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SOME LESSONS FROM THE SAVIOR'S MIRACLE AT CANA

The Sympathetic Christ Always Does Things in Abundance and Will Never Fail in Direst Extremity.

Washington report: A remarkable illustration of the ubiquity of English speaking people is furnished by the requests that have reached Dr. Talma in Northern Europe for a sermon in out of the way places where he did not expect to find a single person who could understand him. There, as here, he presents religion as a festivity and invites all the people to come as guests and join in its holy merriment. text, John 11, 19: "Thou hast kept the good wine until now."

This chapter invites us to a marriage celebration. It is a wedding in common life, two plain people have pledged each other, hand and heart, and their friends having come in for congratulation. The joy is not the less because there is no pretension. In each other they find all the future they want. The daisy in the cup on the table may mean as much as a score of artistic garlands fresh from the hot house. When a daughter goes off from home with nothing but a plain father's blessing and a plain mother's love, she is missed as much as though she were a princess. It seems hard, after the parents have sheltered her for eighteen years, that in a few short months her affections should have been carried off by another, but mother remembers how it was in her own case when she was young, and so she braces up until the wedding has passed and the banqueters are gone, and she has a cry all alone.

Well, we are here to-day at the wedding of Cana of Galilee. Jesus and his mother have been invited. It is evident that there are more people there than were expected. Either some people have come who were not invited or more invitations have been sent out than it was supposed would be accepted. Of course there is not a sufficient supply of wine. You know that there is nothing more embarrassing to a housekeeper than a scant supply. Jesus sees the embarrassment, and he comes up immediately to relieve it. He sees standing six water pots. He orders the servants to fill them with water. Then he waves his hand over the water, and immediately it is wine—real wine. Taste it and see for yourselves. No logwood in it, no strychnine in it, but first rate wine. It will not now be diverted to the question so often discussed in my own country whether it is right to drink wine. I am describing the scene as it was. When God makes wine, he makes of the very best wine, and 120 gallons of it standing around in these water pots—wine so good that the ruler of the feast tastes it and says: "Why, this is really better than anything we have had. Thou hast kept the good wine until now." Beautiful miracle! A prize was offered to the person who should give the best account of the miracle in Cana. Long manuscripts were presented to the competition, but the poet won the prize by just one line descriptive of the miracle: "The conscious water saw its God and blushed."

We learn from this miracle, in the first place, that Christ has sympathy with housekeepers. You might have thought that Jesus would have said: "I cannot be bothered with this household deficiency of wine. It is not for me. Lord of heaven and of earth, to become caterer to this feast. I have vaster things than this to attend to." Not so said Jesus. The wine gave out, and Jesus by miraculous power came to the rescue. Does he ever come a scant supply in your household? Have you to make a very close calculation? Is it hard work for you to carry on things decently and respectably? If so, don't sit down and cry. Don't go out and fret, but go to him who stood in the house in Cana of Galilee. Pray in the parlor. Pray in the kitchen. Let there be room in all your house unconspicuously by the voice of prayer. If you have a microscope, put under it one drop of water and see the insects floating about, and when you see that God makes them and cares for them and feeds them come to the conclusion that he will take care of you and feed you.

A boy asked if he might sweep the snow from the steps of a house. The lady of the household said, "Yes; sweep them very soon." He says, "I am very poor." She says, "Don't you sometimes get discouraged and feel that God is going to let you starve?" The lad looked up in the woman's face and said, "Do you think God will let me starve when I trust him and then do the best I can?" Enough theology for older people! Trust in God and do the best you can. Amid all the worries of housekeeping go to him; he will help you control your temper and supervise your domestics and entertain your guests and manage your home economies.

I learn also from this miracle that Christ does things in abundance. I think a small supply of wine would have made up for the deficiency. I think, certainly, a father has enough for himself and his guests. One gallon of wine will do; certainly five gallons will be enough; certainly ten. But Jesus goes on, and he gives them 20 gallons and 40 gallons and 50 gallons and 70 gallons and 100 gallons of the very best wine. It is just like him—doing everything on the largest and most generous scale. Does Christ, our Creator, go forth to make leaves? He makes them by the whole forest full; notched like the fern or silvered like the aspens and broad like the palm; thickets in the tropics, Oregon forests. Does he go forth to make flowers? He makes plenty of them; they flame from the hedge, they hang from the top of the grapevine in blossoms, they roll in the blue wave of the violets, they toss their white surf in the spiraea—enough for every child's hand a flower, enough to make for every brow a

SUNDAY SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. IV. JULY 22, 1900.

