

18 1900

The Sabbath School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

Third Quarter Lesson 5, July 23, 1900

THE TRANSFIGURATION.

—Luke 9: 28-36.

Compare Matthew 17: 1-13

Read Mark 8: 31-9: 29.

Commit Verses 33-35.

GOLDEN TEXT.—This is my beloved Son: hear him.—Luke 9: 35.

HISTORICAL SETTING.

Time.—Autumn of A. D. 29; a week after the last lesson; in the night, probably toward morning. (Compare Luke 9: 37)

Place.—Probably Mount Hermon, or one of its spurs, in the vicinity of Caesarea, where Jesus and his disciples were going the week before, as we saw in our last lesson.

THE PRAYER MEETING ON THE MOUNTAIN.—V. 28. About an eight days. Matthew says after six days. Luke counts the parts of days before and after the six entire days.

After these sayings. The announcement of his coming death and resurrection. There was a close connection between "those sayings" and the transfiguration. He took Peter and James and John. The same three who had gone with Jesus where he had raised Jairus' daughter. Later, they were nearest to him as he prayed in Gethsemane. There was no favoritism in this selection. He simply advanced to higher studies those who, by faithfulness in the lower, had made it possible for them to understand and use the higher.

And went up into a mountain. Scholars are coming to the unanimous conclusion that the mountain was Hermon, whose top is nine thousand feet above the sea. On the top is an irregular angular space, four hundred or five hundred yards from edge to edge, surrounded by a jagged fence of broken rocks. To pray. As usual with Jesus in all crises.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS IN ANSWER TO PRAYER.—V. 27. And as he prayed. During his prayer, and in answer to it. The fashion (or appearance) of his countenance was altered. Matthew says he "was transfigured before them." The original word is elsewhere rendered "transformed," and is used of a spiritual change. The fashion of his countenance was altered by being lighted with radiance both from without and from within. And his raiment was white and glistening. R. V., "dazzling." The inner light shone through his garments.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE GLORIFIED THREE.—Vs. 30, 31. There talked with him two men. Human beings. Which were Moses and Elias. These persons were really present. It was not a vision. Who appeared in glory. In their glorified bodies; something like that of the transfigured Jesus, but with less radiance.

Note, both, like Christ, "had entered a natural fast of forty days and nights." Moses was the Representative of the Law. Through him the law was given, and the kingdom founded, and the sacrifices instituted which prefigured the sacrifice of Christ.

Elijah Was the Representative of the Prophets, who foretold the coming of the Messiah, his sufferings, and his kingly glory, while he was himself the type of the forerunner. The Subject of Their Conference. And spake of his decease. His going out of the evil world, as the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt. Which he should (was about to) accomplish at Jerusalem. By being crucified as he had foretold and rising again from the dead.

(1) This conversation would bring human comfort and strength to Jesus. The presence of Moses and Elijah, in glorified form, would be a positive assurance to him of his own resurrection. (2) It enabled the disciples to realize that Jesus was divine. It helped them to realize the possibility of the resurrection of Jesus. It showed them how Jesus was fulfilling the Scriptures which foretold and typified the Messiah.

THE THREE WITNESSES.—Vs. 32, 33. Were heavy with sleep. Through their hard climb, and a long season of prayer. When they were awake. R. V., "were fully awake." It was no dream, no mere vision, but a waking reality. As they departed. Were departing. Peter. With his natural impulsiveness. Master, it is good for us to be here. The experience, was good, and would make him a better and more useful man all the rest of his life. It gave him a new idea of the glory that awaited the faithful. Let us make three tabernacles, or booths, woven from the branches or bushes. He would make one for each so that they might remain there longer. Not knowing (realizing) what he said. He had not time to think what was

best, to see all the effects of his plan. The event that followed were the answer. It was not good to remain there. Working for Jesus was better than standing and gazing at his glory. All that was gained upon the mountain top must be taken down into the sinful world. There the light must shine.

