



Sunday School Lesson

LESSON III

BEGINNING A LIFE OF SERVICE
Mark 1: 14-28

Golden Text — "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe in the gospel." Mark 1: 15.

The Lesson in Its Setting
Time — April and May, A.D. 28.
Place — Capernaum at the northern end of the Sea of Galilee.

Between the thirteenth verse of our chapter, which closed last week's lesson, in which Mark briefly records the temptation of Jesus, and the fourteenth verse of this chapter, with which our present lesson opens, approximately fifteen months intervened from the last of January, A.D. 27, to April, A.D. 28. Of all this period Mark says absolutely nothing. The record of it is almost entirely found in the Gospel of John.

"Now after John was delivered up, Jesus came." The imprisonment of John the Baptist will be found recorded in Matt. 14: 3-5; Mark 6: 17, 18; Luke 3: 19.

Jesus came into Galilee at this time not from any fear of Herod, but because of the increasing hardness of the hearts of the Jews, and because he knew that the seed of the word he was speaking would find a more fertile soil in the less prejudiced area of Galilee than among the proud, self-satisfied Jews living in and near the city of Jerusalem. "Preaching the gospel of God." Here, in the speaking of the gospel as "of God," Mark means that the good news originates from God, is a gift of God. And there is a difference between preaching and teaching. Preaching is the simple proclamation or heralding of a message, while teaching is devoted, for the most part, to the explanation and vindication of truth, though frequently the two are blended. Jesus never changed the fundamental theme of his message. He had the greatest message in the world, and anything less than that would have been inadequate.

"And saying, the time is fulfilled." The thought here is of the opportunity of the moment. The season fixed in the foreknowledge of God (Acts 1: 7), and for which the whole moral guidance of the world had prepared, was fully come. "And the kingdom of God is at hand." The phrase "the kingdom of God" is one of the most significant in all of the New Testament. The kingdom of God is God's sovereignty or rule, and that means the fulfillment of his will. Jesus came to establish a kingdom. He was the preacher of righteousness, and that is why he laid down a rule of life lofty and exacting. As soon as his preaching begins, the kingdom of God begins — that is to say, the assertion of God's sovereignty against the kingdoms of the world and the kingdom of evil. Into this kingdom only those may come who have acknowledged God's sway in their hearts. All such may be said to have life. But the life here is only the beginning of a life which is to last for eternity. There will be a time when God's sovereignty will be universally established. A kingdom demands a king. The New Testament knows no king but the Lord Jesus Christ. "Repent ye," "And believe in the gospel." John the Baptist spoke only of repentance. He could not say "Believe in the gospel," because the person who makes the gospel possible, the Lord Jesus Christ, had not yet begun his work. Jesus insisted as did John upon the need for repentance, which is more or less a negative act, a turning around from that which is sinful, a definite putting out of life all that is wrong; but he also made clear that repentance was not enough; there is a positive requirement, and that is that men should believe.

To believe, as the word is used in the New Testament, is not to believe in ourselves, or to believe in the future, or to believe in some men, or to believe in moral principles, but it is to believe in the gospel; and the gospel in the New Testament is nothing else than that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, loved us and gave himself for us, that he died for our sins, and rose again for our justification.

"And passing along by the sea of Galilee." This is the same body of water as that called elsewhere "the Sea of Chinneroth," from its harplike shape, the Lake of Gennesaret, and also the Sea of Tiberias, from the name of the principal city on its own shores. "The Lake of Galilee lies in a great amphitheatre-like basin, partly surrounded by hills. It is so beautiful and ethereal, set like a jewel amidst its hills, that it looks more like a work of art than a natural lake. The Talmud calls it the 'entrance to Paradise' and 'the Sea of God.' At no time in all its history was the lake so populous and prosperous as in Jesus' day. It was a hive of industry and a focus of dynamic humanity. The principal industry was fishing. He saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea; for, they were fishers." Nets were generally used, hook and line being only in occasional use. Simon is, of course, none other than Simon Peter, one of the three greatest of the twelve apostles, and frequently mentioned in all the Gospels. Andrew is referred to four times by Mark.

Fishers of Men

"And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. And straightway they left the nets, and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after him." Jesus never calls to any great work a man who is living in indolence and idleness. If a man is not energetically engaged in secular pursuits, it is almost inconceivable that he will show any energy and enthusiasm in spiritual work. Jesus here calls men to be his followers who were honorably occupied in a business that demanded courage, strength and skill and patience. He told these four future apostles that they were to be fishers of men, because their business then was that of fishing. The Lord uses whatever talents we naturally possess.

