

# Sunday School Lesson

Sunday, January 8, 1939  
**PETER COMMENDED AND REBUKED**

Golden Text — "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matt. 16:16

**The Lesson as a Whole**  
 The truth embodied in Peter's great confession, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," is the rock of our salvation. Upon this the Church is builded. Apart from a divine Saviour there would be no church of God in the world. It is noticeable that Jesus himself elicited this confession by direct questioning. He knew well both the attitude of men in general regarding his true character and also that which his disciples knew him to be. But he would have them put themselves on record, and so Peter was led to speak for them all. It meant much to the Lord Jesus to discern the working of grace in their souls, and their growth in spiritual intelligence. On the other hand, it grieved him deeply when they failed to enter into the truth concerning the work of redemption as readily as they had grasped something of the glory of his Person. Hence his severe rebuke when Peter would have turned him aside, had it been possible, from the death of the cross. The blunder of Peter as to this might well give us pause, as we realize how untrustworthy are the views of even the best of men unless they are the recipients of divine revelation. How good that God has given us his Word, thus revealing wondrous mysteries kept secret from the world's foundation!

**The Historical Setting**

It was in Iturea, in the region of Caesarea Philippi, a city of considerable prominence, largely populated by Gentiles, that Jesus interviewed his disciples as here related. For over a year they had seen his works and heard his words ere he asked for a definite confession. The date was possibly A.D. 32.

**Verse by Verse:**

Matt. 16:13—"Whom do men say that I... am?" It is all-important that one have a right understanding regarding the Lord Jesus. He knew well what men thought, but he desired his disciples to learn to "try the things that differ" (Phil. 1:10, literal rendering) in order that they might give him his rightful place in their hearts.

Verse 14—"Some say." Opinions differed very widely. Some thought him to be a reincarnation of some one who had preceded him, others that he was a prophet who had come to call the people back to God.

Verse 15—"Whom say ye that I am?" They had been with him for over a year. What effect had his life and teaching made upon them? Had they penetrated the mystery of his Person?

Verse 16—"The Christ, the Son of the living God." Peter's confession came full and clear. He had been in Jesus the promised Messiah, a supernatural person, the Son of God, therefore divine. Nothing short of this will do. Christ Jesus is either the Son of God become flesh for our redemption, or he is unworthy of our trust and confidence.

Verse 17—"Flesh and blood hath not revealed it." Not by mere intuition had this understanding come to Peter. The Father himself had revealed it by his Holy Spirit. (See Matt. 11:27.) It is the Father alone who really knows the mystery of the incarnation.

Verse 18—"Upon this rock," Peter was indeed a stone or rock to be builded into the house of God, but Christ himself is the Foundation Rock of our salvation. The Church is to be builded upon him whom Peter confessed. Note that Jesus speaks of the building of his Church as a future thing. That Church was destined to be invincible. The power of evil would be scattered before its armies.

Verse 19.—Binding and loosing. The Lord did not commit the keys of Heaven to Peter. The Kingdom of Heaven is the sphere where Christ's authority is recognized on earth. Binding and loosing were terms used by

the rabbis. By the preaching of the Word men are loosed from their sins if they believe. But if they spurn the Gospel message they are bound in their sins.

Verse 20—"Tell no man." It was evident already that the Jews would not receive him as their Messiah, so that message was to be held in abeyance for a time. After his resurrection Peter proclaimed this truth anew (Acts 2:36.)

Verse 21—"Jesus... must... be killed, and be raised again." He had come into the world for this very purpose (Matt. 20:28). The rejected Messiah must die for the salvation of mankind. But he would rise in triumph to fulfill all God's counsels.

Verse 22—"Peter... began to rebuke him." He who, when taught of God, declared the precious truth of Christ's person, now, when actuated by the flesh, dared even to seek to withstand the carrying out of the purpose of God. It was a sad instance of spiritual pride succeeding a high and holy mood.

