

The Sunday School Lesson

MARCH 1

Christ Before Pilate, Matt. 27: 11-31. Golden Text — He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities.—Isa. 53: 5.

ANALYSIS.
I. ART THOU THE KING? 11-14.
II. JESUS OR BARABAS? 15-26.
III. A CROWN, BUT OF THORNS, 27-31.

INTRODUCTION.—After his arrest, Jesus was brought before the supreme religious court of the Jewish people. This court, the Sanhedrin, composed of representatives of the priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people, gave Jesus a hurried trial. Caiaphas, who presided, after the preliminary citation of witnesses, whose evidence was apparently contradictory, put to Jesus the point-blank question: "Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" Jesus, who up to this moment had preserved absolute silence, answered "I am; and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven," Mark 14: 61-62. This was adjudged blasphemy by a court which did not accept his religious authority, and Jesus was sentenced to death.

But the Sanhedrin, while entrusted with jurisdiction in the sphere of the Jewish religion, did not possess the power of life and death. It might impose a sentence of death, but only the Roman authority could give the necessary confirmation. Since A. D. 6, Judea had been under a Roman procurator, holding office from Rome, and the capital sentence of the Jewish court had to be referred to this officer for sanction. Consequently, Jesus is now led by the Jews before the procurator, since A. D. 26, and Pilate is obliged to go into the case before giving his verdict.

To understand the trial of Jesus by Pilate, it is necessary to observe that the Jews, in order to get the death sentence confirmed by Pilate, put a political complexion upon the charge against Jesus. They knew that Pilate would not concern himself with matters of a purely religious or spiritual kind. Therefore, they misrepresented the Messiahship of Jesus as a claim of political kingship, and said that Jesus was a menace to the Roman power. Here lies the deepest and blackest guilt of the procurator. They put a false construction on the religious claims of Jesus. Jesus knew himself to be called by God to the highest religious office in the nation, namely, to the supreme office of bringing the nation to the real truth of bringing the nation to God. It has been made plain to him in spiritual experience that he was the "anointed" or Christ of God for this redemptive task. But all through his ministry he had refused to allow this office to be confused with any political or worldly dreams. In the wilderness, and afterwards in Galilee, he had declined the crown of earthly kingship. But Jewish hatred for its own sake now invests him with the very attributes he had disclaimed, and arraigns the sinless one as a politically dangerous person.

I. ART THOU THE KING? 11-14.

V. 11. The question which Pilate asks Jesus has been put into his mouth by the Jewish accusers. He had been "instructed" by Jewish lawyers, and conceives his duty to be confined to probing the truth of the particular charge that Jesus claimed to be the king of the Jews. Jesus answers simply: "Thou sayest." This means that he is indeed the king of the Jews, but that he will not explain. Pilate must himself accept the responsibility for any conclusions he may draw. He will not defend himself by argument.

Vs. 12-14. The majesty of Jesus' reserve, continued even when the Jewish authorities break in again with the accusation, astonishes Pilate, and sets him thinking. Conscience, a certain perception of the real truth of the case, is not dead in Pilate. He suspects that the Jews are acting from malicious motives. But, besides conscience, other forces are at work to save him from an unjust consent to Jesus' death.

Vs. 15-18. At the Passover, it seems to have been the custom of the procurator to release some Jewish prisoner of note as an act of grace to the Jews. Very possibly Pilate himself had instituted this custom as a means of keeping favor with the people. If so, he had here an opportunity of declaring Jesus absolved. The door seemed provisionally opened for the release of Jesus. There, not only conscience, but the fortunate circumstance of this custom was on Pilate's side, had he chosen to do the right.

V. 19. Not only so, but Pilate had

been specially advised by his wife, as the result of a dream, to take no action against Jesus of Nazareth. God often makes his will known to us through those who love us, and wish to shield us from harm.

Vs. 20-23. In spite of all, however, as the multitude, instructed by the priests and elders, clamor for Barabbar instead of Jesus, and demand that Jesus be crucified, Pilate, even though knowing that Jesus was guiltless, weakly consents. Appointed to administer justice, he prefers popularity, and infamously disgraces his name.

