

IMPURITIES FROM SAMSON'S WINEFALL

Healthy People Accountable For Right Use of Their Physical Power--Impurities of Modern Society Condemned.

Washington despatch: In this discourse Dr. Talmage sets forth the responsibility of those who are strong and well, as in a former discourse he preached to the disabled and "the shut in." Text, Judges xiv, 1: "And Samson went down to Timnath."

There are two sides to the character of Samson. The one phase of his life, if followed into particulars, would administer to the grotesque and the frightful. But there is a phase of his character fraught with lessons of solemn and eternal import. To these graver lessons we devote our sermon.

There is no doubt in early life gave evidence of what he was to be. It is almost always so. There were two Napoleons—the boy Napoleon and the man Napoleon—but both alike, two Howards—the boy Howard and the man Howard—but both alike; two Samsons—the boy Samson and the man Samson—but both alike. This giant was no doubt the hero of the playground, and nothing could stand before his exploits. At 18 years of age he was betrothed to the daughter of a Philistine. Going down toward Timnath, a lion came upon him, and although this young giant was weaponless, he seized the monster by the long mane and shook him as a hairy bear shakes a cub. He then made his bones crack and left him by the wayside, bleeding under the smiting of his fist and the grinding left of his heel.

There he stands, looming up above other men, a mountain of flesh, his arms braced with muscles that can lift the gate of a city, taking an attitude defiant of everything. His hair had never been cut, and it rolls down about his head, and he has his shoulders, adding to his bulk, ferocity and terror. The Philistines want to conquer him, and therefore they must find out where the secret of his strength lies.

There is an evil woman living in the valley of Sorek by the name of Delilah. They appoint her the agent in the case. The Philistines are seated in the same building, and when Delilah goes up to Samson, she asks him to tell what is the secret of his strength. "Well," he says, "if you should take seven green withes such as they fasten the loom with, and put them around me, I should be perfectly powerless." So she binds him with the seven green withes, and she comes and says, "They come—the Philistines!" and he walks out as though there were no impediment. She tells the secret of this great strength, and he replies, "If you should take some ropes that have never been used for harness, and then I should be just like other men." She ties him with the ropes, clasps her hands and shouts, "They come—the Philistines!" and he walks out as easily as he did before, as if he had before—not a single obstruction. She coaxes him again, and he says, "Now if you should take the seven long plaits of hair and by this house loom weave them into a web, I could not get away." So the house loom is rolled out, and she sits backward and forward, and the long plaits of hair are woven into a web. Then she clasps her hands and says, "They come—the Philistines!" and he walks out as easily as he did before, dragging a part of the loom with him. But after awhile he says, "If you should take a razor or shears and cut off this long hair, I should be powerless and just like other men." Samson sleeps, and that she may not wake him up during the process of shearing, he is fastened to the wall by the hair. She takes a razor and shears and cuts off this long hair, and he is powerless and just like other men. He is in the hands of his enemies.

I hear the groan of the giant as they take his eyes out, and then I see him staggering on in his blindness, feeling his way as he goes on toward Gaza. The prison door is open and the giant is thrust in. He sits down and weeps on the mill crank, which with exhausting horizontal motion goes day after day, work after week, month after month, work, work, work, in the continuation of the world in captivity, his locks shorn, his eyes punctured, grinding corn in Gaza.

First of all, behold in this giant of the text that physical power is not always an index of moral power. He was a huge man, a clear head, a strong heart, and the 3,000 men whom he slew found it out; yet he was the subject of petty revenge and outlandish by low passion. I am far from throwing any discredit upon physical stamina. There are those who seem to have great admiration for strength and sickness of constitution. I never could see any glory in weak nerves or sick headache. Whatever effort in our day is made to make the men and women more robust should have the favor of every good citizen as well as of every Christian. Christianities may be positively religious.

How often it is that you do not find physical energy indicative of spiritual power? It is clear that it is worth more than one dizzy with perpetual vertigo, if muscles with the play of health in them are worth more than the dizziness of "rheumatism." If an eye quick to catch passing objects is better than one with vision dim and uncertain, then God will require of us as much as our tongue. Samsons in body, we ought to be giants in moral power.

But how often it is that men with strength to do the work of Christ. They are like a ship full manned and full rigged, capable of vast tonnage, able to endure all stress of weather, yet dragging idly at the dock, when those men ought to be crowding and recouping the great

SUNDAY SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. 1X. MARCH 4, 1900.

Jesus Healing in Capernaum—Mark 1: 23-28.

Supp.—What is the Golden Text? School.—And he healed many that were sick. Mark 1: 34.

What is the Central Truth? Christ came to destroy the works of the devil.

What is the Topic? Christ healing diseases.

What is the outline? I. Jesus in the synagogue. 2. Jesus in Peter's house. 3. Jesus on the street.

