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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for March 2
Golden Text—I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.—John 12:32
The Lesson as a Whole
 The Lord Jesus Christ claimed absolute authority over the lives of those who acknowledged Him as their Saviour and Redeemer. None but God has the right thus to dominate and control the hearts and consciences of men. Therefore, the claims of Jesus were tantamount to a declaration of His deity. It is true that, so far as the inspired records go, He never said, in so many words, that He was God, but He declared His unity with the Father (John 10:30); and when Peter confessed Him as "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16), Jesus gave full endorsement to that acknowledgment, as also to the confession of Thomas, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). But the strongest proofs of His own recognition of His Godhead glory are found in the fact that He announced His right to the complete obedience of His followers. Father or Mother must not take precedence over Him. Nothing was to be permitted to interfere with obedience to His commands (Matt. 10:37).

For any mere man, no matter how good he might be or how seemingly wise and understanding, to make such claims would indicate either intense conceit or a deranged mind. Yet, the Lord Jesus Christ made them in all earnestness because He was more than man: He was God manifest in the flesh (1 Tim. 3:16). We owe Him our fullest allegiance, for He is both our Creator and our Redeemer. When He is thus recognized and the heart yields implicit subjection to Him, life reaches its best and highest. The path of self-will ends in misery and wretchedness. That of obedience to the will of God as revealed in and through Christ brings lasting joy on earth and endless bliss above.

Verse by Verse
John 12:12—"They heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem." His fame preceded Him. He had come to Bethany the day before and those who had seen or heard of Him previously were eager to welcome Him to Jerusalem, many doubtless believing that He was about to proclaim Himself as Messiah and begin the great work of overthrowing the Roman power and restoring the kingdom to Israel.
Verse 13—"Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord." The children and "much people" hailed the Lord Jesus in the very words of the 118th Psalm, verses 25 and 26. "Hosanna" is the equivalent of "Save now." They did not realize He had to suffer before He should take His great power and reign, although the same Psalm (vs. 22, 27) predicted it.
Verse 14—"Jesus, when he had

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Here is a real record bit of news. A pure-bred Yorkshire sow named "Dunrobin Polly No. W 127" of the "Dunrobin" Farms, Beaverton, gave birth to a litter of 22 piglets on the 11th of February, 1947. This is her seventh litter, and swineherd Thos. Davidson of the farm says they are all doing well.—Beaverton Express.

found a young ass, sat thereon." Fuller particulars are given in the Synoptic Gospels. He thus manifested His authority even over the lower creation as He rode upon an unbroken colt.
Verse 15—"Thy King cometh sitting upon an ass's colt." Thus had Zechariah prophesied over four hundred years before (Zech. 9:9), indicating how Messiah was to enter the holy city.
Verse 16—"When Jesus was glorified... then remembered they." Even His intimate disciples did not recognize the full import of these proceedings until after Christ had been crucified and God had raised Him from the dead.
Verse 20—"There was certain Greeks... that came up to worship at the feast." These were either proselytes to Judaism, or Gentiles seeking the knowledge of the one true and living God.
Verse 21—"Sir, we would see Jesus." Having heard of His fame, these Greeks sought out one of His disciples who had a Greek name, Philip, and requested an opportunity to meet the Lord Jesus.
Verse 23—"The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified." The Lord Jesus saw in the plea of these Greeks an earnest of the great gathering of Gentiles. It was a pledge, as it were, that His mission as Saviour of the world was about to be recognized. But that could only be after the work of the Cross had been completed as indicated in the next verse.
Verse 24—"Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone." This is a principle as true in the realm of the spirit as in that of the natural. Had the Lord Jesus not given His life as a ransom for sinners, He must have remained alone. He could not bring many sons unto glory (Heb. 2:10). By His death He was to bring forth much fruit.
Verse 25—"He that loveth his life shall lose it." He who put self first fails in all. On the other hand, "he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal." The Lord Jesus Christ gained all for us by dying. We gain all as we yield ourselves even to death for His name's sake.
Verse 26—"If any man serve me, let him follow me." The path of discipleship is that of complete subjection to the will of the Lord. We are not saved by following Jesus. But all who are saved are responsible to follow Him. It is thus that divine life is manifested in the believer. All who thus follow as He leads will be honored by the Father, though they will have to suffer in this world.
Verse 27—"What shall I say?" As the Lord Jesus Christ saw the Cross in all its horror rising before Him, He raised the question as to whether He would ask the Father to save Him from that hour. But this could not be. It was for that very hour He had left Heaven's glory and come down to earth.
Verse 28—"Father, glorify thy name." This was His prayer as He looked on to the Cross and resurrection life beyond. Instantly the answer came from Heaven, "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."
Verse 30—"This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes." The Lord Jesus, conscious of His relationship to the Father, needed no audible voice to confirm it; but God spoke from Heaven that those whom Jesus addressed might realize that His claims were acknowledged by the Father.
Verse 32—"The judgment of this world." At Calvary the world was judged in its head, Satan, who is both its prince and its god. There the ancient prophecy was fulfilled when the Seed of the woman bruised the head of the serpent. Henceforth the world was to be looked upon as a judged scene, out of which the people of God are called.
Verse 32—"I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Notice that this verse refers definitely to Christ being lifted up on the cross. It is not a question here of His being exalted by the preacher of the Gospel. Because of what He endured on the cross, all men will eventually be drawn unto Him, either in grace or in judgment.
The Heart of the Lesson
 Those who welcomed the Lord Jesus into the city of Jerusalem, hailing Him as the promised Son of David about to take over the leadership of Israel, were right as to the Person, but wrong as to the time. Before He could reign, He must suffer. As the corn of wheat falls into the ground in death in order that there may be an abundant harvest, so the Lord Jesus had to die before He could become the Redeemer of Israel and of mankind generally. His resurrection was the proof that all His claims were true: God has been glorified in the work of His Cross and has now glorified His Son in raising Him from the dead.

CLAREMONT

(February 20)
 The Good Fellowship Class of the United Church held a sleigh-ride party when they visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mel Johnson. The usual devotional and business meeting was conducted with Mrs. C. Reynolds, president, in the chair. A social time was had playing crokinole, and later lunch was served by the hostess assisted by members of the class.
 The February meeting of the Womens Missionary Society of the United Church was held in the Sunday School room. The President Mrs. McIntyre was in the chair. The interesting program was in charge of Mrs. T. Condy's group. Mr. H. Johnson had charge of the chapter in the study book on health and healing in India. She was assisted by a number of the members of the society. An instrumental solo by Mrs. T. Gregg was much appreciated. An invitation from the Baptist Mission Circle to be their guests on March 25th was accepted.
 Rev. I. E. Kennedy and Mr. Fred Pugh attended the recent presbytery in Oshawa.
 The Mission Band of the United Church met for their February meeting in the Sunday School room. Mrs. Jack Morgan is the leader this year with Mrs. Kennedy assistant. The election of officers took place with the result that John Farr was elected president and Joan Middleton secretary. The study this year is on India and Mrs. Morgan gave a short survey of the country, and introduced the study book on "Fig Tree Village." New hymns are being learned and the children entered into the spirit of them. The officers are looking forward to interesting meetings this year.

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