

Sunday School Lesson

ANALYSIS
December 22. Lesson XIII—Fellowship Through Service—Psalm 122: 1-9; Hebrews 10: 22-25. Golden Text—As his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day—Luke 4: 16.

I. COMMON WORSHIP. Neh. 8: 1-12; Psalm 122: 1-9; Heb. 10: 12-25.
II. THE MISSIONARY TASK. Micah 4: 1-2; Matt. 28: 18-20.

INTERPRETATION—Worship is originally "worship," and is so spelled in some of its oldest forms. It is the recognition of worth or value. In a religious sense, as it is used here, it means doing homage to God our Lord, our King, our Father, in heaven, in whose power, goodness, and love we see the highest and the best of which our minds have, or can have, any knowledge. It is "recognition in the Divine Personality as revealed in our Lord Jesus Christ of the highest value."

The Christian church began as a fellowship—a group of disciples, sometimes alone, sometimes with others, gathered about a Master, whom they came more and more to admire and love, until admiration and love grew into worship. It continued, but it was parted from them as a company of disciples and friends, even with others whom they drew into their circle, who kept alive memory, who were conscious of the presence of his spirit with them, and who "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (of teaching) and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." From Jerusalem they soon spread abroad, and similar companies of those who believed in Jesus and endeavored to follow his way of life were formed wherever his gospel was preached. The ideals of such a fellowship are present in many messages of the letters of the apostles (Rom. 1: 12; Gal. 6: 2; 1 Thess. 5: 11-23).

I. COMMON WORSHIP. Neh. 8: 1-12; Psalm 122: 1-9; Heb. 10: 12-25.

Each of us alone may come to God in worship, bringing our thanksgiving, our confessions, and petition for our individual needs. In such private prayer we need not, and do not, forget the needs of others, but pray to God for them as for ourselves. But there is no doubt that in the company of others, like us with ourselves, our worship seems "more satisfying and more complete; we are more conscious of the presence of God and the power of his spirit. That these are emotions to this experience is true, but it seems to be generally the fact that in fellowship God seems most near. The discipline of common worship is necessary for all who would enter into the fulness of the Christian life.

The story of the great service, or rather series of services, of worship, by Ezra and Nehemiah (Ezra 1-18) is full of interest. This is not in these days, at least, very men's hand. Many of Jerusalem and Judah show own history, I had come Babylon.

Presence. He exhorts, therefore, that with pure hearts, and in confident faith, they draw near to God in adoration and praise, and that they hold without wavering their good hope of salvation in Christ, for, he says, "We can rest on him who gat us the promise." And, he continues, "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good deeds—not ceasing to exhort one another." (Moffatt). Like many others in the latter part of the first century he believed that "the day," the great day of Christ's return, was drawing near, and the opportunities for helping one another and confirming one another in the faith were, therefore few.

III. THE MISSIONARY TASK. Micah 4: 1-2; Matt. 28: 18-20.

PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT foretold a time when the nations would come to Jerusalem to learn the ways of God, Isa. 2: 2-4; Micah 4: 1-5. Our Lord sent his apostles out to carry the truth of his gospel to the nations. Matt. 28: 18-25. The expectation of the prophet was in essential agreement. The precious trust committed to Jerusalem must be made to all men. That is the duty of Israel, as Jehovah's servant, to be a "light to the Gentiles," and "salvation unto the end of the earth." It is the fulfillment of prophetic teaching in Jesus, that his apostles are bidden to preach to all the world. And with the commandment there goes his gracious promise, "Lo I am with you always."

It was from a company of Christian people in Antioch that the first designated missionaries of the cross went forth. That which they had discovered led to much so great value to themselves that they desired to share with others. Through them the Holy Spirit spoke, and Barnabas and Saul were sent "recommended to the grace of God for the work." A true Christian fellowship is inevitably missionary in spirit (Acts 13: 1-3; 14: 26), as was the church in Antioch.

RADIO QUIT RUMOR STARTED

Penguin Island, Believed Lost, Still Above Sea, Paris Learns

Paris.—One pleasant report reached the French government yesterday. The news came to the Ministry of Colonies that St. Paul Island, more commonly known here as Penguin Island, was still standing in the middle of the Indian Ocean, continuing to make a part of the French colonial empire.

Its fate has been worrying M. Tardeau's government and Paris public opinion, since nothing had been heard from St. Paul's inhabitants for more than two months. The suggestion was made that the island had been swallowed up by the ocean as a result of an earthquake.

