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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Sunday, February 23
 Golden Text.—And they went out, and preached that men should repent.—Mark 6:12
The Lesson in General
 Our lesson falls into two parts: (1) our Lord's visit to Nazareth, and (2) the sending forth of the twelve apostles.
 Despite the fact that He had been deliberately rejected — not to say ejected — by the people of Nazareth He returned, bringing the twelve disciples with Him.
 Into their synagogue He entered and taught them with such wisdom that they were astonished. They knew Him and knew by name all those related to Him according to the flesh. And this knowledge they allowed to blind them as to His being the Son of God.
 He marvelled because of their unbelief, and was hindered from doing mighty works in their midst. He went around the villages teaching, and then sent out the twelve apostles on their first preaching tour.

The Lesson in Detail
 Mark 6:1.—"And he came into his own country; and his disciples follow him." Chrysostom said, "Bethlehem bare Him, Nazareth nurtured Him, Capernaum had Him continuously as inhabitant." What grace His part to revisit a place which about a year before decidedly rejected Him! How true it is that "God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not."
 "Disciple" really means "follower." Here the twelve followers follow Him. They had left all, to follow Him whithersoever He went. Christ has need today, as of yore, of followers who will follow Him (John 21:20-22).

Verse 2.—"And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue; and many hearing him were astonished." The wonder of the people of Nazareth and Jerusalem (John 7:15) as to how He knew His letters proves that He had not been educated in any school. They wondered at His wisdom, yet they refused to recognize His deity.

Verse 3.—"Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joseph, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him." According to the custom of the Jews, even the rabbis learned some handicraft. One of their proverbs was that "he who taught not his son a trade, taught him to be a thief."

The people of Nazareth fully believed in Christ's humanity. He had lived in their midst for thirty years. They knew His mother, and His mother's children (Psa. 69:8); but now they were offended or scandalized in Him. They missed the blessing which He mentioned when He said, "Blessed is he, whosoever

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CEILINGS DISREGARD QUALITY OF POTATO

Blame for poor quality potatoes sold to Ontario housewives is laid on Ottawa's doorstep by Col. T. L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, who said that the imposition of the price ceiling disregarded quality.
 "A truck would drive into a farm and take all the potatoes the farmer had to offer without regard to quality. The trucker knew he could sell them for the ceiling price," declared Col. Kennedy. "Under the price ceiling there is no premium for quality, and a lot of poor grade potatoes were sold at the ceiling price."

He said the situation has somewhat clarified during recent months, and also that the province intends to take measures to restore the confidence of the consumer in Ontario potatoes through a rigid grading system.
 "We are going to enlarge the grading staff and we are going to see that only the best reach the market," said Col. Kennedy.

shall not be offended in me" (Matt. 11:6).

Verse 4.—"But Jesus said unto them. A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house." If anyone had occasion to be "offended" it was the Lord Jesus—not the people of Nazareth. For He was God's prophet (Deut. 18:18, 19), and He graciously taught them; and they were "astonished" at the character of His words and deeds yet refused to believe on Him.

It seemed too much for them to believe that David's greater Son Lord should be a carpenter! Oh, that they had eyes to see that the humiliation of the Lord Jesus Christ was a greater manifestation of His divine character than that of a glorious King ever could have been!

Verse 5.—"And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folks, and healed them." Unbelief is a most powerful hindrance. Think of the Lord of life and glory, the creator and upholder of the universe, unable to do a mighty work in Nazareth — not because of physical reasons, but because of unbelief.

Unbelief makes God a liar (1 John 5:10). Is it any wonder then that the Scripture say, "He that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16), and "He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him?" (John 3:36; see also Rev. 21:8.)

Verse 6.—"And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching." Twice in the Scriptures it is stated that the Lord marveled. He marveled at the great faith of the centurion, which overcame in its grandeur, all human hindrances (Luke 7:9). And here he marvels at the great lack of faith which hindered Him in His mighty work. We never read of His returning to Nazareth again!

Verse 7.—"And he called.....the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits." What a manifestation of His deity is given us in this verse! He not only possessed divine power Himself, but He was able to communicate power to twelve others over demons!

The twofold purpose of the disciples' call is given in Mark 3:14: (1) "that they should be with him" and (2) "that he might send them forth to preach." They have been "with him" all this while, listening to His teaching and beholding His mighty works. They have seen how faith secures blessings and how unbelief withholds it. They are now ready to be sent forth.

Verse 8.—"And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only." The series of negatives: "take nothing.....no scrip, no money" would serve a double purpose. It would remind the apostles that they were the representatives of Him who had nothing in this world; and it would be a test of Israel's reception and ministrations to His servants.

Verse 11.—"And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them." For instances of carrying out this command, see Acts 13:51 and Acts 18:6. The action must be regarded as symbolical of a complete cessation of all fellowship, and a renunciation of all further responsibility.

Verses 12, 13.—"And they went out, and preached that men should repent." Their mission was to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel," hence their message was the Gospel of the Kingdom. They were forbidden to go to Gentiles (Matt. 10:5, 6).

The fuller message of "the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24) to all nations of necessity could not be given until after Calvary. The substance of the message of His messengers today is Christ's death for our sins, His burial, His resurrection, His ascension, His exaltation, and His promised return. Those who believe this Gospel of His glory are saved, while those who persist in disbelieving it shall perish.

ENORMIOUS COSTS FOR ROADS

Appropriations by Ontario municipalities for road construction and operations and maintenance have reached an all-time high this year in Ontario, Mr. Doucett, Minister of Highways, told an audience last week. "In 1910 the costs were only \$10,000,000, in 1944, \$13,000,000 and this year the sum has jumped to nearly \$17,000,000.

He warned municipalities against trying to keep minor roads open by snow plowing in the winter which would "plunge them into a huge expenditure for spring maintenance. Frost break-ups last year," he said, "cost Ontario municipalities approximately \$5,000,000. He said the province had kept all the main arteries open over 6,000 miles."

COMPLETE U.S. TOWN IS PUT UP FOR SALE

ROEBLING, N.J., Feb. 15 (AP)—The Town of Roebling is being sold — lock, stock and movie house — by its present owner, the John A. Roebling's Sons Co., manufacturers of wire rope and cable.

Six hundred of the 754 dwellings — all constructed by the firm in 1906 at a cost of nearly \$3½ million to provide housing for its workers — have been purchased by plant employees for prices ranging from \$3,000 to \$16,000. The remainder are being offered to two groups, residents who are not tenants, and company employees living elsewhere.

Also being offered are commercial buildings, which include a drug store, bank, movie house, tavern, restaurant and library.

PEACHES

(February 13)

Miss Gloria Cleverdon of Toronto spent the weekend with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. John McCausland of Beaverton were visitors at the Hoover home on Sunday.

Glad to report Mrs. Henry Miller has left the hospital and is spending a few days with friends at Lansing before returning to her home.

The Hoover family spent Sunday evening at the Painter home, Ringwood.

The Miller family were visitors at the Warriner home here.
 Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Woodcock of Markham were recent visitors at the Smith home.

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