Peter's Confession and Christ's Rebuke—Matt. 16: 13-28.

Supt.—What is the Golden Text? School—If any man will come after me let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. Matt. xvi. 24.

What is the Central Truth? Christ is the foundation of His church.

What is the Topic? The Christ.

Divine Authority given. IV. Christ's death foretold. V. Conditions of discipleship.

What was the Time? July, A. D. 29.

Where was the Place? Caesarea Philippi.

Who were the Persons? Jesus and His disciples.

What are the Parallel Accounts? Mark viii, 27-38; Luke ix, 18-27.

Commentary—Connecting Links

Leaving the "borders" of Phoenicia, Jesus made a circuit to the southwest. He crossed the Jordan and sought seclusion in Decapolis, southeast of the sea of Galilee. Here he healed a deaf man (Mark vii 31-37), and fed four thousand with loaves and fishes (Mark ix, 32-39). From Decapolis he crossed the sea to Dalmanutha, supposed to be a few miles south of Capernaum. Almost immediately His enemies met him at Bethsaida (Mark 10-13), and He left them at once crossing the sea to the northeast and landing at Bethsaida, where he had fed the five thousand. On the journey He warned them of the seditious designs of the Pharisees (Matt. xvi, 5-12). At Bethsaida he healed a blind man, Mark viii, 22-26. He then journeyed north to Caesarea Philippi, near which city the events of this lesson took place.

13. Caesarea Philippi—A city three or four miles east of Dan, near the eastern source of the Jordan River. Whom do men say—Christ did not ask them to guess the name of the Son of God (or C) because He desired the applause of men, or (3) because He intended to form His course according to the reply, but (4) because He desired to test the faith of His disciples. The Son of Man—This was a title He frequently applied to Himself, but it was never applied to Him by the apostles. It expressed His human, visible, and palpable nature.

14. Some say, etc.—People held different opinions concerning Christ. Some said John the Baptist returned to some Elias, who was to be the forerunner of the Messiah, and others, Jeremiah, "in accordance with the tradition that Jeremiah was to come and reveal the place where the sacred vessels were concealed;" and others, of the prophets, "The Lord will be with you." 15. Whom say ye?—This was the decisive moment in which the separation of the New Testament from the Old Testament theocracy was to be made. The hour had come for the utterance of a distinct Christian confession—Lange.

16. Simon Peter answered—He spoke for all of the apostles. Thou art Christ—The Messiah. The Anointed One. Messiah is the Hebrew and Christ is the Greek for "anointed." Jesus was the one who was anointed by the Father as Prophet, Priest and King. Son of the living God is here styled the Son of God, because He is the author of all life and existence; hence, self-existent, eternal.

17. Blessed art thou—Peter and the apostles were blessed because they had broken away from Jewish prejudices and had really accepted Jesus as the Christ, Bar-Jonah (R. V.)—The son of Jonah, Bar-Jonah, son of David and blood—No man being able to reveal it unto thee. Such knowledge does not originate in the human mind. But my Father—God only can reveal Himself.

18. Thou art Peter—"Petros," the Greek word for stone or a piece of rock. This name had been given him by Jesus when Jesus first met him, Mark 8: 14, and upon this rock—in the Greek this "petra," or rock in mass.

19. The keys of the kingdom of heaven—"Keys are a symbol of power or authority." Peter and the apostles were to be the representatives of Christ's church on earth, and they were given power and authority to organize and establish His Church after His death. Peter had the key of the kingdom of Heaven to the Jews on the day of Pentecost, when three thousand were converted, and a little later to the Gentiles. Hence, this is an explanation of the gift of the Holy Spirit. "To him to be bound, or to declare forbidden: to loose meant to allow, or to declare allowable"—Morison. Bound in Hebrew shall receive the authority and sanction and approval of God. They were to be guided in the organization of the Church by Christ and the Holy Spirit.

20. Tell no man—The time had not come yet to proclaim Him publicly.

21. Began Jesus to show—Heretofore He had spoken obscurely, but He now plainly of His kingdom.

The detailed enumeration of these parties proves that there was a general conspiracy on the part of all the Jewish authorities.

22. Peter took Him—Apart from the rest, Rebuke Him—"He only began; He was soon interrupted." This shows Peter's boldness, and his liability to be in the wrong. This shall never be unto thee (R. V.)—Thou was so contrary to the commonly accepted idea of the Messiah and the coming kingdom, that Peter was not ready to accept it.