THE VOICE FROM THE CLOUD.—Vs. 34-36. While he thus spake. Here was a wise answer to a foolish prayer. There came a cloud. A bright cloud betokening the immediate presence of the Father and overshadowed them. The whole company, for they entered into a cloud. It was first above them, and then seemed to descend over them and envelop them. Fit symbol of the divine presence: the cloud suggesting mystery, and the brightness, glory. And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son. God gives his testimony. It was the same voice which had been heard at his baptism. Hear him. He is my messenger, and speaks the truth you need. And when the voice was past. The disciples fell on their faces in great terror. Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. Then they looked up, and Jesus was found alone. And... told no man in those days. As Jesus commanded them, "until the Son of man be risen again from the dead." Because (1) they could not fully understand its meaning until then, so as to tell it aright, as to Jesus' nature, his death, his resurrection, the future life. (2) Those to whom they told it could still less comprehend its full meaning.

THE DESCENT FROM THE MOUNT.—When the disciples came down from the Mount of Transfiguration, they found themselves in a wicked world, confronting its evils, and with abundance of common work to do and daily battles to fight. To retain the value of the experience, it was necessary to use it in making the world better. It was by shining in the darkness that the light would retain its radiance.

LESSONS FROM THE TRANSFIGURATION.—Our richest and most heavenly experience come in and through prayer. Only those who have served Christ faithfully in the valleys of daily duty, and have lived near to him, can climb with him the Mount of Transfiguration. Daily faithfulness is the ladder to heaven. Unless a man has trained himself for his chance, the chance will only make him ridiculous. There are heavenly experiences given occasionally to Christians, as a foretaste of their glory and a glimpse of the spiritual realities ever about them. It helps us bear our burdens, overcome our temptations, do our Christian work. It gives a permanent uplifting to our character. It helps to change us into the image of Christ. These higher experiences, bless and inspire all the subsequent life, even though they do not continue in the mountain-top experience. A shower is not lost because the rain drops cease to fall and the water sinks out of sight in the ground. Christians can receive the blessings of high religious experience in transfiguring their daily burdens and cares, and in attracting men to the cross of Christ.

Purchased with Three Suits of Clothes.—A number of years ago a superintendent of a Sunday-school in Dublin, Ireland, offered to any boy of that city who did not belong to a Sunday-school a new suit of clothes if he did not desire to draw from any other school, but to any boy who did not belong to any other Sunday-school the offer held good. A number of teachers went out in the highways and hedges, or, in other words, in the dirty, unkept streets and close, unwholesome alleys in search of the wandering ones.

One teacher brought in three to reinforce her class—three rough, unkempt, untaught boys. One of these three, a lad named Robert, who kept no law but his own will, was particularly troublesome; he not only would not pay any attention to the lesson himself, but he took care that no other boy in the vicinity did so. He seemed to be literally full of pins. If any boy within reach of him took his eyes from him for a moment, he was pretty certain to come in contact with one of these pins. This went on for three or four Sunday, when Robert dropped out of the Sunday-school. His teacher sought to bring him back in vain, and then took his case to the superintendent.

The superintendent replied, Give him another suit of clothes. The teacher again sought the boy with the offer of a suit of clothes, and Robert came back, and brought the pins with him, and behaved, if possible, worse than before. His teacher was almost in despair when a second time he left the school.

After repeated visits and appeals to the boy the teacher again reported the boy's failure to the superintendent. Give him another suit of clothes, responded the superintendent. But, protested the teacher, we have already given two suits of clothes. We'll give him one more suit, but make him understand that this is the very last one he is going to get. After Sunday-school the teacher sought and found the boy in the gutter of the obscure alley where he lived, playing marbles with some boon companions. Robert, said the teacher, you were absent from Sunday-school again today. Now, I ain't going there any more. But, Robert, you promised, protested his teacher. Well, I ain't going to; ain't no fun there. Robert, continued his teacher, if you will come back to Sunday-school, we will give you another suit of clothes. The boy looked up incredulously. D'ye mean that? Yes, Robert, I mean it; but this is the very last suit of clothes we are going to give you, and I can only promise you this suit if you will pledge me your word of honor to come faithfully to Sunday-school every Sunday, unless you have a good excuse for staying away. The boy pondered the matter for a few moments and said, I'll come. Now, Robert, said the teacher, I am going to trust you. I am going to leave it to your honor to come every Sunday that you are able. And, Robert, continued he, I am going to ask you to be my helper. You know that I have a very mischievous class of boys. Sometimes they behave so badly that I can scarcely teach the lesson at all, and I am going to ask you to come every Sunday and keep order while I teach. The boy studied her face for a moment with the deep shrewdness born of a street education, and finding what he saw there satisfactory, replied, I'll do it, and he did. There was no more trouble about order, he was the bully of the neighborhood. If any boy near him dared to misbehave or in any way create a disturbance, he shook his grimy fists at him and said, I'll give it to you after Sunday school, and the boy didn't dare to be disorderly. The same energy and fertility that he had used to create mischief was utilized to maintain good order, and it succeeded. The boy was Robert Morrison, who translated the Bible into the Chinese language, gave twenty-five years of his life to foreign work, and baptized the first Chinese convert to Protestantism.—Brotherhood Star.

