

# Sunday School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. VIII.  
FEBRUARY 19, 1905

Jesus at the Pool of Bethesda.—John 5:1-14.  
Read John 5:1-14.

Introduction.—It has been about three months since the nobleman's son at Capernaum was healed by Jesus at Cana. It is supposed that this interval was occupied with labors in Galilee of which no record is left. Andrew thinks the disciples went to their homes during this time. When the Passover drew near, Jesus, in common with many Jews, went from Galilee to Jerusalem to attend it. Heretofore there has been but little evidence of hostility to Christ, but from now an opposition to him will be frequently seen. Truth and love provoke contradiction and enmity.

Commentary.—I. Jesus at the feast, (vs. 1-4). After these things, when it was about two years after the Passover, Jesus came to Jerusalem to attend it. It is the opinion now of the best writers that it was the Passover. The Hebrew tongue—Hebrew here means Aramaic, the language spoken at the time, not the old Hebrew of the Scriptures.—Bethesda.—This name does not occur elsewhere. It means "house of mercy." The site is not identified with certainty. 3. Multitude.—The sick congregated here in great numbers. Waiting, etc.—The last part of vs. 3 and all of 4 should be omitted from the text, as it is not a part of the Bible. Whether there was in reality any healing power in the waters we are not told, but the omission of verse 4 in no way weakens the truth taught in this lesson.

II. Jesus heals an infirm man (vs. 5-9). An infirmity.—The original implies rather a loss of power than a positive disease; probably it was a nervous disease of paralytic type.—Abott. Thirty and eight years.—The duration of the illness is mentioned, either

to show how inveterate and difficult it was to heal, or explain the deep compassion with which Jesus was affected on beholding the unhappy man.—Godet.

6. Knew.—The word "knew" in the original indicates one of those instantaneous perceptions by which the truth became known to Jesus concerning the task of the moment demanded. Verse 14 will show that the whole life of the sufferer is present to the eye of Jesus, as that of the Sabaean woman.

Will thou—Why does he ask a question to which the answer was so obvious? Probably in order to arouse the sick man out of his lethargy and despondency. It was the first step towards the man's having sufficient faith; he must be inspired with some expectation of being cured.

7. No man.—He was friendless as well as sick, is troubled.—This spring, probably the fountain of the Virgin, is intermittent to this day, and various travelers have seen it suddenly rise from five inches to a foot in five minutes.—Pelouzet. Whedon thinks that the moving of the waters arose from an underground connection of the pool with the city waterworks. The occasional and intermittent disturbance of the water is not to be understood as a regular occurrence, but as something sudden and quickly passing away. Hence the man's waiting and complaint.

8. Rise, etc.—Commands like these would test the man's faith and obedience. "As in the case of the paralytic, Christ makes no enquiry as to the man's faith. Christ knew that he had faith; and man's attempting to rise and carry his bed after thirty-eight years of impotency was an open confession of faith.

III. Persecution by the Jews (vs. 10-13). 10. Not lawful.—Jeremiah had commanded, "Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the Sabbath day" (xvi. 21), and the Jews interpreted this as forbidding the carrying of the lightest weight. But Jeremiah's meaning is made clear by Jer. xlii. 15: "Trading with you on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses," etc. "To forbid this man from carrying his bed was like forbidding a modern man to move a camp-stool or a chair."

11. He... said.—"Unquestionably the words seem to say that one who could do such a wonder as healing me, must certainly have the right to tell me what to do. He had been authorized by one endorsed as sent from God. And this was indeed the ground which Christ Himself took." 12. Who is the man (R. V.).—They ignore the miracle, and attack the command. Knew not (R. V.).—Jesus had been in Jerusalem but little, and the man who was healed had little ability never seen him. Conveyed himself away.—Better, withdrew.

IV. Jesus gives advice and warning (v. 14). 14. Afterward.—Probably soon afterward, in a day or so. Finding his work with him was not yet finished, this meeting was not accidental.

V. The man hears testimony (vs. 15-18). 15. Told the Jews, etc.—He inquired they were not active in his time before. 16. He testified actively.