It is true that news from that bit of rock, somewhere between Cape Horn and Australia, never had been frequent. No boats called there except in case of emergency. Monthly radio flashes were the only contact with the outer world for the dozen seafarers living there.

But two months had gone, and no flashes had come through. The French authorities asked, therefore, that a steamer bound from Cape Town to Australia go somewhat out of its way to see what had happened to St. Paul. The Earphiles found the island still rising out of the ocean in 32 degrees latitude, 71.3 degrees longitude. All the seafarers were alive, though as usual, in failing for winter, cracking it in the rolling sprays and getting the two ready to be carried back to South Africa and thence to England.

The only trouble was that the radio apparatus had ceased to work.

WHAT'S OUT?

That's out! With regard to sources, it is to be hoped that the tribes and people of Israel. That seems to have been in the mind of David when he chose the Jewish stronghold, and made it his capital city. 2 Sam. 5: 6-10. The coming up of the tribes to the valley is a testimony to their unity, as is also the high course, the "thrones of judgment." Therefore, will the influence, for the peace of Jerusalem, for their own and their brethren's sake, and for the sake of their common sanctity.

The passage chosen in the Decalogue from the Hebrew (ch. 10: 19-25) contains an earnest exhortation to Christian fellowship and works. The writer assumes that he, and those whom he well may have come through Jesus, as well as have come through Jesus, of that rest—for joy, or for goodness, or for the sake of their common sanctity.

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or for the sake of their common sanctity.

A kind look will win its reward.

MUTT AND JEFF BY BUD FISHER



Old Town On the Thames Suffers Heavy Loss



HALF-MILLION DOLLAR BLAZE SWEEPS CHATHAM

All the furniture that was saved from the Garner Hotel, Chatham, after the fire of December 29, the worst in the history of the city.

Wall Street Crash

Something Subtly Harmful to the Spirit of the Nation Occurs When So Many People Make So Much Money Without Earning it by Productive Labor

It was announced by the Stock Exchange that the total market value of all stocks listed on the exchange has declined from about \$17,414,600,000 on October 3 to \$14,350,400,000 on November 1, a decline of 23.9%, 200,000. A high record value was reached on September 1st, with 17,933,600,000.

Daily Telegram, New York Correspondent

The weekly reviews of America, the organs of serious thought, are concerned about recent happenings in Wall Street. The "New Republic" in a sarcasm article says:

"Is there anybody who would argue that the behavior of the stock exchange during the past month is a useful element in the nation's life? What good does it do to wealth which is so closely associated with the life of the nation? We may do something to make the stock market serve the purpose it is supposed to serve."

John Bull's Hat Is "In the Ring"

Britain Out to Regain Trade Lost to U.S. in South America

London—William Graham, president of the Board of Trade, at a dinner to diplomats of three South American countries, said that it was the immediate British task to regain the former trade position in South America, with all friendliness toward the United States, and to improve it if possible.

He stated that Great Britain had held important positions in the markets of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay before the war, but found after the conflict that the United States had largely stepped into his shoes. He referred with appreciation to the members in which a recent British trade mission was received in those countries.

The Brazilian Ambassador, Uruguayan Minister and Argentine Chargé d'Affaires were the guests of honor in the crimson and gilt banqueting room of Lancaster House. In addition to Mr. Graham, Foreign Secretary Henderson, Lord Avernon and Sir Ronald Lindsay, recently appointed Ambassador to Washington, were among the distinguished leaders present.

People who have saved money want to put it to work for them. They buy shares. It is convenient to have a central market where this can be done. It is useful to have a place where the interplay of buyers and sellers can determine the values of what is for sale.

Even speculators may contribute.

According to theory, to the usefulness of such an institution. By buying or selling according to their estimates of future value, they shoulder many of the risks inherent in such a market. They help to stabilize prices.

The use of credit for leading industrial concerns, or speculators, can also be justified. It helps to carry new enterprises until they can be absorbed by investors. It smooths over the price phases. If the stock market is operated according to theory, there would be little complaint until we say that this order was not only valuable in itself, but represented the beginning of an enormous thing."

FOUNDATIONS

Human society rests on inscrutably deep foundations, which he is of all others the most mistaken who fails to explore the bottom.

Carlyle

He has explored the bottom.

That Makes Everything Even.

