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There's no other sarsaparilla like it. In age and power to cure it's "The leader of them all."

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J. D. Good, Brownstown, Va. Jan. 30, 1899.

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The Sabbath School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

Second Quarter Lesson 7, May 19 1901

JESUS ASCENDS INTO HEAVEN.—Luke 24: 44-53; Acts 1: 1-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.—While he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.—Luke 24: 51.

LEARN BY HEART.

Vs. 9-11; Luke 24: 49-53.

HISTORICAL SETTING.

Time.—The ascension, Thursday, May 18, A. D. 30. Not many days after the last lesson.

Place.—The Mount of Olives, near Bethany.

LUKE'S SUMMARY.—Vs. 1-2; Luke 24: 44, 48, 49. Not long after the appearance of Judas in Galilee, the disciples returned to Jerusalem, to their upper room of meeting. Luke, (24: 44-53) gives a summary of the teaching of Christ during the forty days.

In the first three verses of the Acts he connects it with his Gospel by a brief resume of the Resurrection period. We note one or two phrases in these three verses. All that Jesus began both to do and teach. His whole life from the beginning. The gospel story is a book of mighty deeds as well as wondrous speech. The fact is both curious and significant that what is found in the Gospel Narratives, in the form of precept or teaching, reappears in the Acts of the Apostles in the form of practice or example. By many infallible proofs. Proofs by sure signs, the strongest proofs of which a subject is capable. Forty days. At intervals, ten or eleven times. Speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God, which was to be unfolded and carried on through them. During all this transition period the disciples were being trained to understand and to do the work that was before them.

THE COMMAND TO WAIT FOR THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER.—Vs. 4, 5. And, being assembled together with them. Probably in Jerusalem on the day of ascension, whence Jesus led them out toward Bethany (Luke 24: 50). Commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but wait. They waited by prayer, by conference together, by doing necessary duties. Waiting is not sleeping. For the promise of the Father. For the fulfilment of the promise which the Father has given the promise of the Holy Spirit. It was really the sum and substance of all the promises of the coming of the kingdom of God. Which ye have heard of me. This promise is alluded to in Luke 24: 49; and found in John 14: 16, 26; 15: 26 "I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever."

They waited ten days in expectation, but without knowing in what way the promise was to be fulfilled. The reasons appear to be:—

1. That the great gift might come upon all at once and alike. The effect on the community would also be far more powerful.
2. Because they would thus express "the unity of the church, being endowed with one spirit, at one time, in one place."
3. Because of the prophecies in Isa. 2: 3; Mic. 4: 2, that the Christian law might go forth from Mount Zion.
4. Here, where the atonement was made, where the facts of his resurrection were known, was the best place for the return of Jesus through the Spirit.
5. The coming of the Spirit would be at the next great festival after the crucifixion, when strangers from all parts of the world would be gathered at Jerusalem, who would carry back the tidings of that manifestation into all lands.
6. Till then, they themselves would not be prepared to preach the gospel. They needed more training, they needed to be equipped by the Spirit for service.
7. The people needed something of the same process of gradual preparation.

Practical Suggestion. There are times when it is our duty to wait: not in idleness, but in prayer, in removing hindrances from our hearts, in doing every duty close at hand.

For John. The forerunner of Christ. Truly baptized with water. The symbol and the type. It expressed the repentance and the new life which the Holy Spirit would give; and was a type of the higher and better baptism. While John was baptizing with water, he pointed to Jesus as the one who should baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire (John 1: 33). Jesus says that this promise is about to be fulfilled. Ye shall be baptized with (or in) the Holy Ghost. As the element in which the baptism is performed. Not that this would be the first time that the Holy Spirit had been received, but that it would come with peculiar manifestation

and upon all disciples. Not many days hence. About ten days, on Pentecost.