PR. APPLICATION.—Faith is the way of man's approach to God; the link uniting the human and the divine. Unbelief shut man out from Eden. Faith brings man back to union with God. A solvent bank honors every draft presented for payment. God honors the faith of every man. "According to your faith" is a true, unalloyed maxim. "With them was made whole" (v. 14). This question is put to a poor paralytic, waiting by the troubled waters at the pool of Bethesda. It was the time of the feast of Purim, a feast celebrated by works of beneficence and gracious gifts. Christ entered into the spirit of the feast.

"I have no man when the water is troubled to put me in the pool" (v. 7). All earthly hope was gone. Only the divine Son of man could help this hopeless cripple. Such crises come to some evangelist, Jennie Smith. She had been a helpless cripple for sixteen years, much of the time suffering intense agony. One limb, subject to awful spasms, was confined in a strong box, which she held by heavy weights. One day, after unusual suffering, a few friends gathered about her as she lay in her extension chair. She says: "The evening was devoted to a prayer, led by Pastor Everett. After the first hour some were obliged to leave. One brother, whom I had not met before, on leaving, said: 'My sister, you are asking too much; you are too anxious. The Lord can make better use of you on your cot than on your feet.' I was thankful for his kindly words. I looked searchingly into my heart. I honestly answered, 'No, I am not anxious to get well. If the heat of the furnace was increased a thousand-fold, I could say, 'Thy will be done, and pain would be sweet if fully shown to me that it is the Father's will that I should suffer. And I believe the time has come for me to know that will.' Up to this point there was not that oneness of mind that I felt there must be. I said to those who remained, 'Can you tarry with me until the morning, if need be?' by waiting, our Father will give us the blessing. Are we of one accord?' My physician, Dr. Morgan, was the first to say, 'I will stay, and I fully agree with you.' They gathered about my chair. Never can that little group forget that season. It was after 9 o'clock. We continued waiting before the Lord. Occasionally one would quote, without comment, an appropriate text of scripture, or engage in a brief prayer. I lay in quiet expectancy, still suffering, but with a remarkable sense of the divine presence, much of the time almost oblivious to my surroundings, so engaged in communion with my heavenly Father. About 11 o'clock I vocally offered myself to God in fresh consecration, saying: 'I give this body anew—these eyes to see, these lips to talk, these ears to hear, and, if it be Thy will, these feet to walk—for Jesus. All there is of me—all, that is mine. Only let Thy precious will be done. After a brief silence there flashed upon me a vivid view of the healing of the withered arm. I seemed to see through out whole. The Holy Spirit bestowed on my soul a faith to claim a similar blessing. I felt definitely the strength come into my back and into my helpless limbs. Laying my hand on the chair arms I raised myself to a sitting posture. The Carriage brothers sprang forward to assist me. This was not necessary. Dr. Morgan stepped

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## TEN WOMEN WERE KILLED.

### They Begged in Vain for the Driver Not to Cross the Tracks.

Hornellsville, N. Y., Feb. 6.—This city is in the deepest gloom owing to the terrible accident to the sleighing party of the Ladies' Aid Society of the Universal Church at a grade crossing of the Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern Railway, in which ten ladies were killed and three injured. There have been no other deaths, and it is now believed that all of the injured, with the possible exception of Mrs. R. Rowley, who is suffering from two fractures of the legs, one a compound fracture, and internal injuries, will recover. The bodies of the victims are being removed to their late homes as fast as they are viewed by the coroner, who has arranged to begin an investigation at once. No definite arrangements have as yet been made for the funerals of the victims, but there is talk of a general funeral, during which the business houses of the city will be closed.

Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 2.—A special to the News from Hornellsville says: "Mrs. Rowley has made an ante-mortem statement, in which she blames the driver for the disaster. She said: 'The ladies begged Quick not to drive on the tracks, but he paid no attention to them. The train was in plain sight, and anybody could see that we could not beat it across, but Quick kept right on, although everybody was screaming to high to stop, and those in the first sleigh were shouting to him not to cross.'"

Two mothers and two daughters were among those killed. Mrs. Coates was the mother of Mrs. Shaw. Mrs. Patehen was the mother of Mrs. Hallett. The party was given in honor of the birthday of Mrs. Graves, who was 75 years of age. She was mother-in-law of the liverly man who furnished the team and sleighs. She was killed, being one of those who rode in the last sleigh.