Verse 23—"Get thee behind me, Satan." Christ recognized the seductive voice of the Devil speaking through Peter, seeking to turn him aside from the cross where he must die to make propitiation for our sins. It was the human will in conflict with divine revelation, yet both expressed by the same man, and he is chosen apostle.

Verse 24—"Take up his cross." The path of discipleship is that of self-renunciation even unto death. A man carrying a cross in that old Roman world was a man going out to die. So the follower of Jesus is to take place of identification with the rejected One and to accept the place of death, refusing to own the claims of the carnal nature and the world that has cast out the Son of God.

Verse 25—"Whosoever will save his life shall lose it." He who lives to gratify self will lose all at last; but he who renounces self-interest for the glory of Christ and the blessing of others will enjoy life at its best, both here and hereafter.

**The Heart of the Lesson**

Until we know the Lord Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, we do not know him at all. He is truly the Son of man, for he has taken our humanity in grace, apart from sin into union with his deity. But he is also the Anointed of Jehovah, the eternal Son of the Father, who became man without ceasing to be God, in order that he might redeem sinful men from the judgment that their iniquities have righteously deserved. So the second great truth of divine revelation is that "the Son of man must suffer." Only by his sacrificial death could expiation be made for iniquity. And no one could make propitiation for sinners but one who was himself sinless man and absolute God. He had to be who he was in order to do what he did.

**MILK PRODUCTS**

In the summer period, June to August, 1938, 41,200,000 pounds of whole-milk produce were manufactured in Canada and 14,400,000 pounds of concentrated milk by-products, registering advances of approximately 14 per cent and 35 per cent respectively over the corresponding period of 1937. In the whole milk group the most important product was evaporated milk, the output of which amounted to 36,700,000 pounds, or 89 per cent of the total. The production of skim-milk powder which ranks first among the milk by-products, amounted to 9,700,000 pounds, representing 67 per cent of the total.

A young Warton lad is in the hospital with a fractured skull, the result of coming out of a side street on his handsled, and running into the side of a passing car and fracturing his skull. Naturally, the driver of the car was not held, but there may be trouble if the boy dies. This may be taken as a warning to those who practice the same habit in our own town.



W. Davey, 8 Stanton Ave.

## TORONTO-FLASHES

We provided an item on the death of J. H. C. Todd and his wife which will appear in this issue. As so often truly said, trouble never comes single-handed, and here is a case where two deaths were almost together. You will read the west despatch in this issue.

The birthday book reports Mrs. Arthur Dowswell, Jan. 7th and Herb. Stewart of Foxwarren, Man., Jan. 4. Happy birthday greetings to these old friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lee and family of Rochester, N.Y. are visiting in Toronto.

He was right on the job, is what we say about Mr. Dan Wagg, superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School, Goodwood, for he attended 51 Sundays in the year. Dan is just a chip off the old block, as the boys say, for we knew his father so well as a very fine man. Oh yes, that one Sunday School that Dan was missing from the school was due to ill health which is no fault of his. We certainly appreciated those fine letters from Mr. Jones and Elwood Foksett who came in for small gifts, and because small we feared would not be appreciated, but the warm thanks makes us feel our little effort was appreciated. The type of men here mentioned are the backbone of our nationhood.

Our interest in the Goodwood hockey is keen and we were delighted to read the boys had entered the league again. Now then see that you have a reporter for The Tribune along at every game so we will be able to follow the puck with you.

Ex-reeve Albert James will not soon be forgotten. He is a man of fine qualities and graced the head table of the township with dignity and wisdom. Had he chose to run again he would have polled a big vote but he had given his promise to make way for another man

when the time came and he did just that.