"And they go into Capernaum." Capernaum, like Nazareth, owes its fame solely to the Saviour who did so many mighty works there. "And straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue and taught."

The synagogue was the formal assembly in Jewish towns, or in the Jewish quarters of the Gentile cities, for instruction in the law. The service consisted of prayer, reading of Scripture, and exposition by any rabbi or other person present and competent to teach. Jesus, as a well-known citizen and a trusted teacher, would be allowed the privilege of speaking at any synagogue he might be attending.

Teaching In The Synagogue

"And they were astonished." A strong descriptive word for amazement, which means strictly "to strike a person out of senses" by some feeling such as fear, wonder, or even joy. "At his teaching; for he taught them as having authority, and not as the scribes." When Jesus came, he quoted no previous rabbinical interpreters of the Scriptures. He spoke with authority concerning God because he came from God and was the Son of God; he spoke with authority concerning heaven, the resurrection, and the life to come because he had come down from heaven, and was himself the resurrection and the life. He spoke with authority concerning what was right and wrong, for in him the word of God was incarnate, and he was himself the very embodiment of God's perfect will for men. He knew the Father; he knew life in heaven; he knew the future; he knew the human heart; he knew the meaning of holiness, and its contrary, the meaning of sin; and when he spoke, he spoke on his own authority, and the people knew it, and admitted that here was a teacher come from God, different from any other teacher they had ever heard, who was breaking the shackles of antiquated, traditional, moldy interpretations, and bringing new life, beauty, and reality to the law of God and the truth of God.

"And straightway there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit." "And he cried out." "Saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus thou Nazarene? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God." The demoniac regarded Christ as an enemy; and so to-day, when Christ comes to save men from their sins, they commonly regard his intervention as an attack on their interests, pleasures, liberty, progress. "Art thou come to destroy us?" So blinded are the minds of them that believe not, that they regard an attack on the devil's kingdom as an invasion of their own rights, a confiscation of their own riches.

Casting Out Evil

"And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace." This vigorous word might properly be translated "Be Muzzled," like an ox. "And come out of him. And the unclean spirit, tearing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him." Evil may cry out with a loud voice, it may rage and it may threaten and tear, but it must go when we cast ourselves at the Redeemer's feet. Let us not be afraid of evil when it cries with a loud voice, for, crying with a loud voice, it still comes out. The devil has often won with his loud voice; it is one of his favourite devices to create a panic; his threatenings are simply terrific, but impotence is under all the show, and, bravely confronted in the name of Christ, the vaporizer comes out. The whisper of Christ prevails against all the wrath and rage and roar of hell.

"And they were all amazed, inasmuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What is this? a new teaching! with authority he commandeth even the unclean spirits, and they obey him. And the report of him went out straightway everywhere into all the region of Galilee round about." If the sermon revealed him as the authoritative Teacher, the miracle revealed him as the almighty Deliverer. This double aspect of Christ's authority exactly meets our human need. Our two great desires are these; exaltation in the realm of truth and deliverance from the thralldom of evil.

PNEUMONIA DEATH RATE VARIES WITH OCCUPATION

Unskilled Workers Four Times as Vulnerable as Professional Classes

Scientists learned last week that pneumonia, third most deadly disease, is fatal among salesmen and clerks, laborers and factory workers four times more often than among professional workers—and that half of its victims might be saved through serum treatment.

Drs. Russell L. Cecil, Louis I. Dublin and Donald B. Armstrong of New York, told the American Association for the Advancement of Science that the disease has a lower mortality rate among the professional occupational class than any other.

They conducted a study for eight years in 10 selected states. Of their cases histories, 13.6 per cent. of unskilled workers died of the disease compared to only 3.9 per cent. of professional workers.

Agricultural workers were next lowest with a 4.3 per cent. rating.

Males More Vulnerable
The disease has a higher death rating among males than females and the excess is more marked in industrial than in agricultural states, they said.

"Of the number who now die from lobar pneumonia," they reported, "half might be saved through the serum treatment."

They pointed out the advantages of determining where the disease strikes most often, thus giving time for more complete treatment and administration of serum as soon as the ailment is diagnosed.

Pneumonia, they said, causes more deaths than any other disease except the heart ailments and cancer.