23. Gethsemane—The name of Satan means adversary. "Jesus did not call His apostle a devil," but He saw in this suggestion a repetition of the old temptation by which He was offered the glory of the kingdom of the world without His coming to the cross.

24. Will come after Me—Will follow My directions and be My disciple. Deny Christ—Shows the nature of the apostle's duty. They must "abstain from all indulgences which stand in the way of duty." Take up His cross—Whoever would follow Christ must be ready to endure affliction and even death for His sake.

25. What is a man profited—The question implies that there is no profit in success in obtaining. The whole world—its honor, wealth, and the enjoyment of all its pleasures.

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

The time is near the close of Christ's mission. In his early ministry many were ready to confess him as the Christ. Now, however, it appears (v. 14) there were few who believed in

MARKET REPORTS

The Week

Bradstreet's Trade.

General Trade is quiet at Montreal now that the holiday season is at hand. The movement is moderate in wholesale circles. The improvement in crop conditions has had a somewhat reassuring effect in business circles. Fall trade has been good so far. Values show some change this week, especially in hardware, which is lower for some lines.

Trade at Toronto this week has kept up better than usual this year, and the amount of fall trade so far has been large. Payments on 4th of July paper were satisfactory. Values of staple goods are generally firm.

In London this week there has been a fair amount of business done. Payments on July paper were good, and the outlook for fall trade continues bright. Prices are being well maintained.

There is much complaint among the old-established retailers at coast cities, especially in Vancouver, of over competition. Business has picked up a little the past three or four weeks. The salmon season is now on, the lumber industry is active. Collections are rather slow. Crop damage reports are still having a rather depressing effect on wholesale trade at Winnipeg. Orders are being cancelled by country storekeepers. It is hoped, however, that the first fears will pass off. Collections are only fair.

Hamilton jobbers appear to be getting their share of the fall trade. Values are still firmly maintained, and there is no appearance of any weakness in staple goods. Country remittances have been very fair this week.

THE WHEAT CROP.

Manitoba has had some rain—enough to justify the Superintendent of the Canadian Pacific at Winnipeg in saying that the late rain had done incalculable good to wheat and other cereals. Sir William Van Horne was very optimistic in his remarks in the Gazette before leaving Montreal the other day.

"I think there is a good prospect for a fair crop," began the Chairman of the C. P. R. Board, "notwithstanding the doleful reports that are coming down from the west. The wheat crop in the Northwest always looks worse in dry time than it really is, and the wheat stalks being short, and the scarcity of the blades making it look thin and light, but short straw usually give long heads, and some of the best crops we have ever had came from straw which had a discouraging look at the end of June. Now that sufficient rains have come, I am very confident that we will have quite a different report from the Northwest after two weeks."

"What effect would a short wheat crop have upon the Canadian Pacific?" Sir William was asked.

"The C. P. R.," he replied, "is no longer very much dependent on any one crop, and in this case I think the increase in the mining business in British Columbia will quite make up any possible loss in the Northwest. During the last half of last year, and, in fact, up to within a month or two, mining in that Province has been almost at a standstill, owing to the labor troubles. Nearly all the important mines have now started up activity, and many new ones are coming in shippers. Consequently, I am pretty sure that the Canadian Pacific will make as good showing during the next twelve months as it did in the past. Even if the worst fears for the Manitoba crops should be realized, that the road will carry its full dividend and more, I have no doubt at all."

That the Canadian Pacific is not dependent upon the wheat crop to earn a dividend is an astonishing bit of news. It goes to show what a good effect the construction of the branch road through the Crow's Nest Pass has had upon the fortunes of that company. But the prospect of the wheat crop is very important to the country at large. The moving of the grain to market employs many railway, stevedore and elevator laborers whose wages keep up the demand for farm, garden and factory products. The farmers of the Northwest spend the price of the wheat on clothing, furniture, groceries and hardware. Best of all, the wheat of the Northwest is an exportable product, which goes to Great Britain to help pay for imports from that country and to settle the interest on our national debt. We all hope that Sir William Van Horne's anticipations of a good crop may be more than realized, and, incidentally, we could stand about twenty-four hours' rain in this part of the country.

FRANCE'S MINISTER OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION ENCOURAGES ART BY AN INCREASE IN THE BUDGET.

France's Minister of public instruction encourages art by an annual expenditure of \$3,600,000. This includes support of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and ten other schools of fine arts.

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