

The Sunday School

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubet's Notes.

First Quarter, 1902.

JANUARY TO MARCH.

Lesson V. February 2. Acts 4:1-42.

THE FIRST PERSECUTION.

GOLDEN TEXT.

There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.—Acts 4:12.

EXPLANATORY.

I. THE APOSTLES ARRESTED AND SENT TO PRISON.—Vs. 1, 3. 1. AND AS THEY (Peter and John) spake unto the people in Solomon's porch or cloister, a pillared portico open to the court of the temple. THE PRIESTS. The priests would naturally resent any usurpation of their place as the leaders of worship and instruction, and any lessening of their influence. AND THE CAPTAIN OF THE TEMPLE was the captain of the guard of Levites and others, whose business was to protect the temple, prevent disorder and any interruption of the services. He was under the direction of the priests. AND THE SADDUCEES. These were rather a party than a sect. They did not believe in the future life, or angels or spirits or the resurrection, "but their real bond of union was political . . . they were supporters of the existing system in alliance with Roman authority, and monopolized public offices in the Sanhedrim, the priesthood, and the magistracy.

2. BRING GRIEVED. Troubled through and through, vexed all through. THAT THEY TAUGHT THE PEOPLE. Different parties had different reasons for their displeasure. The temple police would avoid disorder and unauthorized gatherings. The priests were angry at the interference with their functions of worship and teaching; and the Sadducees, because the miracle and the preaching were a flat contradiction of their religious opinions, and favored their enemies, the Pharisees; and all because the growth of the new sect would interfere with their worldly interests and peace.

3. AND THEY LAID HANDS ON THEM. Arrested them. PUT THEM IN HOLD, i. e., in prison. The word means "ward," under guard, and the place of custody. UNTO THE NEXT DAY. Because it was too late to assemble the Sanhedrim, who could not lawfully sit except by daylight.

II. BUT THE WORK WENT ON.—Vs. 4. Just as we have seen in modern missions, the attempts at opposition but increased the number of the disciples. See "Interpreter's House" in Pilgrim's Progress HOWBET. In spite of the opposition and persecution, the deeds and teachings of the apostles had their due effect. AND THE NUMBER OF THE MEN, "a word distinctly restricted to men," was (came to be) ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND. Not that five thousand were added to those who had believed before, but the total of men converted reached that number. The enumeration of three thousand converts at Pentecost (Acts 2:41) included both men and women gathered at Jerusalem from all quarters for the feast.

III. OPPOSITION AIDED THE CAUSE BY GIVING THE GOSPEL A HEARING BEFORE THE RULERS.—Vs. 5-7. RULERS AND ELDERS AND SCRIBES composed the Sanhedrim, the great Jewish court, the rulers were the chief priests, the most prominent

FIXED THE FAMILY.

Grape-Nuts Set Them Right

It is better to have a food epidemic in a family than an epidemic of sickness. A young lady out at Hibbing, Minn., tells about the way Grape-Nuts won her family. She says, "When recovering from typhoid fever my doctor ordered Grape-Nuts Breakfast Food. I gained four pounds the first week, and, as the package was kept on the table for me, the whole family started to eat the new food.

We soon noticed a difference in my younger brother's face, which had been pale and bloodless and who had been suffering from chronic inflammation of the stomach. In a short time he began to eat so heartily that we all remarked about it, and before long he got so he could eat anything without the least bad effect.

We often eat Grape-Nuts dry as we would candy or nuts, and it has a richer taste than when soaked in water. The best way is to put on some good, rich cream.

My sister found that after we began eating Grape-Nuts she had a much greater supply of milk for her babe. We have quit eating hot bread and meat for the evening meal and take in place some nice Grape-Nuts, with cream, and a little fruit, and have all improved greatly in health.

Please don't publish my name." Name can be given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

representatives of the priesthood, belonging chiefly, if not entirely, to the Sadducean party. The elders were leading laymen, all members of the Sanhedrim who were neither priests nor scribes. The scribes "were professional lawyers who adhered to the Pharisees."