BEAUTY'S GRAVEST Foe.—Bad temper and worry will trace more wrinkles in one night than hot and cold bathing, and massage and complexion brushes, and creams and lotions can wash out in a year's faithful application. Physicians assert that an immense amount of nerve force is expended in every fit of bad temper, that when one little part of the nervous system gets wrong the face first records it. The eyes begin losing the luster of youth, the muscles become flabby, the skin refuses to contract accordingly, and the inevitable result is wrinkles, femininity's fiercest and most insidious foe. There is no use attempting to reason with a woman about the evil effects of ill-temper while she is in an ugly mood. She knows perfectly well that it is bad form that it savors of the coarse and undebased; that it is weak, and belittling, and immoral, and that it hurts her cause to lose her temper. But she does not stop at just that time to think about it, and to remind her of the fact only adds fuel to the flames. But when she is cool and serene and at peace with all the world, if you can convince her that each fit of temper adds a year to her age by weakening her mental force and by tracing crow-tracks about her eyes and telltale lines around her mouth, she will probably think twice before again forgetting herself. For no matter what she asserts to the contrary, women prize youth and beauty above every other gift the gods hold it in their power to bestow upon mortals.—Adele E. Shaw, in the May Woman's Home Companion.

MEN IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.—The members of the official board of a leading Chicago Methodist church, at a recent session of the quarterly conference, by resolution, pledged themselves to attend Sunday school and perform any service the superintendent might request. The action of these official members was prompted by a statement of the difficulties the superintendent had to contend with in his efforts to prevent boys giving up attendance at Sunday school when they approach young manhood. The presence of so few men as workers or attendants in Sunday

school suggests to boys, as they react the close of their teens, that Sunday school is the place for women and children—at least men appear to think it is—not for men. The gentlemen to whom the superintendent's remarks were addressed had never before seen the matter in that light. Some of them had boys of their own, and all were desirous that the boys of the Sunday school should develop into earnest Christian men and active workers in the church. They realized that if they were to exert a proper influence over the boys and retain them in the Sunday school they must set them a better example by attending themselves.

The Sunday school referred to is not an isolated case. There are thousands of other Sunday schools which need the inspiration which the presence and efforts of the men of the church give in order to retain the older boys and young men. Every official member of the church, and indeed every adult member, should realize that the Sunday school is a place where all may study the Bible, and they should esteem it a privilege, if not indeed a duty, to attend. It is to be hoped that one of the best fruits of the forward movement at the opening of the twentieth century will be a greater interest in the study of the Bible and an increased attendance of men and women at Sunday school.—Northwestern Advocate.

A Heart-Winning Deed.—The Christian Endeavor World brings to us an incident of the Rev. Russell H. Conwell, which again shows how much mightier the deed than the word. Two young men of the world attended Grace Church occasionally in company with their young lady friends. One evening the young folks fell to discussing Rev. Mr. Conwell. The young ladies declared that their pastor was animated by the best of motives, but the converts to the better way declared, Conwell is like all the rest of them—he is in it for the almighty dollar. It was of no use for the simple, Christian-hearted girl to argue with omniscience, and the question was dropped. One stormy winter's night, as these two young men reeled out of a saloon at twelve o'clock, they heard a voice saying: My dear child, why did you not tell me before that you were in need? You know that I would not let you suffer. That's Conwell, said one of the young fellows. Nah! get out, replied his companion, what's the matter with you? I tell you that was Conwell's voice; let's follow him up. Through the blinding snow they could distinguish the tall, masculine form of the pastor of Grace Church with a large basket on one arm, and leading a little girl by the hand. Keeping a sufficient distance to avoid recognition, the young men followed to a home of need the man whose spoken word in the great Temple had failed to lead them to believe in him who went about doing good, but whose ministry to a needy family at midnight brought the tears of sincere repentance and a cry for mercy. Those young men became consistent members of Grace Church, and vie with others in devotion to their pastor.

