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"THERE WAS A MAN."

The International Sunday School Lesson For August 19th Is "Stephen the Martyr" -- Acts 6:8-15; 7:54-60.

By William T. Ellis. W

himself more of a man than three- ancient work with the features of of the Christian faith, fourths of the apostles themselves! countless men and women. Christian Church.

designated as a "full" man-he was "full of faith and of the Holy. Spirit;" "full of grace and power;" full of courage; full of knowledge of the Bible; full of magnamity; full of a sense of his mission; full of mental equipment and full of real godli-With all his piety, he was what we nowadays call "a man's

A Straight Man Amidst Crooks. was a minister of mercy to men. In men of conviction. the rapid growth of the new Christian church, he was a powerful lac- can keep," runs the old saying. To

sweetness and light! From all quar- cession to that of Stephen. Observe ters, opposition ringed this saintly the lack of vagueness in his address. man about; from the Jews of Egypt, He recounted Scripture, correctly, of Cyrene, of Cilicia, of Roman Asia, logically, forcefully; and showed antagonism arose. Stephen's words that all the dealings of mankind and deeds were publicly challenged. with God have been directed toward But he had grit as well as grace; the fullness of revelation in His Son, brains as well as benevolence, and Christ Jesus. Only a man saturatin the public debates he confounded ed with the Bible could deliver such all his adversaries. So they followed the old, old fashion, which the newest bully of the playground practices as he cries "Well, I can lick you, anyway!" When those enemies of goodness and cruth could not prevail debates, they resorted to falsehood and force. That is the way "practical politicians" still do; they defame the character of even the most honorable opponent; so that many good men fear to enter politics vigorously.

Stephen story is that to be goodrobustly, heartily, fearlessly, helpfully good--is to incur enmity. By doing right (which is a better way of expressing it than to speak of peing good) one is likely to be visited by unpopularity and downright opposition and misrepresentation. It is even remotely pessible that one may suffer a sort af martyrdom. All of this is part of the price of serving God and truth and one's own soul; but the service is worth what it costs. It would be a poor, slack, spincless creature who would turn his back on righteousness for fear of consequences to himself. pursuit of the well of God is so lime a duty that the incidental possibility of enduring hardship or even death is not to be so much thought of by a stalwart soul. was not until he had been made prisoner and a martyr that Stephen became an immortal figure in history; and a heartener of brave men

Superstitious men sometimes carry a rabbit's foot for luck; many women carry a rabbit's foot to powder today, anoints itself with oil and judges—the outward shining of an their continued use, but on the

and women throughout the ages.

Men bestow offices and titles and of the big cities of Europe and Am- holding their ears, the crowd piled decorations upon those they deem erica he might think that as a beaugreat; and Life laughs at them as tifler the spiritual life has been the pavements with kicks and blows. she lifts into real greatness the un- largely supplanted by the profestitled, the unlettered, the unofficial sional "beauty doctors" and dealers | youd the city wall, where they could and the disregarded. God Himself in cosmetics. Of course, this would give full expression to their fury. seems to smile at the choices of con- be an inadequate judgment. A few They were too plous to violate the claves and councils. The Mother evenings ago I looked in upon a score sanctities of the temple, but not to Church in Jerusalem solemnly set of young men and women, new mis- plouh to do foul and bloody muraside, as a subordinate official, a sort sionaries gathered in a school for the der! As soon as they got their of second rater, a mere business study of Arabic, up here in the Le- victim outside of the gate they beman, fit only to do work that was banon Mountains, overlooking the gan stoning him. Grave rabbis. beneath the dignity and powers of Mediterranean, and one and all they dignified business men, lawyers and

the world. Count the foremost men can acquire the benignity that every his servant was now enduring. of our day, the real leaders who are Christian owes the world. Stephen's exercising a shaping influence upon face shone like an angel's, at the a score of cruel wounds with his them come up by way of special pri- would have been painted with tervilege. It is the quality of the in- ror. In a crisis one's true character dividual; the fullness of his spirit; unconsciously reveals itself; Stethat really determines greatness. phen, like Moses, "wist not that his This man Stephen, who for symme- face shone." If he had known the try of character and work chailenges fact, he would have been a prig and admiration and emulation, may be a pharisee; indeed, his looks would have lost their light.

> Standing Up for the Truth. So Stephen had to stand up on the identical spot, before the very same judges who had a short time before tried his Master. How the disciple s heart must have thrilled at the privilege! Is it any wonder that his de- centuries, stupid fense was so masterfui?

with good words and good works; he age badly needs more men and wo. where over the ancient world.