## FEWER LEPERS.

Superintendent of Hospital at Tracadie so Reports. Ottawa, Feb. 6.—Dr. Smith, medical superintendent of the Leper Hospital at Tracadie, N. B., presented his annual report. The register of the institution shows the names of fifteen inmates, ten males and five females. Classifying the lepers in the lazaretto the number in the first stage is six; in the second, seven; in the third, one. The youngest patient is 19 and the oldest 62 years of age. There were four deaths during the past twelve months, and three new cases were admitted, one from without the Province. Of those of the register nine are of French, three of Icelandic, and three of English origin. During the year Chaulimogro oil, in combination, introduced two years ago, has been freely used by the inmates and with very beneficial effects. During a recent tour of investigation through adjoining parishes the doctor found an undoubted case of leprosy. This person has not yet been admitted. He also found three persons showing suspicious venereal symptoms. Notwithstanding this, he has again to report that leprosy is rapidly decreasing. As a result of careful investigation Dr. Smith is more and more convinced of the communicability of leprosy through contagion.

## Market Reports

### The Week.

Toronto Farmers' Market. The market for the week generally was moderate, with prices generally firm. Wheat steady, heavy being sales of 100 bushels of white and red winter wheat at \$1.07, and 100 bushels of heavy barley unchanged, with sales of 100 bushels of heavy barley at \$1.07, and 100 bushels of heavy barley at \$1.07.

Wheat, No. 1, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 2, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 3, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 4, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 5, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 6, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 7, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 8, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 9, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 10, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 11, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 12, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 13, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 14, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 15, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 16, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 17, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 18, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 19, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 20, bushel	1.07	1.07

## PRINCESS VICTORIA

PASSES A RESTLESS NIGHT, BUT OTHERWISE FAIRLY WELL.

London, Feb. 6.—Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, speaking at Gainsborough, urged upon his audience the desirability of thinking imperially, without reference to antiquated conditions of themselves or their country. Referring to colonial support during the late war, he said it for the first time was possible an organized union of all the different parts of the British empire for common objects. He again quoted the remarks of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Deakin, and the late Cecil Rhodes, dealing with the colonial offer. He said: "We offer to meet you and make a treaty with you by which you shall treat us and we will treat you a little better than we both treat the foreigner." Referring to the growth of foreign trade in the colonies, Mr. Chamberlain proceeded: "I want to bring you all the trade the colonies can give. I want to bring about closer intercourse between the colonies and ourselves in order that our great empire may be maintained. What do the colonies ask from you in return for this? They ask that certain advantage should be given to them on some of their principal products. They don't ask it on all, but they do ask that that advantage should be given them on corn, meat, dairy products and fruit. I want to give it to them we should have but a small tax on these articles. They don't want a big tax. All they ask is for a turn of the scale in trade. As no one knows better than the great industrial and manufacturing concerns, the majority of which are entirely in favor of this policy, the turn of the scale is a consideration."

## Market Reports

### The Week.

Wheat, No. 1, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 2, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 3, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 4, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 5, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 6, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 7, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 8, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 9, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 10, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 11, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 12, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 13, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 14, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 15, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 16, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 17, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 18, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 19, bushel	1.07	1.07
Do, No. 20, bushel	1.07	1.07

## PRINCESS VICTORIA

PASSES A RESTLESS NIGHT, BUT OTHERWISE FAIRLY WELL.



## EARN A Comfortable Living WITH A Chatham Incubator

Poultry raising with a Chatham Incubator is a very profitable and easily managed occupation. Unless you want to go into it extensively it need take but very little of your time. Government reports show that the demand for chickens in Canada is greatly in excess of the supply and Great Britain is always clamoring for more. That means a steady market and good prices for chickens. You cannot raise chickens successfully with a setting hen. She is wasting time setting when she should be laying. While she is hatching and brooding a few chickens she could be laying five or six dozen eggs. The percentage of chickens she hatches is much less than that produced by the Chatham incubator.

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This is a straightforward offer. We make it to show our supreme confidence in the Chatham Incubator. We want you to accept this offer as we are sure of the satisfaction our incubator will give. Every machine we have put out so far has made other sales in the same neighborhood. "I am offering to send you a Chatham Incubator at once, freight prepaid by us without one cent of cash from you. You make your first payment in October, 1905. The balance to be paid in October, 1906, or if a Cash Buyer you get it cheaper. Could any offer be fairer or more generous?"

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