6. AND ANNAS THE HIGH PRIEST, though deposed by the Romans, AND CAIAPHAS, his son-in-law, made high priest in his stead, yet "like other retired high priests, retained not only the title, but also many of the rights and obligations of the office." Annas was a man of great influence, and the Jews refused to recognize the right of the Romans to appoint high priests. Before these same two Jesus was tried. JOHN AND ALEXANDER. Nothing is known of them except what is here implied, that they were prominent relatives of the high priest. THE KINDRED ON THE HIGH PRIEST. Probably members of the Sanhedrim. Five of the sons of Annas attained to the office of high priest. WERE GATHERED TOGETHER. In the hall of the Sanhedrim, adjoining the temple court on the west.

7. AND WHEN THEY HAD SET THEM IN THE MIDDLE. The two apostles and the lame man (vs. 14). "The Sanhedrim sat in a semicircle, with the president in the center, while opposite were three benches for the scholars of the Sanhedrists, who thus practically learned law. The Sanhedrim, when complete, consisted of seventy-one members, comprising chief priests, the elders of the people, and the most renowned of the rabbis; but twenty-three formed a quorum competent to transact business." THEY ASKED. The tense implies that this question was put repeatedly. BY WHAT POWER, OR BY (GR. "in," under the influence of) WHAT NAME. "Power" is force, "name" is authority. By what magical power did you do this, and what right had you to use such power?

IV. PETER PREACHING THE GOSPEL TO THE SANHEDRIM.—Vs. 8-12. 8. THEN PETER FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST. In fulfillment of Christ's promise (Matt. 10:19, 20.)

9. IF WE THIS DAY BE EXAMINED OF (concerning) THE GOOD DEED. A strange charge to make against any one. BY WHAT MEANS, whereby, or (as Rendall) by what person. It embraces the two questions of vs. 7. HE now standing before you, IS MADE WHOLE.

10. BE IT KNOWN. Peter speaks the truth squarely without fear or favor. BY (or in) THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST (THE MESSIAH) OF NAZARETH. Peter boldly speaks the hated word. WHOM YE CRUCIFIED. Peter arraigns his accusers. They are now the criminals on trial for murdering their Messiah WHOM GOD RAISED FROM THE DEAD. God counteracted their wickedness by doing exactly the opposite of what they had done. This fact convicted them of sin. They were arrayed against God.

11. THIS IS THE STONE WHICH WAS SET AT NAUGHT OF YOU BUILDERS. The reference is to Ps. 118:22. It is possible that these words were regarded as Messianic. Vs. 26 of the same Psalm was used of Jesus during the triumphal entry.

2. EITHER IS THERE SALVATION IN ANY OTHER. Not only from disease and ill of the body, as in the case of this lame man, but from sin, spiritual disease, of which bodily disease was the type. SALVATION. Greek, "the salvation," that which the Jewish nation were looking for. They saw only the shadow, the distorted image of the reality which Jesus was to bring. The last chapters of Revelation give a picture of the national salvation; and this is made up of the salvation of individuals, and is a type of the transformation Jesus will work in every believer. THERE IS NONE OTHER NAME. "Name here stands for Jesus Christ himself, and all there is in him of wisdom, power, love, divineness; just as a man's name to a note stands for all a man is and has,—his property, his character, his ability, his integrity. UNDER HEAVEN. Equivalent to, in all the earth. GIVEN AMONG MEN. Made known among them. WHEREBY (in which) WE (all members of the human race) MUST BE SAVED. In this clause "must be saved," the Greek word implies an absolute necessity. It means not "may," but "must," as the only alternative, since God has appointed no other way of salvation.

V. THE OUTCOME.—Vs. 13-17. First. The position of the disciples was unanswerable. Two facts silenced their opponents. 1. The effect of Jesus himself on the character of the disciples. These men were UNLEARNED AND IGNORANT (vs. 13), i. e., without school training, and ungifted, "mere nobodies," belonging to "this multitude which knoweth not the law" (John 7:49). And yet they had this marvelous power of logic, of eloquence, of healing. Their bearing, their boldness, their spirit, their works, were like his. Jesus must have been a power, must still be, in order to produce such effects.

Almost A Miracle.

WROUGHT IN THE CASE OF A CHARLOTTETOWN LADY.

Her Doctor Said She Was in Consumption and Held Out no Hope of Recovery—To-day She is Well, Strong and Active.