Vs. 24-26. Pilate may ostentatiously wash his hands, and declare he is innocent, but he is really guilty of the blackest of sins. This remains, even though the Jewish people encourage him, and say that they take all the responsibility for Jesus' death.

III. A CROWN, BUT OF THORNS, 27-31.

Vs. 27-31. This closing scene, though due to the malice and cruelty of the Roman soldiers, serves to show Jesus to us in the real nature of his sovereignty, his majesty, his majesty of sacrifice, of suffering. The Roman soldiers dislike the Jews, and it is their hatred of the Jews that comes out in this mockery of the sinless Son of God. They do not know, as they hand him the crown and sceptre of their mockery, that they are showing Jesus to the world in that character in which he will rule and govern it. Yet it is even so. Jesus saves us by his sacrifice, by wearing for us the crown of thorns.

PIRATE'S POLICE.
About this time, the Roman military forces were organized in 30 legions of about 5,000 men each. Every legion was made up of 10 cohorts, and every cohort (of about 600 men), was divided into 6 centuries (that is, groups of 100 men). The army of occupation in Palestine consisted of half a legion of five cohorts, that is, about 3,000 soldiers. Some were kept at Caesarea, the usual residence of the procurator or Roman governor, but most were scattered through the country towns. For example, there was a company at Capernaum. A considerable force was kept at Jerusalem all the time; but at the Passover season, when large crowds gathered in the holy city, the religious temper became peculiarly inflammable, the Jerusalem garrison and police were reinforced. The chief officers of the legion were tribunes and centurions. Of tribunes, there were six in every legion, and they were associated in command of the legion, though sometimes, in addition, a tribune is found in separate command of a cohort. Each century was under the command of a centurion. The "band" of verse 27 was a "cohort," but could hardly be a whole cohort.

How to Kill Ox Warbles.

The grubs so commonly found in "boils" on the backs of cattle during winter and spring are the larvae of the ox warble-fly developed from eggs deposited by the fly when cattle are grazing. They are the source of much misery to their hosts, and may reduce milk yield or prevent normal growth and development, besides causing tremendous economic loss by the damage they do to the hides for leather. In time this menace and mischief might greatly be lessened, or possibly eliminated, were every owner of cattle invariably to protect his animals from flies by free and frequent spraying with a reliable repellent and by frequent and thorough cleaning every grub he can find. The extraction of a grub from a mature boil may readily be accomplished by pressing down hard on it with the open mouth of a large bottle. A mixture of one part of iodoform and five parts of lard should then be applied to the boil, and to immature ones, to induce healing or to destroy forming grubs. Such treatment always proves profitable and certainly is humane.—Dr. A. S. Alexander.

It has been said that "Small minds dwell on small things." However, if someone did not look out for the "small" things of life the whole scheme of life would go to smash.

A cow giving 600 pounds of butter-fat returns \$158 annually, above her feed cost, while the cow producing 100 pounds makes a return of only \$8. With six times the production the return is nearly twenty times as great, which shows the absolute necessity of weeding out the low producers and replacing them with more profitable individuals.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

HEAD OFFICE - - MONTREAL

A Statement of Remarkable Progress

Extracts from Directors' Report

Your Directors present their fifty-fourth Annual Report with unusual satisfaction. The rapid expansion of operations, and the steady building of reserves, which have so markedly characterized the Company's transactions in previous years, have continued during the past twelve months, and at a greatly increased rate of progress.

These figures (herewith quoted) show the growth which has taken place in the volume of the Company's operations, and its resources. The figures as to profit-making power and financial strength are even more impressive.

As to profits actually paid, the sum of \$6,681,652.49 has been declared during the year to policyholders under this heading. As a provision for the future, the Company's position has been materially strengthened in all directions.

There has been a further upbuilding of the life policy reserves. Heretofore policies issued prior to 1905 have been valued on the basis of assuming three and a half per cent. interest, as the discounting rate for the Company's obligations, but this year the entire life assurance contracts have been valued at three per cent. (the extra amount thus set aside being \$1,111,057).