"Truth is the highest thing a mar tor. He healed, he helped, he taught, testify to the truth, and especially to the truth of the moral nature of God Nevertheless, he was hated. What and of religion, in our own slack a blow to the jejune philosophy of day, is a mission that is in true suc-

Fury and Gnashing Tecth. He did not leave his message up in getting the means of the creation the blind and bigoted persecutors in Christianity may find a freer whose prisoner he was he hurled the expression. All who died for God true heirs of faithless fathers, and the spiritual progenitor of 'greater themselves, betrayers and murder- walk with God. One big idea that should be got ers. Listen to the sizzling score, the "Follow after! across to young people from the lash and the bite of these words, For the harvest is sown;

> "O stiff-necked men, uncircumcised in meart and ears, you also are continually at strife with the Holy I took a piece of plastic clay Spirit-just as your forefathers were. And idly fashioned it one day, . Which of the Prophets did not your And as my fingers pressed it still forefathers persecute? Yes, they It moved and yielded at my will.

> The Value of Charcoal The bit of clay was hard at last.

Few People Know How Useful it is But I could change that form no in Preserving Health and Beauty. Nearly everybody knows that charcoal is the safest and most efficient
disinfectant and purifier in nature,
but few realize its value when properly
prepared and taken into the human
system for the same cleansing pur-

you take of it the better; it is not a drug at all, but simply absorbs the gases and impurities always present in the stomach and intestines and car-Charcoal sweetens the breath after And I could change it nevermore. charcoal sweetens the moking, and after eating onions and ther odorous vegetables.

Charcoal effectually clears and improves the complexion, it whitens the

inner light—is not fashionable now—adays. Rouge has taken the piace of religion with some women. It is more popular to look sophisticated and worldly-wise and hard than it is least the policies of the liver. These lossonges containing the stone to seem sweet and gentle and doly. If an observer formed his standards only by what he sees on the streets of the ordinary characteristics.

killed those who announced beforehand the advent of the righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become-you who received the Law given through angols, and yet have not obeyed it."

Then followed the riot. The English version scarcely gives the force of the description that follows. Yeliing, frothing, spluttering, gnashing their teeth, crying out imprecations, upon Stephen and dragged him over out of the temple enclosure and bethe apostles, a certain disciple named wore the Stephen-Justice on their officials, joined with the rabble in Stephen-who straightway proved faces. Holiness is still doing its hurling stones at this first martyr

Death by stoning is a horrible As preacher, controversialist, execu- Once, before he became a profes- thing to contemplate. Three words tive, saint, hero and martyr, this sional politician, a friend told me the doomed man spoke. First, lowly deacon takes a front-rank that "Every man is responsible for before he left the temple area, he place in the long history of the his face at fifty." Now that he has looked with rapt face into heaven become a high office-holder, he him- itself; and cried, ecstatically, "I can It is not usually the school prodi- self, alas, seems to be losing the fine see Heaven wide open, and the Son gies; the favorite young men of pro- expression of fitness and nobility of Man standing at God's right mise; the privileged sons and the which he used to wear; and is tak- hand!" Even in heaven Jeusu could accomplished youths, who ultimate- ing on the puffiness and the hard not sit on his kingly throne while ly do the great deeds and make the lines that so commonly characterize his servant was in such trial; but great names. God appears to de- the politician. It is the heart that he needs must stand and look, with light in choosing the lowly, the ob- engraves character upon the fea- strength-giving compassion and scure and the humble for the accom- tures; only a good man, free from sympathy. He understood; for the plishment of His greater works in self-consciousness and full of love, Master himself had undergone what Fallen on his face, bleeding from

the time, and behold how few of very moment when a baser man's clothing torn and dirty and almost at the last gasp Stephen cried. 'Lord Jeusu, receive my spirit." Then, with a final struggle, amidst the death-storm of hate-hurled missles his Lord upon the cross, he "Lord, do not reckon this sin against them!" Ah, that was love, and the vindication of Christ's power! Well, could the narrative close, With these words he fell