CHILD WISDOM.—Robbie had longed long and earnestly for a baby brother and a pair of white rabbits. The answer to both wishes came on the same morning, but it was not quite satisfactory, for there were two baby brothers and only one rabbit. Robbie was greatly disgusted at the mistake. The next day his father found the following notice tacked to the gate post: "For sale.—One nice fat baby or I will swap him for a white Rab-Bet."

To bring up a child in the way he should go, travel that way your self. PAIN-KILLER is the best, safest and surest remedy for cramps, colic and diarrhoea. As a liniment for wounds and sprains it is unequalled. Avoid substitutes, there's but one Pain-Killer, Perry-Davis'. 25c. and 50c. HAGYARD'S YELLOW OIL. Can be used externally or taken internally. It cures cuts, burns, bruises, contracted cords, stiff joints, painful swellings, quinsy, sore throat, etc. It is a regular family medicine chest. Price 22c. Laxa-Liver Pills cure Biliousness, Sick Headache, Dyspepsia, Sour Stomach, Water Brash, Sallow Complexion, etc. They do not gripe, weaken or sicken. Small and easy to take. Price 25c. Good Digestion Should Wait on Appetite.—To have the stomach well is to have the nervous system well. Very delicate are the digestive organs. In some so sensitive are they that atmospheric changes affect them. When they become disarranged no better regulator is procurable than Parmelee's Vegetable Pills. They will assist the digestion so that the hearty eater will suffer no inconveniences and will derive all the benefits of his food.

Hardly Anything. On the table gives a better impression of refinement than pretty CHINA. This need not mean an extra expense if you come to us. We are offering not only the cheaper goods, but all our best China and Fancy Goods at one third and one half of the regular price. The discounts on Cream Jugs and Water Pitchers is a surprise to all. Fruit Jars selling at 70, 80, and \$1.00, pints, Quarts and half gals, until further notice. LEMONT & SONS. USE Wiley's Emulsion OF GOD LIVER OIL AND HYPOPHOSPHITES The Best for Lung Disease. AT Wiley's Drug Store INDIGESTION CAN BE CURED. An Open Letter from a Prominent Clergyman. C. GATES, SON & CO. Middleton, N. S. Dear Sirs,—Please pardon my delay in answering yours of weeks ago. You have no hesitation in recommending your Invigorating Syrup. During the fall and winter of '96 and '97 I was greatly distressed with indigestion. I tried several remedies each of which gave me no relief. I was advised to try your Invigorating Syrup, which I readily did, and have felt grateful ever since to the one who gave such good advice. The very first dose helped me, and before half of the first bottle was used I was completely cured. Have not been troubled with the disease since. I have taken occasion to recommend your medicine publicly upon several occasions, and heartily do so now. You are at liberty to use this in any way you please. Yours truly, (REV.) F. M. YOUNG, Pastor Baptist Church, Bridgetown, N. S. Sold everywhere at 50 cents per Bottle. New Goods JAMES R. HOWIE PRACTICAL TAILOR. I beg to inform my numerous patrons that I have just opened out a very large and well-selected stock of NEW SPRING CLOTHS, consisting of English and Scotch and Canadian Tweed Suitings, Fine Corksweave and Diagonal Suitings, Light and Dark Spring Overcoatings, and all the latest designs and patterns in Fancy Trousers from which I am prepared to make up in FIRST CLASS STYLE, according to the latest New York Spring and Summer Fashions, and guarantee to give satisfaction. PRICES MODERATE. MEN'S FURNISHING DEPARTMENT. My stock of Men's Furnishing Goods cannot be excelled. It consists of Hand and Soft Hats of English and American make, in all the novelties and Staple Styles for Spring Wear. White and Regatta shirts, Linen Collars, Silk Handkerchiefs, Braces, Merino Underwear, Hosiery and well selected assortment of Fancy Ties and Scarfs, in all the latest patterns of English and American designs. Rubber Clothing a specialty. Jas. R. Howie 191 Queen St. N.

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