

Sunday School Lesson

June 10. Lesson 15.—The Arrest and Trial.—Mark 14: 1-15. Golden Text.—He was despised, and rejected of men.—Isa. 53: 3.

SUBJECT

JESUS OR BARABBAS?

INTRODUCTION—What Judas betrayed to the authorities is not certain from our narratives. It may have been the personal claim of Jesus to be the Messiah. It may have been his anointing at Bethany (Mark 14: 3-11), which his enemies might construe as a public proclamation of his royalty. It may have been his whereabouts on the night of his arrest. It may have been all three. In any case, Jesus was set upon in the Garden of Gethsemane at a moment when he had no protection other than the presence of three disciples, and taken to the High Priest's house, Mark 14:42-52. There an informal examination of witnesses took place, and Jesus was asked by Caiaphas to declare whether he was the Messiah. His affirmative answer was pronounced to be blasphemy, a crime for which the Law appointed the penalty of death.

But the Jewish Sanhedrin had no power to inflict the death penalty. This belonged entirely to the Roman procurator, who, since A.D. 26, had been Pontius Pilate, an officer with a very bad record. The Jewish authorities, therefore, conducted Jesus to Pilate, and formally indicted him as a rebel who claimed to be "the king of the Jews." No accusation in history ever signified a worse perversion of the facts than did this accusation. Jesus had from the beginning refused to give any kind of political complexion either to the kingdom of God or to his own Messiahship. His enemies brought the charge out of hatred, willfully misrepresenting his real claims. They knew that this particular misrepresentation would have the desired effect of procuring his condemnation at the hands of the Roman authority. In the present lesson we have some account of the proceedings before Pilate.

V. 1. The official seat of the Roman procurators of Judaea was not Jerusalem but Caesarea. But it was the custom of the procurators to move to Jerusalem at festival seasons, such as the Passover, in order to keep an eye on the proceedings. There was a danger of insurrection occurring at times when the city was thronged with pilgrims.

V. 2. The Jewish accusers of Jesus would have already instructed Pilate regarding the case against Jesus. They appear to have put a political complexion upon his claims in order to awaken the suspicions of the Roman authority. Only thus do we understand Pilate's abrupt interrogation, addressed to Jesus, "Art thou the king of the Jews?" Jesus' answer, "Thou sayest," means that he does indeed claim to be king (Messiah) of the Jews, but that he will not further discuss the nature of the claim. All this he had made plain to the nation, and he will not further argue with them.

Vs. 3-5. For the same reason Jesus will not any longer defend himself against the misrepresentations of the Jewish authorities. He had declared the truth by his life and not even Pilate's expostulations will draw him into further explanations. Jesus' attitude recalls the Old Testament description of the servant of Jehovah in Isaiah 53:7: "As a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth."

Vs. 6-10. Pilate is baffled. He was a man who in his official administration had been guilty of crimes and miscarriages of justice against his Jewish subjects. Now for once, ironically enough, he is anxious to be conciliatory; and as it was the governor's prerogative to grant amnesty to a political prisoner at each Passover season, he proposes to dismiss the present case against Jesus. But this was not to the mind of the Jewish authorities. Pilate made the offer cynically, recognizing that the Jewish attitude of Jesus was inspired by malignity. But the Jews recalled the existence of another prisoner Barabbas, who was in custody for a political crime, and this enabled them to turn the edge of Pilate's skillful overture. The rebellion, for complicity in which Barabbas was condemned to die, is thought by some scholars to have had some connection with Jesus' appearance in Jerusalem. The report that a Messiah had appeared kindled political inclinations to which Jesus himself gave no countenance, but which nevertheless asserted themselves in revolutionary quarters.

Vs. 11-15. When Pilate, therefore,

willing "to do the Jews a favor," offered to grant clemency to one prisoner, the Jews, instigated by the priestly authorities and alienated by the fact that Jesus had refused to support their national hopes, asked for Barabbas. Thereupon, Pilate enquires their will regarding Jesus, and they reply by demanding that he be sentenced to death. And so Jesus was rejected by the nation. The Son of God is delivered into the hands of the heathen ruler to be scourged and crucified. Sinless himself, he is made to suffer for the sins of the nation which he came to save. The crimes which he had condemned are laid upon his own innocent head.



