

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

JESUS FEEDS THE MULTITUDES

Golden Text— I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.—John 6:35

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE

Approach to the Lesson
Of THE promised Messiah it was written long centuries before He came into the world, "I will satisfy her poor with bread" (Psa. 132:15), and again, "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd" (Isa. 40:11). The feeding of the multitudes on two separate occasions must have recalled these prophecies to the minds of the people and caused them to wonder whether Jesus Christ might not be the One whose coming had been so long foretold.

When God brought Israel out of Egypt He spread for them a table in the wilderness (Psa. 78:19). The Lord Jesus gave the hungry crowds, who had followed and listened to Him all day long, a sample of the same omnipotent power. It is pitiable to note how unbelieving critics attempt to turn the edge of these testimonies to our Lord's creatorial by insinuating that, after all, it was just a case of each sharing a lunch already provided with his neighbors, who had forgotten or neglected to bring any—so that, as all ate together, it seemed to them as though the food had been multiplied in a marvelous manner! Scripture tells us that "at the mouth of two . . . or . . . three witnesses, shall the matter be established" (Deut. 19:15), and, striking enough, the first of these miracles is one of the few given by each of the four evangelists. These men, whose integrity cannot be questioned and who were either present on the occasions depicted or had been accurately informed by others, all describe it as a supernatural occurrence, when He who multiplies the corn on thousands of hillsides, and the fishes in all the seas, did, in a few moments, what is ordinarily accomplished through His divine power and wisdom in weeks or months of time. Thus were the multitudes taught the compassion and the ability of God, as seen in Jesus Christ, to meet every need of the soul as He met the needs of the body.

Verse 1—"From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness?" It was the expression of the unbelief of the hearts of the disciples. That they should so soon have forgotten their former incident would seem incredible, if we did not know some of the untrustworthiness and the unbelief of our own hearts.

Verse 2—"I have compassion on the multitude." Many people lived at quite a distance from the place in which they were. To go home hungry would work a real hardship on them.

Verse 3—"If I send them away fasting . . . they will faint by the way." Many people lived at quite a distance from the place in which they were. To go home hungry would work a real hardship on them.

Verse 4—"How many loaves have ye? And they said seven." It was the provision they had made for their own need, but they were to have the privilege of sharing it with others. Observe, that this time they did not procure the food from someone else.

Verse 5—"He took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave." Following the same procedure as before, the people were arranged upon the ground, and after thanksgiving Jesus broke the bread and gave it to His disciples to distribute to the multitude.

Verse 6—"They had a few small fishes." Why were these not mentioned before? Could it be that they had been withheld by the doubting disciples until they saw how the bread was multiplied? Apparently, the fishes were blessed separately and then distributed as the bread had

Verse 7—"They had a few small fishes." Why were these not mentioned before? Could it be that they had been withheld by the doubting disciples until they saw how the bread was multiplied? Apparently, the fishes were blessed separately and then distributed as the bread had

Verse 8—"They that did eat . . . were about five thousand men." Matthew adds "beside women and children." So that actually, the number was even more than five thousand; though, doubtless, not many women and children would be out in the desert to hear the great Teacher that day.

Verse 9—"The multitude, being very great, and having nothing to eat." The circumstances were similar to the occasion of some months before, yet it is evident the disciples had forgotten—as we often do—the

remarkable manifestation of divine power which they had seen at that time.

Chap. 8:1—"The multitude, being very great, and having nothing to eat." The circumstances were similar to the occasion of some months before, yet it is evident the disciples had forgotten—as we often do—the

New 1944 Members Of York County Council



When York County Council opened its January session in the County Building, Adelaide street east, it included nine men who were not on the 1943 council, the majority of them serv-

ing for the first time. They are shown above: Top row, left to right: Reeve Frank A. Burkholder, Markham Village; Deputy Reeve A. A. Cook, Aurora; Reeve William

Neal, Richmond Hill; Deputy Reeve Walter Proctor, East Gwillimbury Township; Deputy Reeve John Hostrawser of Vaughan Township.

Sam Wright, Long Branch, who returns after an absence of two years; Reeve Robt. Clark, Leaside; Deputy Reeve Horace C. Purdy, Long Branch; and Deputy Reeve George S. Treadway,

OUTSTANDING SPEAKERS FOR CONVENTION

A great galaxy of speakers will give leadership to the annual meetings of the Ontario Agricultural Societies Association and the Ontario Plowmen's Association in Toronto early next month. One of the outstanding agricultural authorities coming to these two meetings is Dr. H. H. Bennett, of Washington, Chief of the Soils Division of the United States Department of Agriculture. He will speak at a joint meeting of the Ontario Plowmen's Association and the Ontario Crop Improvement Association on February 8th and to the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies on Feb. 10th.

Among the other speakers who will be heard at the Plowmen's Association are:

Verse 8—"They did eat, and were filled; and they took up of the broken meat . . . seven baskets." Again there was an abundance. For of what remained of the bread and fishes entrusted to Him to dispense, the disciples received seven hampers of food in return—sufficient to last a long time.

