

Sunday School Lesson

March 27. Lesson XIII—Jesus Rises From the Dead (Easter Lesson)—John 20: 1-13. Golden Text—But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept.—1 Corinthians 15: 20.

ANALYSIS.

I. THE APPEARANCE TO MARY, 20: 11-18.
II. THE APPEARANCE TO THE DISCIPLES, 20: 19-20.

INTRODUCTION—John's aim in this chapter is to show the gradual dawning of faith in the resurrection among the disciples, until it blazed into full light in the confession of Thomas, v. 28. He is concerned mainly in bringing out its spiritual meaning for the church.

The church was built on the faith that Christ was still alive and active in the world. That faith was based on the experience of those who were convinced that they had seen the Lord, and upon the evidence that he was alive in power among his followers in this very world, whence his feet thought they had banished him, and going on with the work which Calvary had interrupted. The resurrection faith was, in the first place therefore, based upon the resurrection appearances.

I. THE APPEARANCE TO MARY, 20: 11-18.

The body of Jesus, having received only temporary burial on Friday evening, was to be properly embalmed as soon as the Sabbath was past. Mary Magdalene it was when went early, as the grey dawn was breaking, to the tomb (v. 1) to find the stone which had been laid against the face of it removed. Something told her that her Lord was no longer there. Raising a hue and cry, she soon had others at the tomb, v. 2. Upon "the disciple whom Jesus loved" who had been at the tomb, v. 3. But both he and Peter were still uncertain. Had they thought the body had been stolen they would have informed Joseph of Arimathea. Had they been convinced that Jesus had come to life again, they would certainly have sought him out and arranged a lodging. As it was, they were perplexed, and they went home to ponder over it all.

But Mary lingered near. Through her tears she saw a vision of angels, but from them she learned nothing. Becoming conscious of some one, the gardener (who else would be abroad so early?), she asked, "Tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away," v. 15—with her weak arms—but eager love knew no weakness. Then came the greatest recognition seen in all literature—"Mary," "Rabboni!" Two words, but they changed her world for her, and for us all.

In the first flush of her joy, she started forward to embrace him. "Touch me not," he said, or "cease clinging to me."—Dr. Moffatt. Mary must now learn another and a higher way of knowing her Lord. This higher way will not, however, begin until he has ascended, v. 17. This is John's way of teaching that the true proof of the resurrection and the true possession of the risen Christ are not to be our "in resurrection appearances" or physical contacts. They are to be realized in the normal experience of the believer.

He sends her immediately to tell the brethren, not his blood-relations, but his spiritual brethren, his disciples. The reciving of the Good News is always followed by the sharing of it with others.

II. THE APPEARANCE TO THE DISCIPLES, 20: 19-20.

That same evening, the first Christian Sunday evening, the eleven were together, locked in for fear of the Jews, v. 19. When the news would reach the authorities that the body of Jesus was gone, suspicion would most likely fall upon his disciples of stealing it. Hence the locked door.

Christians are still living behind the closed doors of fear, afraid to be considered enthusiastic, afraid of public opinion, and thereby render their lives largely useless. We often close the door on Christ unwittingly. Sometimes our friendships close the door on many noble things, among them, the beauty of Jesus Christ. But he comes through our closed door. Suddenly the Master was in the room with them, v. 19. Coming, he brought peace to his own. Inner peace—in the midst of outer conflict, such is the Christian's heritage. "What difference does religion make a man's life?" For one thing, it can keep him cool and brave when others are flustering, enable him to live through life's hazards and confusion with a brightness and a courage which

are the wonder of those who have not the secret. "Fear not," he says to all, "I am with you." The essential thing about the Resurrection is the continued life and presence of Jesus Christ. Had there not been something more than a bodily appearance, nothing much would have happened. It is the "something more" that has made all the difference. The thing that matters is not "how" the still living Lord made himself known to a few people nineteen hundred years ago, but that, since his death on Calvary, he has been touching men with the same quickening and renewing power that he always had.