IRRESISTIBLE

It features the moulded hipline that Paris decrees is the smartest movement of fashion. Style No. 928 is decidedly feminine, and is irresistibly developed in sheer figured georgette crepe with harmonizing bows of canton faille crepe ribbon. Chanel red georgette crepe, Marine blue silk, lustrous flat silk crepe and black canton faille crepe. Pattern in sizes 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust measure. Size 36 requires 2 1/2 yards of 40-inch material with 1 1/2 yards of 2 1/2-inch ribbon. Price 20c the pattern.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by return mail.

Recipes

Mock Raspberry Jam

Use tame or wild mulberries and mix with red plums, tame or wild, using equal parts of each. Cook until tender. Rub through a colander and to this pulp add an equal weight of sugar. Cook until thick. Seal in sterile jars. This makes a delicious spread from fruits that usually go to waste.

Rhubarb Marmalade

Use 1 quart sliced rhubarb, 5 large apples, sliced, 2 cups raisins, 1/2 lemon or 1 orange, sliced, and 4 cups sugar. Place the ingredients in a kettle and add water barely to cover the fruit. Cook until the mixture is thick. Pour in sterile jars and seal.

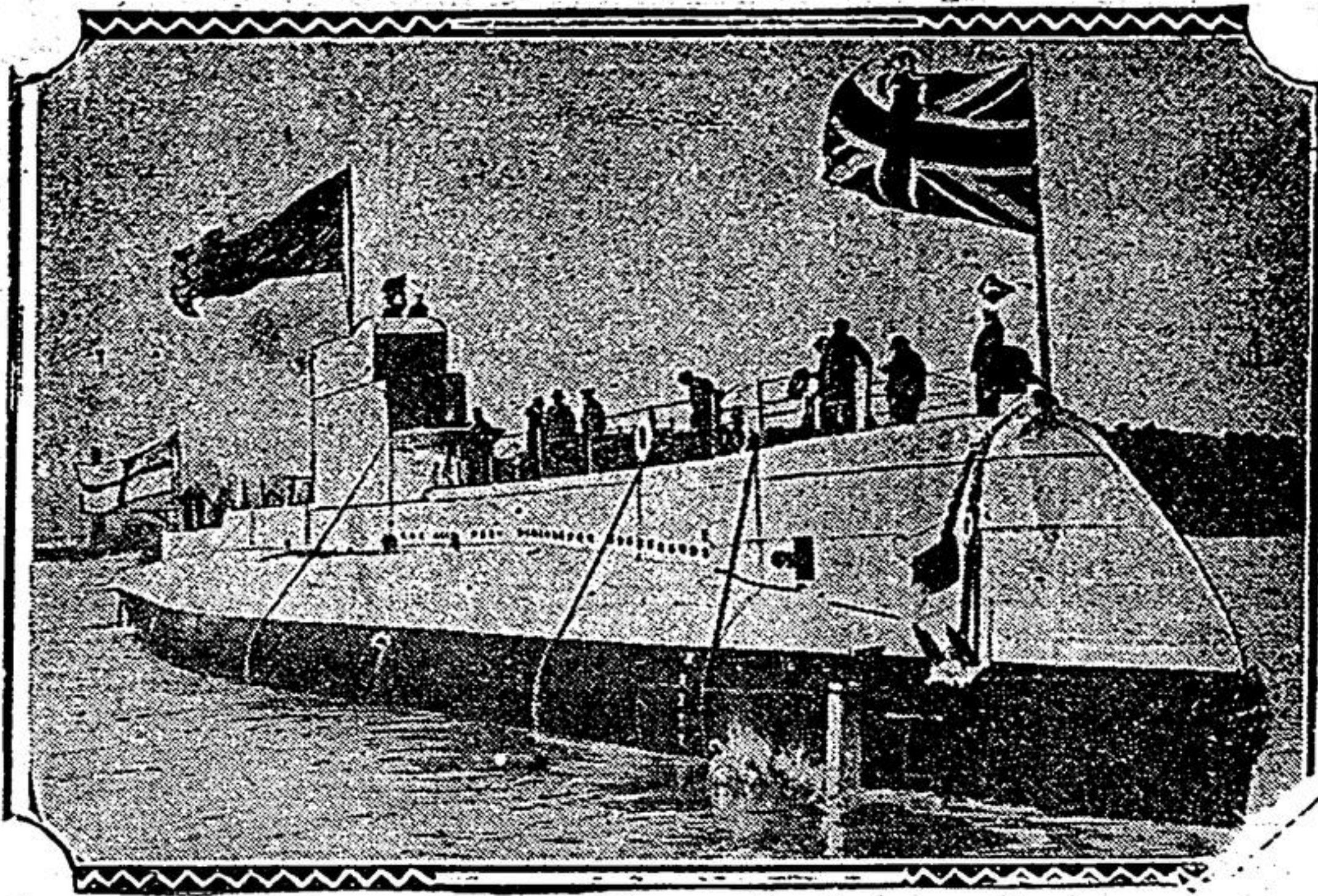
Cherry Marmalade

Use 2 pounds cherries, 1 pound raisins, 3 oranges, juice and rind, grated, and 4 pounds sugar. Add barely enough water to cover and cook until thick. Seal in sterile jars.

A famous beauty thinks there is no man good enough for her. Well, she may be right and she may be left.

That London hospital patient who laughed continuously for seventeen hours had probably just heard of "Big Bill" Thompson's war on King George. —Louisville Times.

A Strong Addition To Britain's Sea Power



"ODIN" IS THE NEWEST OF GREAT BRITAIN'S SUBMARINES. This undersea craft was launched a short time ago at Chatham dockyards by Mrs. Stirling, wife of the admiral superintendent of the dockyard, when this picture was secured.

Oxen Still Pull Plows in River Counties of Ohio

Planes Drone Overhead as Ancient Carriers Plod On Over Hills and Fields

Gallipolis, Ohio.—Oxen still do the heavy hauling for many hill farmers in the southern Ohio River counties, nor is it uncommon to see the beasts drawing a plow.

Time has not moved so swiftly in these isolated hills as it has outside and the people cling, often by necessity, to methods of their forefathers. While airplanes drone overhead the farmers laboriously till by hand their patches of grain on the steep hillsides, sometimes calling oxen into service. The ox teams, consisting of as many as four yokes, also are used for logging and for hauling heavy loads over the soft roads where trucks would flounder helplessly.