There has also been a strengthening of the Annuity Reserves. Recent investigations have shown a progressive increase in the average life expectancy of annuitants. A special annuity reserve of \$750,000 has this year been set up beyond the amount required by the Government standard.

The Company's Head Office and branch buildings and other real estate, have been written down by \$750,000.

The Contingency Reserves have been strengthened by the addition of \$4,000,000 taken from the earnings of the year. \$3,000,000 of this amount going to the fund to provide for possible fluctuations in the market value of our securities, and the balance of \$1,000,000, and \$1,000,000 going to General Contingencies account, raising that to \$2,500,000. These contingency accounts thus amount now to \$7,500,000.

After making these heavy allocations, the undivided surplus has yet been increased by \$9,431,090, bringing it to a total of \$72,500,000.

The Company is in a position to increase its already generous scale of profits to policyholders, and your Directors have pleasure in announcing, for the fifty-fourth year in succession, that such an increase will be made.

While many factors have contributed to this remarkable showing, the most noteworthy has been the large earnings from investments. As has been mentioned in previous reports, it has for many years been the policy of the Company to invest in long-term bonds and similar choice securities, in order that by this means the high rates of interest then prevailing as a result of the abnormal conditions produced by the war, might be projected into future years. This policy is now bearing fruit. Current rates of interest, though still very satisfactory, are materially lower than those of former years, and as a consequence there has been a marked rise in the quotations for most of the securities owned by the Company. During the past year some of these increased values have been capitalized by sale, and a net profit of \$2,981,426.48 has been realized from this source. In addition there has been an increase of \$6,313,777.69 in the market value of the securities still held. Although part of this increased value is unduly permanent, and due merely to the readjustment of market rates to a more normal basis, it will be noted that the Company has carried \$4,000,000 of the amount to contingency accounts, as already explained.

The rate of interest earned during the year on the open invested assets has been 6.25 per cent., exclusive of profits from sales. This is a substantial increase over the rate of the previous year, and has resulted from our having realized on some of our holdings of government and other bonds which had risen to high figures, the proceeds being then reinvested in securities yielding better returns.

1924

New Assurances Paid For Increase	\$137,466,000
Total Income	\$62,245,000
Increase	\$15,280,000
Payments to Policyholders and Beneficiaries	\$31,881,000
(Total paid since organization, \$183,798,000)	
Assets at December 31st	\$274,130,000
Increase	\$64,873,000
Reserves for Unforeseen Contingencies	\$7,500,000
Surplus Over All Liabilities and Contingency Reserves Increase	\$22,107,000
Assurances in Force (Net)	\$871,636,000
Increase	\$167,871,000

Policies in force (excluding Group Policies) 384,113
Employees of firms protected by Group Policies . . 30,160

Dividends to policyholders again increased

The Sun Life ranks amongst the Foremost Life Assurance Institutions of the World

Incorporated 1865

Began business 1871

A CROSS-WORD PUZZLE PARTY

BY BEATRICE PLUMB.

Cross-word puzzling has become a national sport. So of course you'd like to make it a Cross-word Puzzle Party. Here's your invitation: Oh, the world has grown so clever Since the cross-word puzzle craze—Just to think that once we'd never In the dictionary gaze! Here's an invitation hearty To my cross-word puzzle spree. Be a puzzler at my party; Come and work a few with me.

Write the day, date, time, and place of your party beneath the verse. Clip from old newspapers and magazines cross-word puzzle diagrams, without the definitions, and paste on each invitation. Divide your guests into groups of four, each group to sit around a small table and solve a cross-word puzzle together. Label your tables alphabetically.

Mark off on small squares of cardboard four of each of the table letters. Fasten to each cardboard letter a half-yard length of string. Mix the letters and arrange between the leaves of a large dictionary, leaving the threads hanging out. When your guests have arrived announce that out of the thousands of letters in the dictionary you are going to allow each to draw one. When all have drawn, the four who have letter A sit at table A as partners; the four with letter B sit at table B, and so on until all are seated.