THE PROMISE; POWER FOR FULFILLING THEIR MISSION.—Vs. 6-8. The need of the disciples was power to accomplish the great task set before them. They... were come together, on the Mount of Olives, near Bethany. This was their last interview. They asked. Kept asking. Lord, wilt thou (E. V. "dost thou") at this time restore again the kingdom of Israel? As promised in the Scriptures. Israel was then subject to the Roman power. They probably imagined that the world would be converted to Judaism, and that Jerusalem would be the resort of all nations, the centre of religion for the world. And he said, implying that their expectation of some kind of restoration was correct. It is not for you to know, not the times. The fitting and exact time for an event to occur. Which the Father hath put (or placed) in his own power (or authority). Kept within his own absolute disposal. All they needed was the fact, as a certainty, toward which God would gradually lead them, and the power to accomplish the desired results. But shall receive, instead of a knowledge of the future, power to do your work, to do your part toward making the future. This includes (1) power to lead men to the Saviour; (2) power to overcome all enemies and obstacles; (3) power to work miracles; (4) power to lead the church. This power must come from the Holy Ghost. Ghost is Old English for Spirit. Ye shall be witnesses. The Greek word is that from which comes our word "martyr," i. e., those who bear witness to Jesus Christ by suffering and dying for him. The go-pel is built on facts, not theories. The power of preaching and of teaching is not in arguing, but in witnessing, in declaring the truths known and tested by experience. In Jerusalem, etc. Their work would begin here, and extend to the uttermost part of the earth. The religion of Jesus was to be a world-wide religion, and this is one proof that it is the true religion.

Practical Suggestions. 1. It is blessed for us not to know the future. We would bear our sorrows a hundred times instead of once, and be appalled by our work, and we would be unfitted for the present duties.

2. All Christians are to be witnesses testifying to the reality of religion, to fulfilment of the promises, to the living presence of Jesus, to his power to save from sin, to guide into righteousness. Just in proportion as the Christian has experienced what Christ can do, can he do effective work as a Christian.
3. He bears witness (1) by his words. (2) By his life and character. His family life, the way he does his business, his conduct in public affairs and social life, are all witnesses as to what Christ has done for him, and can therefore do for others. (3) By sending witnesses to the uttermost parts of the earth.

THE ASCENSION.—V. 9. While they beheld. He was in the act of blessing them when he was taken up (Luke 24: 51). A cloud received him out of their sight. Perhaps it was like the "fiery, cloudy pillar," the symbol of God that led the Israelites through the wilderness, or Elijah's storm chariot, or the bright cloud of glory which overshadowed him on the Mount of Transfiguration.

The Ascension the Perfection of Christ's Earthly Ministry. Jesus answers the question (John 16: 7)

1. Only by his going away could the Holy Spirit come and take his place.
2. His bodily presence could be only in some one place. Now abiding on the right hand of God, he is enabled to be the omnipresent Saviour of all men. His Holy Spirit is everything to all men everywhere that he himself would be if present with each one to aid, to comfort, and to guide.
3. The ascension was a fitting close of the earthly career of Jesus. It completed the proof of his divine nature and mission. It was the crowning of his life with success.
4. It showed the continued reality of Christ's existence, linking this world with the other, and showing how he could be the ever-living Saviour in heaven, whom Stephen saw at the right hand of God, who came to Paul on the way to Damascus, who is ever with his people, even to the end of the world. We worship a living Saviour, whom we shall love and serve through endless ages.

THE PROMISED RETURN.—Vs. 10, 11. And while they looked steadfastly. Gazing with eagerness, and longing to understand what it meant. Behold. Implying sadness. Two men. Angels in the form of men. In white apparel. No doubt like the angel in Matt. 28: 3. As his advent and his resurrection, so his return to heaven was accompanied by ministering angels. Which also said. Jesus

had refused their prayer to know the "times and seasons," but he gave them something far better, the glorious fact of his return, a perpetual comfort and hope. Why count ye gazing up? You are looking in the wrong place for what you want. You need now the eye of faith for your heavenly vision. There is something better for you than you can now see. This same Jesus... shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go. The second coming of Christ, then, will not be like his first coming, obscure. He will come in power and glory. No time is set. This is the final coming at the end of the new dispensation.

A Wise Prescription.

Some years ago, a lady, who tells the story herself, went to consult a famous New York physician about her health. She was a woman of nervous temperament, whose troubles—and she had had many—had worried and excited her to such a pitch that the strain threatened her physical strength, and even her reason. She gave the doctor a list of her symptoms, and answered his questions, only to be astonished at his brief prescription at the end: Madam, what you need is to read your Bible more.

But doctor, began the bewildered patient.

Go home and read your Bible an hour a day the great man reiterated, with kindly authority; then come back to me a month from today. And he bowed her out without a possibility of further protest.

At first his patient was inclined to be angry. Then she reflected that, at least, the prescription was not an expensive one. Besides, it certainly had been a long time since she had read the Bible regularly, she reflected, with a pang of conscience. Worldly cares had crowded out prayers and Bible study for years, and, though she would have resented being called an irreligious woman, she had undoubtedly become a most careless Christian. She went home and set herself conscientiously to try the physician's remedy.