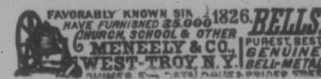
From the Islander, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Statistics published from time to time show the number of deaths occurring throughout this country from consumption to be as great as the number caused by all other preventible diseases combined. It is no wonder, therefore, that the medical fraternity has at last awakened to the fact that the most urgent means must be taken to prevent its further spread, and to teach the public that while the disease is readily communicated from one person to another, it is not necessarily inherited, though the tendency to it may be. It is therefore, of the utmost importance that people with weak lungs should take the greatest care of themselves to prevent consumption obtaining a hold upon them. Pure out-of-door air, lots of sunshine, wholesome food and a good tonic medicine to keep the blood rich, red and pure, will enable anyone to resist the inroads of the disease. As a blood forming tonic, there is no medicine the equal of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. These pills where freely and fairly used, will strengthen the weakest constitution, and have cured many cases of consumption when taken in its early stages. Proof of this is given in the case of Mrs. Abram Henry, of Charlottetown, P. E. I. To a reporter of the Islander who called upon her, Mrs. Henry said:—"A few years ago I found myself growing weak and pale, and emaciated. I took various medicines on the advice of friends, but none of them appeared to do me any good, and two years ago my condition became so much worse that I was obliged to take to my bed, and call in a doctor, who said that my lungs were affected, and that I was going into consumption, and he told my mother, who was mostly in attendance upon me, that my recovery was very doubtful. I grew gradually weaker and weaker. I could not sit up for five minutes; my lungs pained me; I coughed severely, lost almost all desire for food, and when I did eat I found it difficult to retain food on my stomach. I fell away in weight from 148 pounds to 120 pounds, and I do not think any of my friends expected to see me get better. But some of them urged me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and I decided to do so. I began by taking one pill a day, for my stomach was very weak, but I was soon able to increase this to three pills a day, and finally as my strength was increasing under their use, I took nine pills a day. The change which came with the use of the pills was a little short of miraculous, and so marked and rapid that inside of two months after I began their use, I was able to leave my bed and move about the house, and soon after I was able to move about in the park and make short visits to my friends. On one of these occasions I met the doctor who had attended me, and he asked me what I had been taking that had made such an improvement. I replied that I had been taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and he said 'all right, continue them, they won't hurt you anyway.' Well, I continued taking them until I had used seventeen boxes, with the result that I never felt better than I do now—not even in my childhood days. It is more than a year since I stopped taking the pills, and you can see for yourself what they did for me. I may say, too, that my weight has increased to 137 pounds. I am not anxious for publicity, but when I think of what the pills did for me, I believe I ought to sacrifice my own feelings for the benefit of some other poor sufferer."

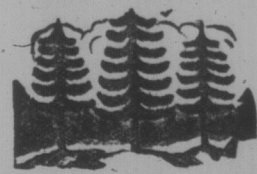
Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have produced such remarkable cures as the above, because they are wholly unlike ordinary medicines, which only act upon the symptoms. These pills go direct to the root of the trouble, making new, rich blood, and giving increased strength with every dose. In this way they cure consumption in its early stages, also such diseases as paralysis, rheumatism, St. Vitus' dance, heart trouble, neuritis, dyspepsia, chronic erysipelas, and all the functional troubles that makes the lives of so many women miserable. The genuine pills are sold only in boxes bearing the full name "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People." If you do not find them at your dealers, they will be sent postpaid at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

The crown lands department timber inspectors estimate the output of pine logs in Ontario this winter will be sufficient to yield 800,000,000 feet of lumber, board measure. This will be the greatest cut in many years.

The widow's gift into the treasury was an expression of self-sacrificing love. She gave all her living because she gave all her love. Love's gifts are never small. Their quality makes them valuable, not their quantity. The gem is valued by its quality, so is love's offering. What a picture of human meanness does the collection plate reveal. The treasurer of a church needs especial grace to count the offerings and still have faith in Christian character and confession. Malachi rebuked Judah for the offerings of the blind, halt and diseased animals upon the altar of the Lord. What could not be sold in the shambles would do for the sacrifice, was the pious hypocrite's reasoning in those days. What an earthly governor would refuse was good enough for God. That sort of offering is not all over in the church yet.—Selected.



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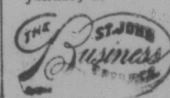
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