Put a puzzle face down on each table, together with a scratch pad and four well-pointed pencils. Be very sure each pencil has an eraser. If you supply each table with a dictionary they have them all the same. Announce that on signal the puzzles may be turned face up and solved.

The four players at the table first to turn in the correct solution may receive the same prize—some of the little dictionaries which have been in use would be appropriate rewards. If you wish to give one single prize among the top four, let them compete with each other by seeing who can make the best time record in solving using only the letters C-R-O-S-S-W-O-R-D as the first letter of each word. Label the prizes 1, 2, 3, and 4 and let your other guests vote for the one they like best.

Try a letter race. Place a bowl in the centre of each table, filled with the vermilion letters used in soup. Stand a saucer in front of each guest with a few toothpicks. Each guest is to lift out a tiny letter on the toothpick and carefully place it on the saucer. He is to continue doing this, never using more than one toothpick at a time, until the signal to stop. Award a prize to the one with the most letters in his saucer. A can of soup would be a suitable prize.

Efficient Farming

ROUP AND KINDRED AILMENTS.

Roup in its beginning simulates very closely a common cold, but is more sudden of onset, produces greater disturbances in the subject, is prolonged in its course and brings serious consequences.

The mucous membranes of the upper air passages, nostrils, sinuses of the head or eye show evidence of irritation by a discharge, which at first is fluid and watery, and is accompanied by sneezing, coughing and shaking of the head. Cold or catarrh seldom presents more symptoms than these. On the other hand, roup passes through these symptoms to those of greater severity. The discharge becomes denser and more viscid in consistency, sticking the eyelids together, filling the sinuses and blocking the nasal passages. Attempts to clear the eye by wiping the head against the hackle leaves the feathers in a wet and sticky condition. Once the lids are closed the discharge becomes cheese-like in consistency, a similar change taking place in the sinuses and nostrils. The features become greatly distorted through swelling. A similar process may take place in the windpipe, lungs, or abdominal air-sacs.

Cankorous areas may form in the mouth, which are usually covered with a tenacious yellowish-colored false membrane. The larynx may likewise be the seat of these lesions, the membrane occluding the passage, and a fatal termination resulting through suffocation.

As a general rule the subject shows considerable systemic disturbances. The affected bird early isolates itself, becomes listless, takes food sparingly, or not at all; the feathers become ruffled, and the egg-yolk diminishes or ceases entirely. Diarrhoea appears early, in which the feces are of a greenish-yellow color.

Colds seemingly are due to unhygienic environment, and the undesirable condition that is responsible for the disease should be remedied. Colds frequently are brought about by the combination of two or more factors working together, such as dampness followed by a sudden drop in temperature.

Dusty litter, and especially when the dust is due to accumulated pulverized fecal matter is another fruitful cause of irritation likely to result in colds.

Actual causes of colds are exciting causes of roup since derangement of the membranes open up avenues of infection to the actual microbial cause of the latter. It is, therefore, imperative that the first consideration should be directed towards the practice of good hygiene. The patients must be made comfortable. Draughts, dampness, dust or chill must be corrected or avoided. Birds showing serious illness should be kept from the rest of the flock and kept isolated until recovery has taken place.

A purgative is indicated (one-half to one pound of Epsom salts per hundred birds) in order to equalize the circulation (thus relieving congestion) and to clear the gut of effete material.

The administration of drugs to the alimentary tract by means of the drinking water is of questionable value, and may do actual harm by deranging digestion. Sick birds are likely to take a smaller quantity of such fluids when the consumption of a large quantity of water is most desired.

Local medication can be highly recommended and should be applied to all birds in the flock whether or not they are showing evidence of disease or otherwise. The substance used should be non-irritating and of known germicidal value. Argrol in a ten per cent. watery solution has given best results in our treatments and should be applied with a medicine dropper, one drop to each eye, each nostril and to the throat. Daily applications should be given for three or four days, or until cessation of disease is evidenced.