When was the time? April, A. D. 28.

Where was the place? Capernaum.

Who were the persons? Jesus and His disciples. A man possessed with an unclean spirit. Simon's wife's mother. Many that were sick.

What are the parallel accounts? Luke 4: 31-41; Matt. 9: 1-17.

Commentary.—Connecting Links. After Jesus left Nazareth He went to Capernaum and again definitely called Andrew, Peter, James and John the second time. They now left Him to complete His work. He is to think that He attended a feast at Jerusalem just before this time, but there is little proof that such was the case.

Edwin Capernaum—Christ now makes Capernaum His home, and the centre of His ministry for more than a year. It is called His own city (Matt. 9: 1), and here as a citizen He says he had no spirit of an unclean devil, and his mother and brethren came here with Him. John 1: 12. The Sabbath day—His first Sabbath in Capernaum. The synagogue—This was the gift of a centurion. Luke 4: 31.

22. The man who was possessed—At the matter, manner, spirit and authority of His teaching. 1. At the range of His intellectual gifts. 2. The force of His illustrations. 3. His acquaintance with the human heart. 4. His deep knowledge of the divine law.—Burn. Authority—He spoke as one commissioned by God, and He held great stress upon Himself. Not as the scribes—when they saw the words of Jesus, their manner was cold, and with an unholiness they sought their own and not God's glory.

23. A man with an unclean spirit—The man who was possessed with an unclean devil and "cried out with a loud voice." Luke 4: 33. There has been much discussion regarding this "unclean spirit." Many hold that the word "spirit" here is used in a general sense, simply denoting people, and that their strong paroxysms were only "fits." Cried out—"An evil spirit is stirred to its depths when in contact with Jesus."

24. Let us alone—The devil always desires to be let alone, and had men do not want to be disturbed with anything good. What have we to do with the devil? Nothing at all. There is no concord between Christ and Satan. To destroy us—To drive us from our abode back to our native place. He knew that he had no chance, like the apostles, in addressing Christ! No, Christ is dealing with devils now, and they know Him well. The Holy One of God—the Messiah, King of the Jews, Lord of the Kingdom of the devil, I. John 1: 8.

25. Jesus rebuked Him—He does not desire the testimony of devils to prove His Messiahship. Throughout His ministry He has rebuked devils, and has pronounced anything that might be construed into a truce with Satan.—Burn. Hold thy peace—Literally, "He speaks with authority." He will show who He is, by casting out the devil.

26. Torn him—Or, convulsed him. He said, "I will throw the man, and came out of him." This Jesus did not. Never was there a person possessed by an unclean spirit, who did not suffer a convulsion, perhaps a fall, and utter a cry, "What art thou? Even the devils obey His word of command. There is an evidence of the great object of Christ's mission—to destroy the works of the devil. It is a proof of His love for lost men, and of His power to bring them back to God.

27. What think ye?—"God's wonders are more wonderful than the devil's wonders." "Jesus taught by what He did as well as by what He said." Mr. Burnham, the U. S. scout who has gone to join the Boers, says: "Knowing the country as I do, it seems to me so foolish that people at home should criticize the action of generals who have fought in every corner of the world. In my instance, the British had every little choice of routes. It was much the same as the march of the Russians into Turkey—they had but one way to go. I do not see how troops in Mexico could have been moved except as they have been. I know this country thoroughly, and people who do not know it are very apt to draw wrong conclusions. There are lots of good cowboys who know every inch of the ground, just as well as the Boers. Gen. Buller and his aides have any amount of information on this point, and it is surely only reasonable to suppose that they have profited by it. The local scouts of the colony are perfectly competent to give all the information required, but no man can look through an entrenchment and see how many men are behind; one day there may be 50, the next 500. People must remember that the Boers are defending themselves, and, therefore, have the best of it. There is no way of fighting a badger in a barrel except by getting him out."

THE D. R. A. REPORT.

Statement of Finances and Commitments to Hon. Mr. Borden.

The annual report of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association has just been issued. The receipts for 1899 were \$21,456; the expenditures amounted to \$21,717. The Blaisy team shot 950, as against \$5,929 in 1898. The report closes with this remark: "Your Council cannot close this report without placing upon record its appreciation of the practical aid and sympathy extended to its work by the Hon. F. W. Borden, Minister of Militia and Defence. Your Council has been greatly encouraged to loyally discharge its obligations to the riflemen of Canada by the support and confidence the Minister has accorded it, while his jealous care of all that appertains to the welfare of the militia of Canada will never be remembered by every branch of the service."

The American State Department officially denies that Consul Macrum's mail was tampered with while he was stationed at Pretoria.

Market Reports—The Week.

LEADING WHEAT MARKETS. Following are the closing prices at important wheat centres to-day.

