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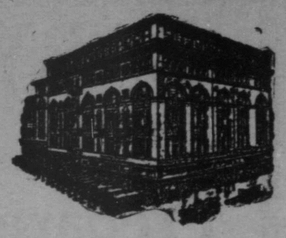
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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

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LESSON FOR OCTOBER 5

JOHN AND PETER BECOME DISCIPLES OF JESUS.

LESSON TEXT—John 1:29-42.

GOLDEN TEXT—Jesus said unto him, follow me.—John 1:43.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—Matt. 9:9. Mark 2:13-17; John 1:43-51.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Finding the best friend.

JUNIOR TOPIC—John and Peter decide to follow Jesus.

INTERMEDIATE TOPIC — Becoming disciples of Jesus.

SENIOR AND ADULT TOPIC—Claims of Christ upon all men.

I. John the Baptist Testifies to His Disciples Concerning Jesus (vv. 29-34).

1. Jesus as the Lamb of God (v. 29). "Lamb" was familiar to the Jewish mind. It denoted a substitutionary sacrifice for sin. Christ was the true lamb to which every sacrificial offering pointed. He was the lamb which Israel showed should be brought to the slaughter (Isa. 53:7), upon whom the Lord laid man's iniquity. Christ was God's lamb because he was the one set apart from the foundation of the world to make atonement for man's sins (1 Pet. 1:18-20). John invited his disciples to behold the Lamb of God.

2. The Baptizer with the Holy Ghost (vv. 30-35).

The Spirit descended upon him as Isaiah said (Isa. 11:2). John then knew for a certainty that he was the baptizer with the Holy Ghost. The Same Holy Spirit will be given to all who ask for him (Luke 11:13).

3. Jesus is the Son of God (v. 34). Being the son of God he is one in nature with God.

II. Two Disciples Following Jesus (vv. 35-37).

As a result of the Baptist's testimony, two of the disciples leave him and follow Jesus. At John's request they looked. This look was sufficient to induce them to follow Jesus. A sincere look upon Jesus is always sufficient. John did not become envious of Christ's success, but rejoiced in it (John 3:26-29). All Sunday school teachers should so witness that the pupils will look to and follow Jesus. This is the whole method, the sum and substance of salvation.

III. The Disciples Abiding With Jesus (vv. 38, 39).

Seeing the disciples following him, Jesus made inquiry as to their object. Their reply showed the desire to go apart privately where they could disclose their hearts to him. He invited them to his abode, where for the remainder of that day they enjoyed sweet intercourse with him.

IV. The Disciples Bringing Others to Jesus (vv. 40-42).

Having found by experience what fellowship with Jesus means, they go at once and tell others of their priceless treasure.

1. Andrew brings Peter (vv. 40-42). Peter was Andrew's brother. A true brother who has found Christ will go and tell his brethren. The proper place to begin witnessing for Christ is among one's kinfolk (Luke 8:39).

(2) Philip brings Nathaniel (vv. 43-45). He witnessed to him concerning the messiahship of Jesus. He told them that Christ was he of whom Moses and the prophets did speak. Christ is the sum and substance of the Old Testament.

The disciples invited others to come and see. They knew that if they would but put Jesus to the test they would believe. Christianity courts investigation (John 7:17).

When Life Grows Broader.

God does not count prosperity as we count it. Our sense of proportion is largely shaped by our experiences. When life is quiet and sheltered, and the stream runs smoothly, we notice every ripple and magnify every small obstruction. We are fully occupied with our work, our small worries. Then comes some grief, calamity, or new responsibility which suddenly changes everything. Our old interests are dwarfed and look so petty that we wonder that we ever allowed such trifles to burden our souls. By such experiences life grows broader and higher and takes on new values. We have new standards of measurement for our fellow men as well as ourselves.

The Bible.

God might, of course, have given us a literally divine book, written by his finger on tables of stone. We find that he chose to give us instead a library of books by human authors, with very different styles and characteristics. I cannot help connecting it with the equally obvious act that he did not reveal himself by an angel, or millions of angels, but by a man who worked in a carpenter's shop.—Rev. J. H. Moulton, D.D.

Cheerfulness.

Better to be small and shine, than to be great and cast a shadow. Cheerfulness is God's medicine. Everybody ought to bathe in it. Grim care, anxiety and all the rest of life can be scoured off with the oil of cheerfulness.

Love Never Tires.

Love is indefatigable; it never tires. Love is inexhaustible; it lives and is born again of itself, and the more it pours itself forth, the more it abounds. —De Lamennais.