In the isolated cases, the cheesy matter should be removed with tweezers or probe, after which argrol should be applied. Where membranes have formed in the mouth they should be removed and the parts painted with Tr. Iodine.—C. H. Weaver, Animal Pathologist.

WHAT IS A HIRED MAN?

I have noticed several articles in various papers about the species of man known as the farm-hand. From reading these I am led to conclude that the unmarried farm-hand is a sort of pest, about as annoying as a mosquito, and that he is sure not to be there in an emergency.

I am one of these unmarried men, working by the mouth and with an agreement to work the season for my present employer. I want to say a little about the business, for there are things to be said on both sides of the case, and much of that which is written is not written by hired men.

There are all kinds of men engaged in farming, from the "bull-pup" kind of fellow and the pinch-penny gentleman up to the real thoroughbred man. I believe that the farmers who do not deserve a good hired man have been howling the most, for I have noticed that a square-dealing farmer has usually very little trouble with his hired-help question. I believe I know why this is so. Every man that I have worked for has given me a square deal, and I attribute this to several things. One is that I choose my employer.

A look at many would-be employers has often been enough to decide me against them. But when I see a man who makes me feel that he can respect me both in business and in the hours of recreation, it is reasonably safe to hire with him. Then, is the man financially sound? It isn't going to make a man very much put out to be looked up at his local bank, if he knows he is O.K. If he knows he is not O.K. . . . well, that is a different matter.

Respect for an employer keeps a hired man from getting too familiar, something that should not happen for the best of harmony between the two parties. The proverb about "familiarity breeding contempt" is just as much the truth now as it ever was. If the employer is a man who can be respected, the hired man has a very big incentive to conduct himself so that he, too, will be respected.

A good motto for hired men is as follows: "Try to do more than the employer has a right to expect." This does not mean that a man should work himself to death, for in this present day there are certain rather well-established rules about the working day which all employers must adhere to if they want to keep their good men. But it does mean that when an emergency comes up, where initiative and skill are required, that the hired man will be there to carry his share of the load. It does mean that the man is willing to do chores on Sundays and sometimes on special holidays. It means that he is willing to get out of bed when a sudden storm puts some new-born litters of pigs in danger.

RUNNING THINGS FOR THE BOSS.
And now I believe I can give a reason why so many of us get fired. It is the idea, which many of us hired men get, that we should run the business. That is exactly why many a hired man has had a falling out with the boss. We need not complain if we are fired for this reason, for a farmer has a right to be his own boss. Therefore, it is certainly right that he discharge a man who tries to run his affairs. No matter how the employer wants a job done, whether it is the right way to do it or not, it is up to the hired man to do it the way the employer wants it done.

Because a single hired man is usually boarded in his employer's home is no reason why so many of us should try to instruct the boss's young children. I am sorry to say that many of us have a rather questionable line of talk and some colorful curs words. Some of us seem to think it a duty to tell the small boys of the place about things they should not yet know, or should learn from their parents. It is policy, if nothing else, to let the employer's children alone. Be friendly, of course; be square with them, and there is very little chance of being bothered by the children of the employer.

FARM TRAINING A BIG ASSET.
I may now add that to be a farm-hand is not the simple task that so many think it. In order to be a hired man of the first quality it is almost necessary that the hired man be raised on a farm, for farming is a complicated business, which can not be mastered in a month or a year. The best farm-hands are usually young fellows, trained on the farm all their lives, working for the reason that we must have capital in order to operate a farm.

There are so many things that we must know how to do. We must know how to operate all kinds of modern machinery, and to do a good job with it; we must know about the feeding and the care of all kinds of livestock; we must know how to build and repair fences; we must know how to drive two, three, four, six, or eight horses so that they do a good day's work, and we must be able to judge when a horse has done enough.

If the employers would stop to think about the things that they ask their hired help to do, they would understand why so many of the hired men fall to deliver the goods. And when they find the class that "tries to do more than they have a right to expect," employers can count themselves lucky.