How Baden-Powell Sponge Divers Was Nearly Killed Attain Great Depth

Matabele Up Tree Missed Boy Scout Founder by Hair's Breadth

Well Trained Man Can Remain Under Four Minutes

The nude divers of Calymnos and Syme, famed for centuries, have the world's record for depth. They descend, it is stated, even to 250 feet, the masters among them, well-trained sponge diver can remain under four minutes; but two minutes is usual, and half-hour spells between plunges are needed, while Charles Barrett in the Cape Argus.

This American holder of a British D.S.O., and chief of scouts under Lord Roberts during the South African War, told the hitherto undisclosed story of how a single Matabele warrior, in 1866, nearly prevented the creation of the Scout movement.

Resting Under Trees

The then Major Baden-Powell was resting with his officers under a big tree where he learned the lesson that a scout must look up as well as down, said Major Burnham, who continued:

The next morning the Matabele warrior had made the last great attack of his nation to capture Bulawayo and destroy the State. The battle was won in the afternoon and the mounted white men had been joined with his big gun to him. But strangely, the white Indians, fearlessly chose his particular tree to sit under. While they rested their scented horses and gathered their scanty meal.

Suddenly the thoughts must have come to this Matabele—I hold the life of one of these Indians, even of my own race, in my hands. They are only a few feet below me, my nation is lost, my race is constantly defeated by the white man instinct to gamble, but we may yet select the most commanding individual.

The Chief Scout was the one selected to die, but the Matabele missed him, striking the Major's broadsword at the base of the tree. Let me tell that as his soul sped from the black body some angel of solace relieved his seraph. For, if he had but known, had he killed that Indian he would have destroyed an idea that at this time will assume even such magnitude as the world.

Scouting will enable his people and all his race to live without humiliations and have their proper place in the sun, yet not destroy the white man.

Many secrets of sponge life remain to be discovered; our life history is incomplete, in the case of commercial kinds.

Young sponges are produced from eggs, and after enjoying life awhile as free-swimming organisms, while they decide to settle down and become staid creatures. Their permanent posts may be at a depth of 600 feet or more, but many are found at 100 feet; others in the shallows.

How and what does a sponge do in all this?

That's a question not easily answered.

The Empire Movement

Johannesburg Sunday Times: A cable cabled at the time, the Trade Union Congress at Belfast was astonished to discover in its president, Mr. Tillett, M.P., of the Transport Workers' Union, an ardent disciple of imperialist policy. Mr. Tillett's conversion to the practical, less theoretical aspects of imperialism is the more remarkable owing to the fact that he was formerly regarded as a "radical," a firebrand, and enthusiast who sought to stir up class hatred, a man with "Fight at any price" as his motto, and one who witnessed so happy an era when he was creating tumult in the industrial world. It is difficult to set the man in his place in the history of his country.

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OPPORTUNITIES

Difficulties are opportunities, my old schoolmaster used to tell us, but he wisely left us to discover what he meant and to find for ourselves the answer to the question, "Opportunities for what?" He never allowed us to plead the existence of difficulty as an excuse for leaving anything undone, nor were we permitted to hope to survive our trials in place of overcoming them. Probably this is why so many of his pupils have found a high place in every sphere of life.

Lord D'Abernon told of his recent visit on a trade mission and, with reference to the \$45,000,000 trade agreement negotiated with Argentina, he said at Belfast, "I should be broken down, not raised, if those who, in this country, have educated me to ignore persistently the bitter side of their bread."

Prosperity and Unemployment

Dunedin Irish Times: In New Zealand unemployment has been rare for some years. The islands of the Dominion support as few people as a single Irish province, but it is so difficult to find employment for those few that successive governments have discouraged immigration. This state of affairs has occurred at a time when exports have risen to an almost prodigious figure—a time when the Dominion's produce is bringing good prices and when the banks are full of money on deposit. To the eye of the economist, searching ledgers and balance sheets, New Zealand is prospering, nevertheless, for a considerable proportion of the people there is neither work nor wages. The paradox would be perplexing if it were not repeated in other lands. New Zealand's difficulty is that her economy is organized for production of crops and cattle rather than for the support of men. New Zealand, in effect, is discovering that mixed farming is the farm that supports a large population.

MOMENTS

What moments can we not all remember in our lives when it would have been so much wittier and easier to say and do nothing.—W. M. Thackeray.

GRACES

It takes both grace and grit to get along pleasantly with people who never make mistakes.