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UNCLE TED'S BED-TIME STORIES

JACK MEETS HERMAN SCHWARTZ

Uncle Ted was busy in the front yard cutting the grass when he heard an awful noise, screaming and yelling and the patter of feet running down the street. As he turned around he saw Jack running as hard as he could and right in front of him was a blond haired boy running to keep just as far away as possible. Both boys were yelling and both were very much out of breath.

"Jack, you little rascal," called Uncle Ted, "what in the world is the trouble this time. You come right in here and tell me all about it."

Jack loved his Uncle very much so he stopped the chase and turned up the front steps. The blond haired boy kept on going.

"You know who that boy is don't you?" asked Jack, as though his Uncle should know everything. "He is Herman Schwartz and his father runs a butcher shop on Main street. Well, Mother sent me down there for some meat and the first thing he said was, 'Your Uncle was a soldier in the war against Germany and he helped fight to stop Germany from having such a large army. Now that it's over President Wilson wants to have an army just about as large as Germany had before she started fighting in 1914. That's a fine way to do.' Well I just got mad and told him it was none of his business and started after him and he ran down the street."

"Well, Jack," said his Uncle as he pulled up a big chair on the front porch, "Herman was just about stating the truth. You see, in order for you to understand this matter I will go back a few years and tell you about the way our army has been run and what it means to have a large army al the time. In 1916, before we entered the war with Germany we had less than 100,000 men in our army and the law at that time stated that the number of men should not exceed that total any one time. The very next year, on the 6th day of April, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany and we found ourselves under a new army law with less than 200,000 men in the army when we needed many times that number. But what happened? We were able by voluntary enlistments, men joining the army of their own accord, and by the draft law that selected certain men, to raise an army of nearly 4,000,000 by November 11, 1918, the day Germany quit. At that time 2,000,000 of those men were in France. The war was won and now everyone wants to get back to business as quickly as possible but President Wilson and Newton Baker, Secretary of War, want Congress to vote for a standing army of 500,000 men.'

"What is a standing army?" asked Ruth.

"A standing army is sometimes called a Peace army because it means the army that remains scattered at the many camps and forts in the country at all times, when the United States is not at war with any other country. As I have said, the President and Secretary of War want a standing army of 500,000 which would be only about 300,000 less than the great German army when they started fighting in 1914. And the funny part of it is that President Wilson is sure the world club plan will be formed with the United States a member and he says if that is so there will be no more wars and we won't have to send any more soldiers across the ocean."

"Then what does he want such a big army for?" asked Jack.

"Well Jack, that is what a lot of people want to know. Major General Leonard Wood, an old and tried soldier, who was a great friend of Theodore Roosevelt, has said that we do not need more than 250,000 men in our standing army to protect the United States. Since this is true and we are not trying to start another war the only answer I can see is that President Wilson must feel down in his heart that if we join the world club we WILL have to send lots of men across the ocean and help fight the battles of other countries."

"Doesn't it cost lots of money to have such a big army?" asked Ruth.

"It cost a great amount of money and the larger the army the bigger amount Congress must vote and the bigger taxes the people must pay. In the end it is the people of the country who must give the money in one way or another to pay, feed, clothe and house the soldiers. During the war it was done by buying Liberty Bonds and paying taxes on everything. Even now we are still paying for it."

"I know it," said Ruth, "I have to pay some pennies for taxes when I go to the movies and when I buy ice cream soda."

"Another reason," continued Uncle Ted, "that it is a bad thing to have a large standing army is that it would make our country something like Germany was— a military country, and that is not the American way of doing things. One of President Wilson's own men, Senator Chamberlain, who used to have charge of the committee that took care of all army mattters, the Military Affairs Committee, is against such a big standing army. He says that under this plan the control over the army which has always been held by Congress will be in the hands of one man, the President, through the Chief of Staff of the Army, but that Congress will have to pay the bills just the same as always. In other words, the Chiefs of Staff of the army will say what shall be done about the army in all matters and all Congress can do will be to vote the money wanted and ask no questions. That would be all wrong and every un-American. If such a thing happened we might very soon be ruled by a military leader in this country just as Germany used to be."

"Do you think our big men in Congress will let such a thing happea?" asked Jack.

"No Jack, I don't believe these men will let the President, the Secretary of War or anyone else have their way. This is a dangerous thing. It would be better to have a small standing army and then send the boys to camps for six months or so when they are a certain age so that they would be trained. In that way if we ever have another war, we could call those boys and they would be trained. In the meantime they would be out in the world earning their own way and would not be a heavy expense on the people as they would in a large army that would go on year after year."

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

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