PREDICT BACHELOR KING FOR BRITAIN

Even those people who speak forborne of the matrimony of the Prince of Wales are getting uneasy with the announcement that the royal heir will probably visit to South Africa this year, to include a trip to the Argentine, and London despatch. This can only to these Englishmen that another will be added to the interval of Prince announces he has picked a girl to be the future queen.

Englishmen have indeed been the same tale of postponement for five years. Whenever the Prince of Wales remains in London, the period, the busybodies put out a stream of stories intimating that a most interesting announcement on a paper will be forthcoming from Ingham Palace, and even those who the girl is. Such great and to materialize, for the Prince has ped out of the country on a number of future domains just in time of ladies in question have, in most married before his return home.

Few Eligibles Remain.
Now there are not so many eligible for speculation. The Ladies Mary Rachel Cavendish, Lady Mary Lennox and Lady Mary Curzon who were all freely discussed as possible mates for the Prince of Wales have married. In fact, a list of high girls of suitable age, and of a distinctly narrowed, of the Englishmen, has been compiled, and that David Edward is not going to side his father's realm for a bride. Prince will probably have to get his bride from a younger generation.

So interested has the public been in this chapter of his life, His Highness can hardly attend hostilities or dances without a round of who connecting his name with the details being heard immediately throughout Mayfair, then down Southwick and Clapham. Since being from his last trip the Prince successfully counteracted this by not appearing at dances and parties. At present there is no being honored as the prospective cess of Wales.

There are many people in London who whisper that the announcement of the engagement of the Prince of Wales will never come and that is going to be that strange couple bachelor king. Some who profess know even say the Prince has stated he does not want to marry, far as the outward circumstances show, the betting is on their side.

Authors by Accident.

"Talent will out" is one of the proverbs that have proved themselves consistently true. It is really wonderful, indeed, what obstacles it sometimes overcomes, and by what strange paths it comes to completion.

This is particularly true of writers, most of whom started in walks that were far enough removed from writing books.

The world of literature sustains great loss recently in the death of great author, Joseph Conrad, but loss might have been much greater had Conrad remained a seaman.

Another extraordinary example of this kind is Mr. H. G. Wells. He has been a shop assistant and a school teacher before his first novel made appearance.

Thomas Hardy, who is acclaimed as all our most eminent men of letters was an architect; while Conan Doyle whose "Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will never lose popularity was a doctor.

Among the ultra-modern ones could cite Gilbert Frankau, an cigar merchant, while farther back was Dickens, who started life as a boy at a few shillings a week in boot-blacking factory, and later was lawyer's clerk. Thackeray too his forte was the brush rather than the pen, and the same applied to Sam Black.

A story told of Rossetti, who showed Whistler a sketch and asked his opinion of it. Whistler thought it was excellent, and said so. A later Whistler saw the same sketch framed, and asked Rossetti if he'd done anything to it since he last saw it.

"No," said Rossetti. "But I will send to you." "Take the picture out," said Whistler, when the post had reached Rossetti's frame the sonnet.

Others, however, prefer Rossetti's paintings to his poems, while a many of us admire both.

Artificial "Sun" Makes Harvest.
In England, where damp and weather, common during certain seasons, makes a good hay crop very dry, hay is made by means of artificial heat. The hay is stacked while it is green, then is dried in twenty-five days. This invention is expected to save many acres of crops that are every year because of rainy weather at the critical period.

Headphones that press too tight on the head are said to cause "less ear" a linen pad placed on earpiece is recommended as a preventive of this.

ONTARIO BREED BETTER LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

Improvement STOCK

Farmer Proves Value of Pure Bred Bull

W. G. Potter received \$52.25 more for steers sired by a Pure Bred Bull than for steers sired by a Scrub Bull. He shipped five steers from common grade cows of equal merit. The two steers sired by a Scrub Bull brought \$95.55 each, while the three steers sired by the Pure Bred Bull brought \$147.80 each. The steers received the same care.

Fewer and better cattle are more profitable than a larger number of Scrub animals.

Make your cows work for you rather than you should work for them.

June 1924 resolution was to get rid of that Scrub Bull—Have you done it?

BETTER BULLS PAY