When the family needs bread, a sack of grain is thrown across old Dobbin's back and Johnny rides to the water-propelled grist mill and waits until the grain is ground into coarse meal. These mills, once located at every settlement, are now scattered, operating only in the innermost hill regions and taking their power from streams.

There are some homes of comparative modern construction, but log cabins chinked with clay dot the hillsides. Many reasons are manifest for the

seeming halt of time here for a century or more. The clay hillsides do not yield crops willingly. The region is so hemmed in by hills that many of the residents refer to the rest of the world as "the outside."

Tree Maladies Afflict Half of World's Timber

More than half of the trees in the world are sick. Many of them are afflicted with incurable diseases. Like human beings, says "Thrifty Magazine," trees are the victims of numerous ills. They are constantly the prey of deadly parasites which attack every part from roots to topmost branches and work into the very heart of the wood. Millions upon millions of fine trees every year die needlessly because their owners failed to appreciate their mute appeals for help.

Seventy-five per cent. of all shade and fruit trees are afflicted with V-shaped crotches, which are sure to spread and kill the trees unless taken care of in time.

Many trees die of hunger or thirst, or both. Trees are living things and they must have water and nourishment. The top of a tree is a perfect index of the general health and vitality of the trunk and branches, although the health of the top has no direct connection with internal decay. Good rich green foliage indicates, as a rule, excellent vitality and an active condition of the roots.

What men like: Girls with brains enough to tell them how wonderful they are.—New York Morning Telegraph.

Dog Holds His Own in Arctic Regions

Will Not Be Displaced by Airplane, Says Dr. Nansen —Dirigible Finds Place

New York.—Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, veteran polar explorer, is convinced that the airplane will not displace the dog-sled as the explorer's most useful equipment in polar regions, and that the dog will continue to be his staunch companion and colleague in the arctic. In a lecture before the American Geographic Society, Dr. Nansen said that in the expedition to the arctic which he plans to undertake next year he will use a dirigible and dog-sleds. The dirigible, which has a gas content of 105,000 cubic meters, will leave Murmansk, North Siberia, next spring, for the unexplored polar territory, he said.