Verse 9—"They that had eaten were about four thousand." Again Matthew adds, "beside women and children."

The Heart of the Lesson
One of Jehovah's names of old was El Shaddai—the God All-sufficient. Our Lord was manifesting Himself as the incarnate God, abundantly able to meet every need when He fed the multitudes, who, on these two occasions, flocked to hear Him preach the gospel of the Kingdom. His supplies are unlimited. What we need is faith to count upon the riches of His mercy and to draw from His abundant store.

ion annual meeting on February 8, will be Hon. T. L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture; H. H. Bloom, Farm Machinery Administrator, Wartime Prices and Trade Board; Dr. G. I. Christie, President of the O.A.C., Guelph; and Alex. McKinney, Jr., Brampton, President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

In addition to Dr. Bennett, the speakers to the Association of Agricultural Societies on February 10th and 11th will include Hon. John Brachen, leader of the Progressive-Conservative Party.

Every unused ration coupon means greater ability on the part of the Prices Board to maintain civilian ration allowance and meet the demand for supplies from the Armed Forces and the Red Cross.

HEROINE PROMOTED



Mrs. Marion Patterson, Toronto, who received the George Medal for high courage overseas in this war, in her new uniform as lieutenant of civic defense. She was promoted from corporal since being decorated.

Toronto—Goodwood FLASHES

Ross Watson, is able to be up each day lately since his recent illness.

Mrs. Fred Woodland called on Mrs. Willard Slack and Mrs. W. Henderson in Goodwood.

Mrs. John Ashenurst was in Toronto on a recent visit.

Goodwood coal dealers have had a good season and have been getting coal through recently. With the mildest winter we can remember around Goodwood, the fuel situation has not proved the problem it was feared it might be. Several of our township people and some in Goodwood bought wood lots so no one will freeze next winter either.

A Wartime Prices and Trade Board man was in Goodwood checking on prices and looking up coupons.

Robert Gulliver was highest in his class at St. Thomas air field. A former Goodwood lad, he makes us very proud.

Regret to report that John Lat- cham is reported very ill at the home of his daughter at West Hill.

Flash correspondent was in Goodwood on Saturday.

The roads in Uxbridge are just about the same now as they were this period last year for travelling on.

Baptist prayer meetings have been held twice in a row at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wagg. Their home is accommodating.

A battle cry sounds out from the Fourth Liners: They want to meet all comers with their hockey sticks in hand. Collins pond would provide the battle ground.

We hear that some of the Goodwood men who bought wood lots can

hardly be persuaded to come out of the underbrush when night falls, and for some time they have been practically living in the bush. Great place these wonderful days.

Our old friend Calvin Stafford, also Mrs. George Maye are recovering nicely now. That's fine.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Cooper spent a weekend at Bethany with Mr. and Mrs. Ell Mairs.

The gallant Norton family suffered bereavement in Dec. in the death of Cpl. Jack Norton while an older brother, Ralph is reported wounded. They are sons of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Norton and brothers of the late Cpl. Jos. Norton fatally wounded in Italy last July.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Pilkey and Grant of Oshawa, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Coppins.

Wm. Whittleton who has been staying at the home of Sam Whittleton has been quite ill.

Arthur Hall, employed by contractor Morley Symes was taken to the hospital in Toronto suffering from apparent blood poison in the foot. Some time ago while at work he ran a nail in the foot, and it never healed properly, we understand.

Goodwood boys took in the free agricultural course at Stouffville last week when 175 students registered.

By way of addition to the saying that truth is no respecter of persons, the Peterboro-Examiner remarks that many persons are no respecters of truth.

Too many people discover that one sure thing to stop an auto from skidding is a lamp post.

W.P.T.B. QUESTIONS

Typical questions consumers have asked the Wartime Prices and Trade Board this week are answered below by the Central Ontario Consumer Branch Committee.

Q—I was charged 40c a pound for fresh salmon. I have purchased salmon at 30c a pound previously. Was I overcharged?

A—Not necessarily, 40c does not seem too high for a pound of fresh salmon. . . . these prices are controlled by the Board. . . . there are many different cuts of salmon which might account for the difference in price.

Q—I purchased a re-conditioned watch for my boy. This watch was priced at \$8.00 in the store and when I made the purchase I was charged \$10.00. The storekeeper said the extra \$2 was tax and he could not sell the watch without charging this. Is this correct?

A—Yes, the price is correct. . . . there is a 25 percent merchandise tax on watches. . . . in your case the tax would amount to \$2. . . . the dealer could not make the sale without charging the tax.

Q—Is there a ceiling price on sausage? I paid 43c for 1 1/2 lbs. and gave one meat coupon.

A—The price of sausage is controlled. . . . if you bought the best grade 43c you not too much for 1 1/2 lbs. . . . you must surrender one meat coupon for this amount of sausage.

Q—I bought one brand of tomato juice last Saturday for 10c and another brand for 15c. The cans were both the same size. I think 15c is much too high.