In one month she went back to his office. Well, he said, smiling, as he looked at her face, I see you are an obedient patient, and have taken my prescription faithfully. Do you need any other medicine now? No, doctor, I don't, she said, honestly.

I am a different person—I hope I am a different person! But did you know that was just what I needed?

For answer the famous physician turned to his desk. There, worn and marked, lay an open Bible. Madam, he said, with deep earnestness, if I were to omit my daily reading of this book, I should lose my greatest source of strength and skill. I never go to an operation without reading my Bible. I never attend a distressing case without finding help in its pages. Your case called for no medicine, but for sources of peace and strength outside your own mind, and I showed you my own prescription, and I knew it would cure.

Yet I confess, doctor, said his patient, that I came very near not taking it.

Very few are willing to try it, I find, said the physician, smiling again. But there are many, many cases in my practice where it would work wonders, if they would take it.

This is a true story. The doctor died only a little while ago, but his prescription remains. It will do no one any harm to try it.—Forward.

Singing Insects of Japan.

Singing birds are esteemed in all countries but it is only in Japan that the musical sounds emitted by certain insects are appreciated.

Listening to these minute singers is, and has been for many centuries, a favourite pastime of the Japanese, and has given birth to an original commerce.

At Tokio, toward the end of May and the beginning of June, one sees suspended under the verandahs of houses beautiful little cages of bamboo from which break upon the silence of the fresh twilight strange little whistlings of metallic modulations, of light trills, which fill the air with a delicate music. It is habitually in the evening, after the hour of the bath, that the people of Tokio seat themselves and listen with delight to the shrill concert.

The most prized of these singing insects is the suzumushi. Its name means "insect bell," and the sound which it emits resembles that of a tiny silver bell. It is a tiny black beetle, of a flat body and very vulgar appearance. The kutsuwamushi is so named because its cry resembles the sound made by a horse in champing his bit. This insect is none other than a kind of winged grasshopper of fat body and common in many countries.

Another singing insect much esteemed is the kirigirisu, which is but a very large grasshopper, producing varied, strident sounds. In Tokio alone there are over forty merchants dealing in singing insects. This commerce is of relatively recent origin, though for centuries the Japanese have been fond of the music of these insects. Formerly they would go in parties to place where the little musicians abounded, pass the night there extended upon mats, drinking tea or sake and listening to the harmony of the suzumushi and kutsuwamushi.

What Love Will do for the Teacher.

Mere knowledge does not fit any one to be a teacher. The true teacher's thought has two poles,—interest in the subject he is teaching, and interest in those he is trying to reach with it. Without the latter, the teacher never acquires the power to draw his pupils to himself, and to open their minds to truth. At his worst, he is comparable to the dry preacher, of whom the farmer said: He told us, if we did not, we would go to hell. He did not seem to care much which. The teacher of spiritual truth should be one who cares, and who shows that he cares. He has no business to be dealing with such vital subjects unless he cares, from the bottom of his heart, for those to whom he is speaking of them. Speaking the truth in love is his business,—in the love that goes out with a great yearning for the welfare of those to whom he speaks. And if he find himself lacking in this love, the remedy is not to give up teaching because of the lack, but to acquire the love through acts of service and self-sacrifice. We love those for whom we do what it costs us something to do. We learn to love God in that way, and the road to loving his children is the same.—S. S. Times.

Extravagant Speech.

A tendency toward gross exaggeration marks the common speech of many very good people who would be seriously offended if one should accuse them of telling an untruth.

Two young girls full of the vivacity and heedlessness of youth met in a street car. They greeted each other with real school girl effusiveness, and one said to the other:

I never was so glad to see any one in my life!

And I've just been dying to see you! I was the reply from the brilliant and blooming girl, who was certainly in the full flush of health at that moment.

How do you do, any how?

Oh! I've a perfect fearful cold! I nearly died with one last week. I've nearly coughed and sneezed my head off!

I know. It makes one feel so perfectly wretched. Mamma has a horrible cold.

We've been having a regular hospital at our house. Isn't it horribly cold to day?

Fa-ful! I thought I should perish before the car came along. My feet are exactly like lumps of ice! I don't believe that they'll ever be warm again.

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used it on my head, and took some in hot water internally, according to directions. As soon as I drank it I felt better, and it made a complete cure in a few days. I afterwards advised a neighbour to use it and he cured him also. Mr. Joshua McDonald of Casey Corner, spent \$25.00 before I saw him and persuaded him to try your Liniment. He too was cured and says that he will never be without

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