spoke of affliction in his own person. That is, he was a human being, who was subject to the same afflictions as we are. He had to combat the same temptations as we have. He accepted that the innocent do suffer. Sometimes the guilty appear to escape while the innocent falls upon someone who is innocent. Many lives are paid by those who do not commit the offense. Jesus referred to several local diseases that had happened in Galilee and in Jerusalem, and said that morally the survivors were as guilty as those who had lost their lives. Certainly war brings sorrows to non-participants. Patients in hospitals, pupils in schools, workmen in factories, even little children on a refuge ship, meet death through total warfare. We need to learn to discriminate between the suffering that is resulting what we sow by our individual actions and the suffering that is imposed by the collective guilt of society. And we cannot too soon learn to forego the pleasure of saying about anyone that "it serves him right." That attitude is never helpful.

Scriptures, 13: 1-5

Fortunately we do not know all the suffering that is caused by sickness. It taxes our sympathy to the utmost to bear the anguish of the pain we see right around us. There are little children suffering from contagious diseases; there are mothers for whom life is a living death through chronic ailments; there are young people who understand the progressive nature of the disease that is slowly crippling them and will lead to death. What answer have we for those who ask "the reason of the cause and the wherefore of the why?" No ultimate answer can be given. The working of the laws of cause and effect are

only partially understood. Yet from sickness we are learning much about health. The brave and patient endurance of sickness has many by-products in human character and social welfare. That of us admit gratefully the quality of suffering that has made us "stronger, more determined, more determined and pain. In our heart of hearts, nevertheless, we think that if we had been creating the world, we should have made things far, far different. What can we do about it?

Reading, 13: 13

Jesus did something about sickness. He healed it. In the synagogue on the sabbath, there was a woman who had been crippled for eighteen years. "And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God." This was not an isolated case. Christ healed many people, and he has inspired many physicians. In many countries there are scientists working long hours every day, searching for a cure for cancer. Many wonderful remedies and devices have been discovered, through patient research in laboratories. Every victory over disease is another triumph for the healing art. Christ gives us a positive attitude towards suffering. He leads us to ask what we can do to relieve physical pain and human heartaches. Often we may be able to remove the cause and prescribe the remedy. At least we can show our sympathy by word and deed for those who are in pain.

Scriptures, 14-17

We think that we could endure sufferings from calamities which are what the insurance companies call acts of God. We would doubtless, through patriotism, be brave enough to endure night-bombing without whining. But it "gets us down" when our good is evil-spoken of, when we have done our utmost for some worthy project and run into prejudice or jealousy or small-mindedness. Then we become discouraged. Jesus did not escape suffering. He was a man of sorrows and he was expected to meet criticism. Even when he healed the poor woman in the synagogue, the ruler of the synagogue became indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath day. The ruler valued a law more than a life, an institution more than a person. Jesus quoted the law to him, showing that it was permitted to care for an animal. Why then, not for human suffering? In the end, the approval of the people was with Jesus. His example teaches us not to allow criticism to swerve us from our purpose of service.



D. C. McArthur is the Chief Editor of the newly-organized CBC National News Service which will go on the air on Wednesday, January 1, 1941. Prior to this appointment he was Ontario, Regional Representative of the CBC's Press and Information Service. He is a veteran in newspaper and public life work and was formerly associated with the Toronto Globe and the Maclean Publishing Company.

IN OUR MAIL BAG

Somewhere in England
November 26, 1940.

The Georgetown Herald,
Dear Sirs:
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sending me your paper which I have been receiving regularly for the past six weeks. Although I am an Actor boy I spend a lot of time in Georgetown so I really appreciate the news.

I have met some of the Georgetown chaps over here and they are in the best of health. These fellows were Shesny Tom, George Riddall, Jim

Yours Sincerely,
"BOB" NIQUO.
Bdr. J. Nicol, A28139, 2940 Bty. R.C.A.,
11th Field Regt., c/o Base P.O. Can.

OHIVEI, Eddie Shortall and Captain Barry.

Being in England nearly a year now we are quite accustomed to the damp English weather, the people and the money. We have been in several bombings and have seen several thrilling air-battles, some of them with over a hundred planes taking part. We lived in tents for nearly seven months but are now in shacks which are more comfortable. In closing thanks again and all the best. I remain,

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TIME TABLE
Standard Time

Going East

Passenger	6:15 a.m.
Passenger and Mail	10:05 a.m.
Passenger and Mail	6:45 p.m.
Passenger Sundays only	8:31 p.m.
Passenger, daily	9:41 p.m.

Toronto and beyond

Going West

Passenger and Mail	8:34 a.m.	
Passenger Saturday only	1:15 p.m.	
Passenger, daily except	Saturday and Sunday	6:05 p.m.
Passenger and Mail	6:45 p.m.	
Passenger Sunday only	11:50 p.m.	

Going North

Passenger and Mail	8:45 a.m.
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Going South

Passenger and Mail	6:00 p.m.
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Headbound to Toronto	
1 6:14 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
2 9:18 a.m.	6:45 p.m.
3 11:45 p.m.	9:15 p.m.
4 2:25 p.m.	
Headbound to London	
5 2:35 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
6 12:05 p.m.	6:50 p.m.
7 2:05 p.m.	6:10 p.m.
8 4:05 p.m.	6:15 p.m.

9—Except Sun. and Hol.
10—Sun. and Hol. only.
11—Saturdays only.
12—Except Sun., Sun. and Hol.
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15—To Kitchener
16—To Stratford

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Cartoon "Officer Duck." Fox News

Saturday, January 4 — "Ghost Breakers."
funny enough to make even a ghost laugh. Bob Hope, Fawcette Goddard

Musical "Conga Mania."
Sport "Desert Adventure."
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