Siring Spiritual Sons. That was not the end. may kill a man, but never a cause. Despite the clear teaching of the still trying to repress the manifesta This testimony of Stephen probes tions of new life in the world us with the query as to how good a mere killings. They acclaim the According to old-fashioned Sun- defense of our faith we could make, airplane, the armored car, the machday School books, such a rare and on an instant's notice, if called upon ine gun and even poison gas as new good man as Stephen shou'd have to do so. Is it not true that in com- and efficacious methods of 'dealing been loved by everybody. Life, mon conversation and in public dis- with native "risings"; whereas the however, is not shaped on the pian cussion the case of Christianity, and use of these very agencies since the of this sort of literature. The gen- of all the good causes, such as mis- war has done more to embitter the uinely good person, if he is at ail a sions or temperance and prohibition, East against the West than vital force, is a standing arraign- which are its fruits, are often allow- any other cause. Martyrs alment of the evil; he is bound to be ed to go by default simply because ways have a whole brood of children distiked simply because he is good- Ohristians lack skill and courage in and heirs. No quotation is comalthough it is not wholesome for the witness-bearing? Practical polemics moner, or truer than that "the blood good person to get to thinking that is an art that needs reviving. Let us of the martyr is the seed of the way; he would better meditate up- train the boys and girls in the Ste- Church." Out of Stephen's martyron his own imperfections. Stephen phen gift of standing up intelligently dom arose the great persecuriou was not self-centred; he was busy and fearlessly for the truth. Our that scattered the Gospel every-

> One spiritual son Stephen sired on this occasion. A young man named Saul of Tarsus, a scholar and an aristrocrat, too haughty join the mob's mad work of stonethrowing, guarded the outer garments of the most zealous of the murders. He saw the ordeal; be heard the words of Stephen. That whole scene was forever graven upon his sensitive mind. Without it. he doubtless never would have become a Christian or the chief of Christ's servants on earth. By aying, Stephen bequeathed a Saul the Church. It is possible for true servant of Christ to become Christians than himself.

Of course it was worth 'any man's dying to accomplish such results as Short-sightedly Stephen effected. Consequences followed the straight | we mourn over the Christians slain and Bible-burdened talk of Stephen. in Russia by the Bolsheviks; forthe air. Directly into the teeth of of a new and noblers Russia wheretruth that they were disloyal Jews, mark the way for those who would

with which Stophen ended his By the bones along the wayside, ye shall come to your own".

A Poem to Parents. It came again when days were past The form I gave it still it bore,

A young child's soft and yielding It was a man I looked upon. He still that early impress bore

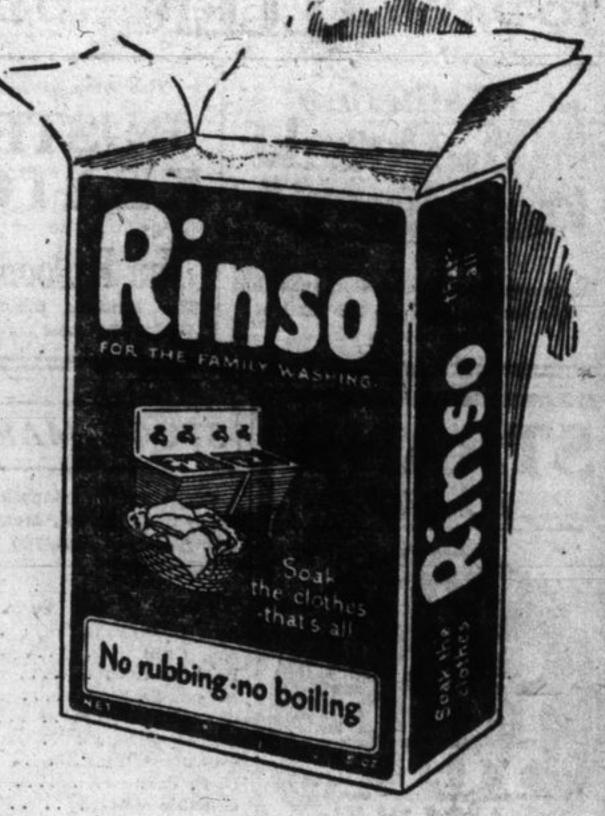
Thoughtful Mrs. Harding. A remark of Mrs. Harding's, overheard in a movie show, showed how practical a woman is the wife of the late president. As the weather grew colder she feared for the health of her husband's secretary, whose wife was absent. "George, I hope you quality brought warm underclothing with you." She herself was not allowed showered upon her. An old world cynical to declare that even the type soon tell in a much improved condition of the general health, better custom required by the charter of the shining face which Stephen were somplexion, swester breath and purer company (1670) that whenever a blood, and the beauty of it is, that no possible harm can result. Hudson Bay company carried out a the company should "deliver a supAn entirely new kind of soap

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