Intoxication Chill Conducive to Pneumonia

A new reason why either alcoholic intoxication or chilling cold can bring on attacks of pneumonia was reported to the Society of American Bacteriologists by University of Michigan scientists.

Drunken stupor itself does not directly aid the pneumonia germ, their experiments showed. Neither does chilling. But either condition works on the epiglottis, the covering on the base of the tongue over the windpipe, and on the vocal cords.

Safeguard Inoperative
These two organs relax and let in pneumonia germs which they ordinarily keep from entering the lungs. India ink, placed in the noses of

rats, supplied the first clue to the pneumonia germ trail. Much more of the ink was drawn into the lungs of intoxicated or chilled rats by way of the windpipe than in normal rats.

Pneumonia germs were substituted for the ink in the rats' noses. Drunken rats caught more cases of pneumonia than sober ones. This was apparently because the inebriates breathed differently so as to suck more of the germs into their lungs. The same thing happened with rats chilled by cold.

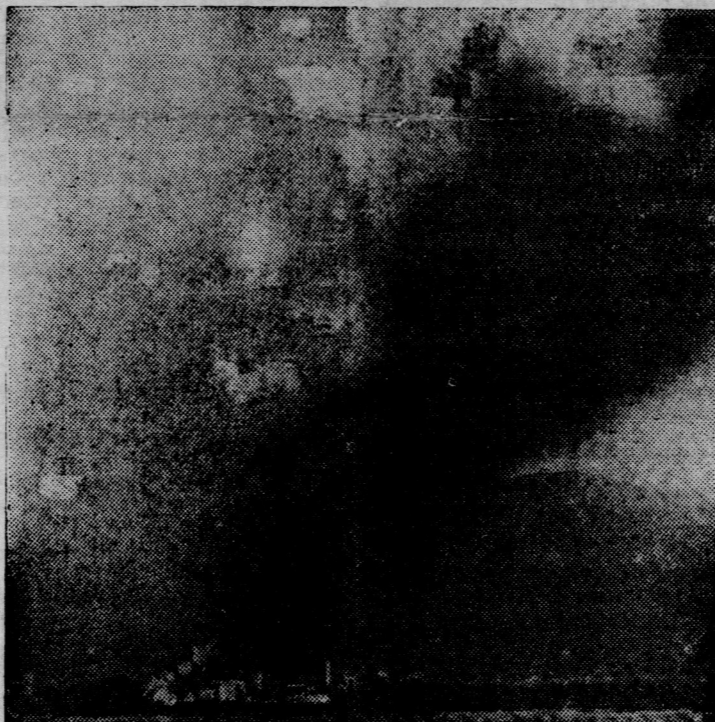
Cheese Kept Fresh By Simple Method

Most people who live conveniently near a grocery store buy cheese, as they do other foods, in small quantities. In such cases there is no need for concern over the problem of storing cheese in the home. It is simply a matter of keeping a pound or less in good condition for a short time. Cheese should be kept in a cool place, as high temperature will cause some of the fat to melt and escape from the cheese, states the "Cheese for Better Meals" bulletin issued by the Dominion Department of Agriculture. High temperature also has the effect of drying out the cheese, particularly if it is left uncovered. The best place for cheese is the refrigerator or a very cool cupboard free from damp. The flavor and texture of the cheese will be preserved if it is kept in a covered container or is wrapped in heavy waxed or parchment paper. To prevent waste, scraps of cheese may be grated and put in a covered jar, to be used as required in cooking. Process cheese should be stored in the refrigerator and may be left in the package in which it is purchased.

If a whole small cheese, or part of a large cheese, is bought to be stored in the home, care must be taken to prevent drying out or the development of mould. A good plan is to cut a small portion from the cheese and wax the cut surfaces of the remainder with a coating of paraffin wax, applying the melted wax with a small brush. When stored in a cool, well-ventilated, dry place, cheese so treated will keep in perfect condition.

Police planes have been exempted from the British Air Ministry ban on flying over crowds.

Tankers Afire After Bombing By Planes

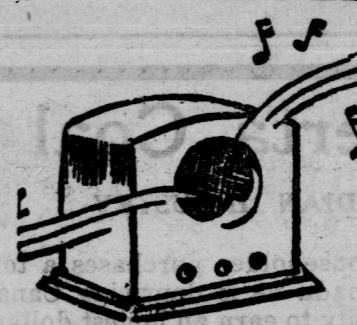


An indistinct pyre in the distance, the tankers Mei Hsia and Mei Ping, American vessels, are hidden by the smoke they give off, following their bombing by the Japanese planes that sank the Panay in the Yangtze River, China.