Dr. Nansen said that airplanes are unsuited to arctic exploration because they cannot land on rough places and cannot carry enough men and supplies. In the antarctic, he said, the ice is smoother and airplanes could be used to better advantage.

Dr. Nansen said that polar exploration is just in its infancy.

"Now," he said, "the pioneer work is done," he said, "we will have to go in for some real exploration."

Among the problems which challenge the explorer, he mentioned mapping of the polar basin through soundings, exploration of the higher atmosphere by means of kites and balloons, study of the northern lights and correlation of arctic atmospheric conditions with weather conditions all over the world.

A National Church

The Dean of Durham in the Manchester Guardian (Lib.): If I may speak for myself alone, I have always felt a certain anxiety lest the Church Assembly should deliberately or even undesignedly change the character of the Church from that of a national Church into a sect. It has seemed to me that a good many speakers in the Church Assembly are inclined to discuss such notions as are brought before them with a view to the real or supposed interests of the Church alone and not to those of the nation as well as of the Church. But there is all the difference between a Church which decides as far as possible her moral and religious policy by a sense of responsibility for the highest welfare of the nation as a whole and a Church which thinks only of her own members and not of all Christian or even non-Christians outside her pale, an therefore exercises little or no influence upon the national life. Whatever may happen now in Parliament, it will not, I hope, prove impossible to preserve the national character of the Church of England.

Sportsmanship

When the Prince of Wales presented the British open golf championship cup to Walter O. Hagen at Sandwich, it was the fifth straight time, and the seventh time in the last eight years, that this cherished trophy had been won from Great Britain by the United States. This in itself is an accomplishment worthy of note; but there were two phases connected with the 1928 tournament which must go down in history as worthwhile features of sporting competition.

The first and foremost was the splendid sportsmanship which prevailed throughout the event, especially that shown by the British. To have their trophy won by an outsider could but be a disappointment, and when the Prince of Wales could pay such a fine tribute in presenting the trophy as to say, "Overseas entries have added keen competition to our open championships. We are getting a little jealous, but always want the best man to win. We hope the overseas golfers will continue to come until, as they say in America, we are able to 'put one over' on them," he was showing to the world that the British are just as big in defeat as in victory.

The second was the fine "comeback" and sportsmanship of Hagen. In accepting the cup, he said that he was "lucky to win, very lucky indeed." Good fortune may have followed him in the tournament; but when a golfer can go through an open championship with a card of 292 for 72 holes of play, it shows a fine degree of skill. Considering the fact that he had just been defeated by an English player by the overwhelming score of 13 up in a 72-hole match, his playing in this tournament must be regarded as a splendid comeback.

Some of the British professionals plan to compete in the United States open championship this summer, and it will be up to the American's to show them the same fine sportsmanship which they have just received.—Editorial in Christian Science Monitor.



HER PREFERENCE

"Madam, do you like the Cinema?" "Well, yes I do, but I believe I like the peppermint better."

Women and Work

W. L. A. in the Leeds Mercury: (In Victorian days unmarried women who were not of the working class "would have turned pale at the idea of soiling their white hands with rough work. They clung to old and pathetic traditions of ladyhood, and, like the old soldier in the Army classic, slowly faded away.") We are beginning to look back upon all that wasted womanhood as one of the great blots on Victorian common-sense. It is better for women that they should work, and it is better for the country. When economists tell us with one voice that if this country is to make an end of its troubles it must work harder, how can we order home all those women who are working cheerfully and helpfully, making money, gaining in self-respect, and enriching the resources of the country?

Intelligence

Glasgow Herald (Cons.): Intelligence is an inherited characteristic which grows year by year in childhood, and is fully developed about 16 or 17, after which you may cultivate the mind through study and experience; but not by the measure of a brain cell can you increase your "intelligence." Many grown-ups, and some of them successful as the world counts success, if tested scientifically, would find that their "intelligence" was no more than that of their school-boy son of 12.

MUTT AND JEFF—By Bud Fisher



Is There No Limit to Jeff's Inventive Ability?