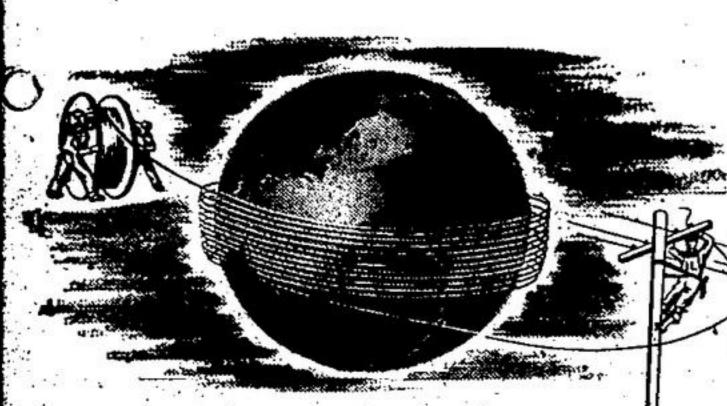
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to sell by public auction at Elicridge Parm, West Half of Lot 26, Concession 8, Esquesing Township, on No. 7 Highway, between Georgetown and Acton on

> TUESDAY, APRIL 8th, 1947 commencing at 1.00 p.m.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE BISEN LORD AND HIS DISCIPLES

By Rev. R. C. Todd LESSON: John 20: 19-23, 26-29; 21

The Gospel of St. John, which has occupied our attention for the last three months, takes pains to show that there could never have been any Ohristianity without the resurrection In this, John's witness is in keeping with the whole witness of the Scrip-The disciples did not believe in Jesus sufficiently to carry on the work He had begun. Jesus went to His death in utter loneliness, for his death scattered the disciples. Jesus own words, spoken when the disciples professed to believe that He came from God, show that He had no illuslope about the faith of the disciples in the hour of crisis. "Do ve now believe? Behold the hour cometh, yes is now come, that ye shall be scattered every, man to his own, and shall leave me alone". (John 16: 31, 32) Such belief as the disciples had seems to have dissolved at Jesus' death.

But after the resurrention, belietriumphs over unbelled .Tohn selects Thomas, a man of sceptions and pessimistic character, to demonstrate this triumph of belief which ascribes not only Lordship but Godhood to Christ (20: 28). Thomas demanded a materialistic proof of the resurrection, and Jesus offered it to him. It is to be noted that Thomas did not take advantage of the offer; but, confronted face to face with the risen Lord, fell to his knees and confessed: 'My Lord, and my God". The faith, even of this most sceptical disciple was not established by any materialistic proof of the resurrection, but by the inward miracle of God's grace which alone produces true belief. The faith of the Church is not founded upon materialic proofs but by the lar more certain inward knowledge gained by seeing the glory of God in Jesus Ohrist. The Ohurch believes in Ohrist simply because He is what He is.

As popularly understood, the resurrection theme has to do with the life to come which we expect when life is past. The lesson text in John says something which overshadows that theme. What it has to say deals with the creation of a living Church in the here and now. The disciples were called, not so much to hope that they would live after death, as to awake on earth, as Christ's witnesses; living because they believed in Him. And so we find John declaring unmistakeably how the risen Christ commissioned His believing disciples to go forth into the world, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit which He breathed into them.

It is to be noted that the Resurrection involved the disciples in the task of witnessing to Ohrist. He who confesses Ohrist as Lord and God. inevitably involved in that task. Note as well that the effectiveness of the disciples' witness was not to rest upon gift of God (The Spirit), and their spiritual communion with

ster to men's physical needs, but to however, there is no Christian faith revive them spiritually. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. Now this mission falls upon the disciples. The same mission is committed to the Church today. And when died. that task is not fulfilled, human life sinks to the level of animal existence. Without the life of the Spirit of God breathed into the world, the breath of physical life is merely that of the animal. The Christian life (the life of the Spirit of God) is a higher level of human existence in the evolution of the species Man. But this redemptive mission cannot be carried out, except the Church herself be spiritually alive. It is the Church's association with God in Christ that gives her spiritual power in the world. If the Church bears a faithful witness, and men do not heed it, then those who ignore it condemn themselves to remain in the sin that kills combelief Those who do heed the witness find the life that is eternal Gohn 20: 3 "Whose sever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained."; (See also John 11: 26).

Is the Church spiritually alive, or is she "sick unto death?" No truer test of Christ being with His Church is possible that the test demanded by the disciples of John the Baptist of Jesus in Matthew 11: 2 - 6, where they ask if He is the Christ or should they look for another. "Go and tell John what you see," said Jesus, "the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up. and the poor have the gospel preached unto them. And blessed is 'he, whosoever shall not be offended in me". The test is, "If Christ is with His Church and she is spiritually alive, these things are happening." They are happening wherever men confess Him Lord and God.

In the charge to Peter to "feed my lambs", Christ delivers a postoral responsibility to His Oburch. Her witness to Ohrist must coincide with a concern about the needs of men. Love toward Christ is manifested in love towards His flook, even towards the one-bundredth who bee wandered



GARDEN EXPERT

Bob Keith, of Richmond Hill, who has been discussing gardens, and telling listeners how to keep them growing, in his "Ontario Gardener" broadcasts since early in 1944. A digest of his talks, given over mid-east stations of the CBC Tran-Canada network each Sunday, at 10.20 a.m. EST, following 'Neighborly News,' is contained in "The Ontario Gardener's Handbook," shortly to be published by the OBC.

SUCCESSFUL PUPILS OF MISS LYNDA STEWART AT MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

The following pupils of Miss Lynda Stewart, ATOM., LEGSM., were succentul in the recent theory emminetions at the Toronto Conservatory of

Grade II Theory - First Class Honours, Doris Wilson (94). Grade III, Harmony, honors Ken-

neth Harrison. Grade III, History - Pirst Chass Honors, Margaret Rossel, Jean Ruddell; Honors. Ingeborg Hauptmann, Alfred Tost; Pass, Shirley McNelly.

MRS. DONNA RYAN PURCHASES LOCAL BEAUTY PARLOUR

Lillico's Beauty Salon, established here twenty-two years ago by Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Lillico has been sold and live in the activity of the Church to Mrs. Donna Ryan of Toronto. Since Mr. Lillico's death last summer, the business has been conducted by his wife and Mrs. Lillico will be staying for awhile to work with the

> Mrs. Ryan has had twelve years' experience as a hairdresser and operated her own business in Toronto for six years. For the past few years she has been employed with the Yonge Street firm of Kennedy-Oilroy Ltd. She intends making her home here

away and suffered, as well as towards their human talents, but upon the the ninety-and-nine. It is easy for religious people to retire with-God in their own picty, enjoying as they think their "faith"(?), and con-John's Gospel brings out the fact demning or ignoring the sine and Christ came not merely to mini- wants of others. When that happens, or piety, for faith and piety fail when such a course is pursued. There is no authentic love for Christ which does not express itelf in anxiety for the welfare of all men or whom Christ

> The lessons for the next Quarter are entitled: The Rise and Fall of Nation," having to do with the history of the rise and fall of the He-



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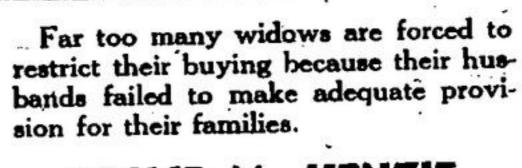
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