They're Treating One of the "Panay" Survivors



Seamon Rider, left, and Lt. C. Grazier assist one of the wounded survivors of the Panay bombing, Alex Kozac, of the Panay crew, after the victims of the bombing had sought a safe shelter at Hanshan, China.



Around The Dial

RADIO HEADLINERS OF THE WEEK



The picture in this week's column is that of The Buckingham House Party, heard every Saturday night from 8.30 to 9 over the CBC Ontario network. The melodious harmonizing of the popular Campbell Sisters combines with the blues songs of Louise King and the Silver Strings of Carroll Lucas to provide an enjoyable half-hour's entertainment. The "House Party" is proving to be one of the most popular Canadian programs on the air... Louise King, the beautiful and blonde "blues" menace on the program has considerable radio experience to her credit, having appeared with Luigi Romanelli and his orchestra at the King Edward in 1935, and then went to the States to appear with Jules Alberty and his band over Columbia. On her return, Louise has been heard over the CBC network for the past three years, and now, we hear her on the House Party program.

Three Singing Sisters

The three Campbell sisters, Ethel, Myrt and Jean, started their career by constituting half of a family orchestra, which consisted of themselves and three brothers. Later the girls broke into radio work and became still better known during the following eighteen months when they sang at the leading danceries. Mr. Stein, one of the foremost bookers in Chicago, was particularly impressed with their talent during his visit to Toronto and took them back to Chicago with him. Three weeks with Jack Hylton and his band brought them wide-spread recognition, after which they sang for Horace Heidt for one year. The music on the program is under the direction of Carrol Lucas, former arranger for Ozzy Nelson and Leo Reisman, and already known for

his popular intermission features for the hockey broadcasts, completes the entertainment for the Buckingham House Party.

Wes McKnight's Saturday night's sports broadcasts at 7 p.m. goes network. Fourteen Ontario stations, in addition to CFRB are carrying this weekly, and hockey fans all over Ontario will be able to hear Wes interview players for the regular Saturday night in Toronto. In Montreal, Cliff Butler conducts a similar program for the same sponsor. Interviews take place at 8:45 p.m. over eight stations in Quebec. These sport programs are now in their fourth consecutive year, which proves that Canada's national sport has not lost any of its glamour.

Break for Canadian Amateurs

The Good Humor Amateur Show is progressing to its final contest, the winner of which will receive a trip to Hollywood and screen and voice tests. So far the eligibles are Evelyn Cormack, who sings and dances, tiny Buddy Bradford, who plays the traps, Charlie Jackson, who does a half man and half woman song and costume—the duet of Sylvia Bagby and Eulah Mold, stair tap dancers, Mildred Morley, who does a Martha Raye act, and Quen Hyatt, singer of popular songs. We understand there are either seven or eight contestants on the final program which will take place at the end of January, and we shall do our best to get pictures of these people. A new series of programs featuring Canadian amateur talent will start in February for the same sponsor, and just what the final prize will be for the new series will be announced later. The new series will be broadcast over a network of Canadian stations reaching into Montreal.

Anything Worn Under Ski Jacket

PARIS.—Under the ski jacket, anything may be worn—a doggy flannel shirt, or a silk one if you are not a chilly person; one or more sweater-blouses, or a waistcoat of something or other, even of fur, sometimes made with sleeves. As to headgear, lots of women ski bareheaded; otherwise they wear different things; a plain felt hat with a brim; a knitted or a fur cap; just a headband coming over the ears a visor clipped round the hair with an elastic; or a peasant handkerchief tied under the chin or wound round the head turban fashion.

This year, the close-fitting hoods look rather new.

Another garment that all the outfitters are recommending is that extra jacket, windbreaker or middy-blouse which is to be worn when it snows. It is made of some lightweight material so that it may easily be carried on ski hikes. It always has a close little hood that fits tightly round the face to keep out the snow. Madeleine de Rauch makes hers in thin glazed cotton, sometimes blue, printed with giant snowflakes, or of sailcloth or of the stuff from which raincoats are made.

"There's one thing I will not do. I will not speak at garden clubs." — Mme. Frances Alda.

Dancer Takes Her First Ocean Voyage



Eleanor Powell, left, waves an enthusiastic goodbye, as she and her mother sail from Los Angeles, Cal., on Miss Powell's first sea voyage. Billy Seymour