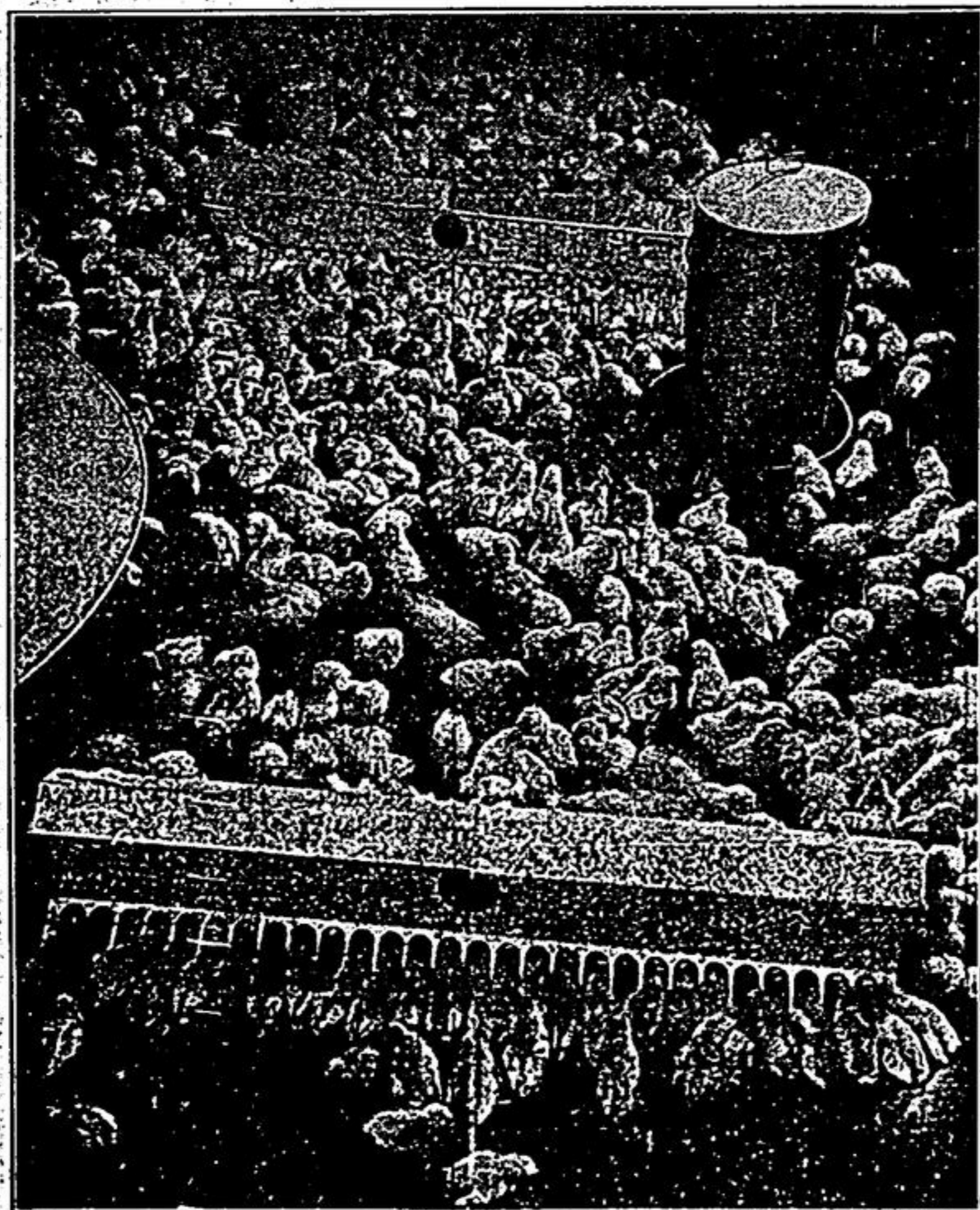
A—Yes, 15c is too high for a can of tomato juice, particularly when the same size in another brand is 10c. Please write to us again giving the name of your grocer and we will have his prices checked.

Q—My boy received two pairs of skis for Christmas. I returned one pair within twelve days of the date of the sale and the storekeeper told me he would be breaking the Wartime Prices Regulations if he refunded my money. Is this correct?

A—No, this is not correct. . . . by order of the Board no money can be refunded after a period of twelve business days has elapsed from the date of sale. . . . your dealer does not have to either take the merchandise or refund your money. . . . but if he wishes to do so within the 12 day limit he is not violating the regulations.

Q—My small son went to a grocery store this week where there were chocolate bars on display. They refused to sell him one unless he purchased other merchandise in the store. As he only had the money for one bar they did not sell it to him. Is this lawful?

A—Certainly not! Such sales as you mention are prohibited by law. The display of merchandise on the counter does not put a merchant under any obligation to sell. . . . the fact that he offered the chocolate bar if your son made another purchase is illegal and as you gave us the name of the grocer, we have passed your letter along for investigation.



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