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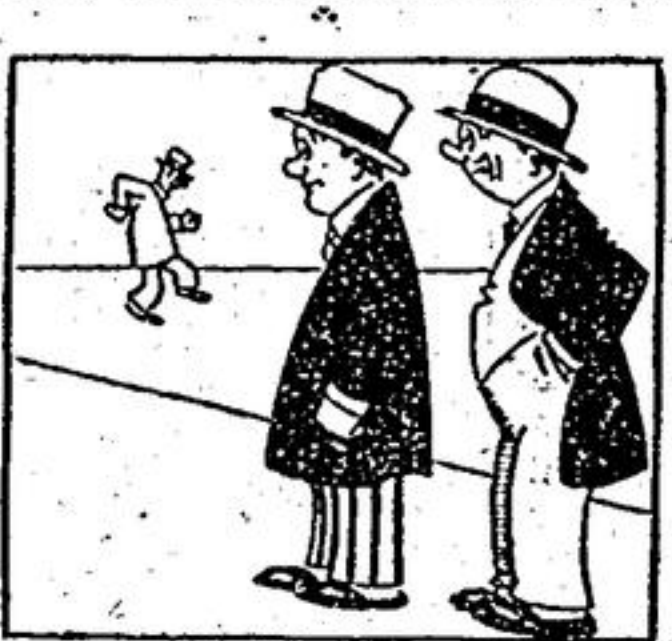
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Ted—Looks like Tom has been out on a lark.
Bill—Yes, and I should say he was having a bird of a time.

Reminiscences

One of the stories told by Elsie Janis in her breezy reminiscences "So Far, So Good," is of her first meeting with Mary Pickford. It was in the 1890's when, as child prodigies, both appeared on the same "bill" at Shea's Theatre, Toronto. Mary Pickford—then known as "Baby Gladys Smith"—was playing in a sketch, while Elsie Janis—as "Little Elsie"—did "an act" all by herself. She was seven and something as a "star" already, having been on the stage for two years. Mary was younger, for, Elsie recalls, "they had to carry her on."

The two "kiddies" became great friends—as did their mothers, by the way, for they had much in common—and have remained so ever since. Elsie remembers that "Mary would gaze wide-eyed at my array of dresses, hanging on the dressing-room wall, a different one for each performance, and two performances a day.

"Mother," she would say plaintively, 'do you suppose I will ever have pretty dresses like those?'"

There are lots of chuckles—and just a few sighs—in the Janis book, beginning with the title itself "So Far, So Good!" As all the world knows, Elsie was married recently. This is how she started reminiscing:

"There can be no doubt that I have reached the years of indiscretion. "For the first time in my life I have lost my sense of humor over a man!"

PEEPS AT CELEBRITIES.

Caruso (at dinner in the Janis apartment): "Singing his requests for more potatoes, and ah-ah-ah-ing right up to high C for another piece of bread, then drawing caricatures of us all on the 'company' tablecloth! What a good, bad little boy he was!"

Irving Berlin: "Irving became like a son to Mother. He reminded her of Percie (Elsie's dead brother). He didn't remind me of anyone, but I loved him! I still do, and I'll slap his face if he ever says he felt like a brother toward me!"

MORE PEEPS.

Queen Alexandra (in the Royal box at a London theatre where Elsie Janis, in her make-up, had been presented to her): "As I was leaving, Queen Alexandra pulled one of my curls and said: 'Ah! They don't come off! I murmured something to the effect that if they came off for anyone they would for her, shook her hand again and saying, 'Good-bye, Your Majesty,' I ran out."

Michael Arlen (the novelist—born an Armenian): "I met Michael Arlen, whose answer to my inquiry as to what nationality he was, is typical: 'I'm the last of the Armenian atrocities,' he said!"

Elsie Janis tells an amusing story about one of her youthful admirers—the grandson of a wealthy brewer—who was a constant visitor at the Janis home, and whom she nicknamed "Happy," because of his smile. He it was (she chuckles) who, when the San Francisco earthquake occurred, and his grandfather donated \$100,000 to the relief fund, telegraphed that distinguished philanthropist, "Remember, Governor, charity begins at home!"

To which Happy, "who was busy cutting classes at Yale and capers in New York," replied, "If you were where I am, you would never go home!"

The utter inability to recognize photographs of themselves, or of their surroundings, is characteristic of all savages, says Martin Johnson (in "Congo: Adventures with Pygmies and Gorillas in Africa..."). He tells of taking pictures of the Pygmies who accompanied him on a camera hunt for gorillas in the Congo, and afterwards showing them prints.

"They would take these pictures," he says, "turn them upside down and all around without the slightest conception as to what they were."

"I would display a perfect likeness of one or more of a group, but not a Pygmy would recognize a person in the picture," he adds. "It was exactly the same with scenes. I could take a reproduction of a native hut, show the scene of a Pygmy and also the picture. He would have no idea of what the photograph meant and could not associate it with the original."



Richard Landry, Ottawa valley boy, winner of the Klwanis junior dog derby at Pembroke a few days ago, with his dog and sleigh.

Curiously enough, some are able to grasp motion pictures, but show little interest in them.