Miss Anne Davey, Toronto, spent New Years' in Ottawa. We had a bit of news from the north end of the township in that delightful district of Roseville. The school meeting on Dec. 25 for Roseville transacted quite a bit of business, we are told. Forrest Stiner was appointed caretaker at \$88, and George Stewart was re-elected secretary-treasurer with pay of \$20, which is a raise of \$10 on account of the extra work owing to building. The wood contract was let to Dave Hockley for hard wood at \$2 and to F. Stiner at \$1.75 for soft. We also learned that a snowplow passed through Roseville for the first time in history. You see the road running from Uxbridge through Siloam in now a county affair so the plow was sent and the folks were delighted to have the way cleared for their cars. Miss Dorothy so the women say, has completed her first quilt, and an excellent job is the result with a very pretty pattern. An aged horse belonging to George Scriveners became strayed and was found wandering over the hills on the Sandford sideroad and was taken in by kind-hearted Mr. Pearson who, the good samaritan that he is, watered, fed and warmed the beast. When the owner called the bill said "no charge." That's the spirit that is wholesome and sound.

Of course, at the time of writing, we fairly have the jitters about the election results. A lot of good men are on the ballot it seems, and now you will know exactly how people think on the matter. Owing to the storm Sunday night roads were not very good and we anticipated a light vote. Were we right?

Members of the Methodist Church until union, the couple now attend the United Church in Columbus. Mr. Stephenson is a staunch Liberal and an active member of the I.O.O.F. Seven of their ten children are living: Mrs. Henry Wilson, Columbus; Mrs. Charles Harras, Orono; Mrs. Randel Ellicott, Oshawa; James, Claremont; Samuel and Ernest, Oshawa, and Thomas, Richmond Hill.

Premier Hepburn admits it would be physically impossible for him to lead a session of the Ontario Legislature in his present state of health, but hopes to feel better when he returns from Australia. When a man's health breaks, the position of Premier of this province is not the proper place for a speedy recovery.

**DIED ON MORNING OF WIFE'S FUNERAL**

The Flash Correspondent sends a printed item taken from the Free Press, Winnipeg, which reads: "J. H. C. Todd, V.S., whose wife died here Sunday, aged 61, passed in Brandon hospital, Tuesday morning. Mrs. Todd's funeral took place December 13 under the auspices of the Rebekah Lodge, she having been long a member and in 1938 president of the Manitoba Grand Lodge, she was born in Brockville, Ontario, was married in 1897, coming with her husband and two children to Manitoba. She is survived by her son John R. of Kamloop, B.C. and

daughter Mrs. Russell Elliott, Wadena, Sash., also five sisters of whom one is Mrs. J. C. Robinson, Brandon, the others are living in Ontario.

**Dr. Todd Ill Four Months**  
 Brandon, Manitoba, Dec. 13, J. H. C. Todd, V.S., of Grandview died at Brandon hospital, Tuesday. The deceased was 77 years of age and ill for four months.

Mr. Todd we understand was the son of Thomas Todd, who owned the farm now occupied by Cecil Lee.

## MARRIED 66 YEARS CHRISTMAS EVE.

"A merry Christmas and many more years of happiness together." This was the wish of many friends when they visited Mr. and Mrs. John Stephenson of Columbus, who were married 66 years on December 24th.

It was the day before Christmas in 1872 when Rev. A. Clarke of the Bible Christian church joined in matrimony Sarah Anne Platten and John Stephenson, at the home of the bride's parents on Scugog Island. After the ceremony, the bridal couple were besieged with neighbors who wished them a merry Christmas and a long married life.

After living on Scugog Island for 20 years, they moved to Myrtle and, in 1895, to Pickering, where they stayed for 35 years. Mr. Stephenson farmed until 1930 when they retired and moved to the village of Columbus, now their home.

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Each year a group of prominent and discriminating dress designers meets in Paris to nominate ten women whom they consider to be the world's queens of fashion. Last year

they nominated the Duchess of Windsor to first place. This year the duchess took second place to make way for Senora Antenor Patino (LEFT), who took top honors. Third in their