Chicago	80 3/8
New York	80 1/2
Milwaukee	79 1/2
St. Louis	79 1/2
Toledo	79 1/2
Detroit, red	79 1/2
Detroit, white	79 1/2
Duluth, No. 1 hard	78 1/2
Duluth, No. 1 north	78 1/2
Minneapolis, No. 1	78 1/2
Minneapolis, No. 2	78 1/2
Northern	78 1/2

TORONTO FLOUR MARKET.

Wheat—Five hundred bushels in all Red and white fall wheat sold steady at 71 1/2-26, 200 lb weaker at 71 1/2-26, spring firmer at 72c.

Oats—Two hundred bushels sold steady at 50 1/2-26.

Barley—One thousand bushels sold unchanged at 46 to 49c.

Hay and Straw—Fifteen loads sold firm at \$11 to \$11.50. No straw covered.

Dressed Hogs—Reported firm at \$6 to \$6.40 per cwt.

Feb. 22—Receipts of farm produce: 3,900 bushels of grain, 30 loads of hay, 4 of straw, and 175 dressed hogs.

Wheat—Steady; 1,100 bushels sold as follows: 800 bushels of red and white fall sold at 71c to 72c; 300 bushels sold at 71 1/2-26.

Barley—Easier; 1,500 bushels sold at 46 to 47c.

Oats—Steady; 500 bushels sold at 50 1/2-26 to 51 1/2-26.

Peas—One load sold at 61c per bush.

Hay—Steady; 30 loads sold at \$7 to \$7.50 per ton.

Straw—Steady; 3 loads sold at \$7 to \$7.50 per ton.

Dressed Hogs—Prices again higher, 175 selling all the way from \$6.50 to \$6.75 per cwt.

SEEDS.

In Chicago to-day timothy closed steady at \$2.55 nominal for February and \$2.60 nominal for March. Clover closed steady at \$8.50 nominal for March, all per 100 lbs. In Toledo old prime clover closed steady at \$4.85, February 1c lower at \$5.57 and March steady at \$5.60, all per bushel.

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NOTES.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada, together with amount afloat to Europe, is 2,515,000 bushels for the week. A year ago the total was 2,985,000 bushels, or 19,201,000 bushels less than at the present time.

Wheat on passage to Europe increased 3,200,000 bushels for the week, and corn increased 1,360,000 bushels.

The rise in the prices of dressed hogs in the last few weeks is fully 10 per cent. Our bacon meeting with favor in the British market.

Liverpool, Feb. 22.—Wheat—Spot No. 1 Cal, no stock; No. 2 red western winter, no stock; No. 1 northern spring, dull, 6c. 1-2-26; futures, higher, 5c. 9-12-26; May, 5c. 9-8-26.

Bradstreet's on Trade.

General trade at Montreal continues in a sound and satisfactory condition, and the outlook for the spring and summer is fully up to expectation in all departments of business. Payments are good. Large orders are coming forward. The sharp advance in the price of cheese has started a satisfactory business in the cheese trade. The prices for raw cotton have materially strengthened the Canadian markets for cotton goods.

Trade at London presents no new features of importance this week. There is a good trade being done by retailers, but little grain has been coming out of the hands of the farmers, and the country trade has not been specially active.

Trade at Victoria and Vancouver has been fair this week. Payments on February account were about up to expectations. Choice butter has been scarce, and some Australian butter had been offered and reached at 35c. The building activity is quite marked and promises to show increased activity in the spring. Trade circles as reported at Hamilton. Payments continue satisfactory, and retailers are taking in large stocks of goods for the spring trade. It is expected to be particularly good. Values are generally firm.

The jobbing trade at Winnipeg has been very fair the past week. Grain deliveries are light, and there has been made trade at various centres a little slow. So far February business in most lines is in excess of last year. Values continue very firm for all lines of manufactured goods.

Trade at Toronto has been favorably influenced by colder weather the past few days. Current retail sales in the country have been more satisfactory and payments are showing up better. Travelers are sending in some nice orders for the spring trade. Cash purchases are of satisfactory volume, and the condition of the retail trade of the country generally leads to no uneasiness as to future payments.

Dr. Charles Piazzi Smyth, for 48 years Astronomer Royal for Scotland, is dead.

Lieut.-Col. Delamere, Toronto, will likely be appointed in command of the Blaisy team.

The price of gas in Winnipeg has been reduced from \$2.50 to \$2.25 per thousand feet.

A young girl named Keating, Vancouver, died yesterday from the effects of vaccination.

Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, of "cure cure" fame, died suddenly at his winter home, near Los Angeles, Cal.

Admiral Dewey says that he is glad to hear that the Spanish fleet has been destroyed.

Senator Chalmers and Mr. Victor Geoffrey, M. P., were inaugurated by the Reform Club of Montreal.

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