Mr. Johnson instances a special show he gave the "boys" who had accompanied the expedition. After watching the motion picture—in which most of them appeared—silently, they talked together in low tones. Finally, one of them walked up to Johnson.

"When do we get paid?" he asked. "Paid!" shouted Johnson. "What do you mean paid?"

"Well, you told us to come here." "That was the native reaction to my efforts to entertain these African blacks," comments Johnson.

The publication of a book by Beau Brummell ("Male and Female Costume"), written over one hundred years ago when the "King of the Dandies" was at the height of his glory, recalls that it was said of him that "women admired him, but men almost revered him." The Beau never married, but that he was not indifferent to the companionship and charm of the ladies, there is ample evidence. Lewis Melville (in his "Life and Letters" of Brummell) tells of an occasion when the Beau was staying at a country house.

"I must leave here this morning," he said unexpectedly to his host.

"But," the other expostulated, "you were not going until the end of the week."

"True; quite true," the Beau concurred, "but I really must be off."

His host, however, was not satisfied, and plied him with questions, until at last Brummell, in desperation blurted out:

"Well, the fact is, I am in love with your wife."

"Why, my dear fellow, so was I twenty years ago," remarked the lady's husband, hoping to put his guest at his ease. Then a thought struck him and he inquired:

"Is she in love with you?"

"I believe she is."

"That alters the case," the host said with decision. "I will send for your post-horses immediately."

U.S. Leads in Telephones

The United States continued in the first rank of countries using the telephone. Statistics compiled by the Canadian government show that the United States has one phone for every eight inhabitants; Canada, one for every seven; New Zealand, one for every five, and Denmark, one for every four and a half persons.

Paderewski

1912-1932

A cabin door
And the slow dropping of golden notes
Upon the boy and girl sitting on the steps outside.
The great ship heaves upon the waters;
And up above the white gulls are flying.
Dipping, circling and floating upon a tropic sea;
And the golden notes are dropping
Slowly upon the boy and the girl.

You have forgotten the ship, Paderewski;
You have forgotten the boy and the girl;
But the music you have not forgotten,
And I who sit here to-day have forgotten nothing.

Like a great orchestra you are beating
Against the bronze doors of time:
The white gulls are no longer flying;
The page that was not written has been written;
France has taken and Poland has spoken;
But above the wild beating the notes
Of liquid gold remain.

—A. Jacqueline Shaw, in The Christian Science Monitor.

A Road Across Europe
Eight countries are combining in a scheme for making an international highway across Europe for motorists. The road is to run direct from London to Constantinople, a distance of nearly 2,000 miles, and in each country the authorities are being urged to make it a uniform width.

It is probable that a 24-hour customs service will be arranged in each of the eight countries, and new customs officers established by the roadside if the scheme is carried out.

All this is good news. The more we see of our neighbors the more we should understand them, and understanding is one of the most powerful peace makers in the world.—The War Cry (London).

Anti-Noise in the Station

In the big Paris railway station, the station master used to wave his flag, the guard blew his whistle, the driver let off a little steam, and the train slowly moved out. If, as you reached the platform, you heard the guard's whistle, you knew you had better be quick. But the activities of the anti-noise campaign have changed all this. Trains now whistle only when it is strictly necessary. If the station is equipped with loudspeakers, all is well, for these warn you when the train is going to start, but if there are no loudspeakers, you must be alert or else before you realize it the train will have slipped silently away.

Farm Implement Exports

Ottawa—Canadian farm implements exported during January were valued at \$120,324, an increase of \$9,300 over December, 1931. The best purchaser was the United States, at \$43,486. Great Britain's purchases totalled \$15,806.

Dorothy—"Why do people use the expression, 'In the dead of winter?'"

Dick—"Because it is usually shortly after the holidays when everyone is broke."

Anti-Noise in the Station

More stirring and dangerous was the encounter of a British Army officer, at 1,500 feet, with a kite-hawk in India. A sudden shudder through the plane prompted him to make a rapid but careful landing. The leading edge of the port bottom plane had been crushed by the blow. The kite-hawk itself was picked up by the mechanics. Every bone in its body was apparently broken.

The editor of The Aeroplane is convinced that "we shall arrive at a state of affairs when all vultures, eagles, kites and buzzards which are too slow-witted to get out of the way of airplanes or so pugnacious that they attack them have been killed off in collision." Not being a very good biologist, he also suggests that possibly a race of quick-witted and peaceful birds will evolve after some airplanes have been wrecked with the loss of human lives.—W. K., in The N.Y. Times.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER

