

5. Commissions co-laborers.
 6. Jews ascribe to Satan, Jesus' miracle of casting out devils.
 7. Jesus points out their inconsistency, and warns them against blasphemy against the Holy Ghost.
 8. Jesus defines who His relations are.
- Questions for research and discussion:
2. What significance had the descent of the us, Christ, Son of God?
 2. What significance had the descent of the Spirit upon Jesus and the voice that spoke? Mark 1:10, 11.
 3. Explain in its proper setting: "They that are whole have no need of the physician but they that are sick."
 4. How do Mark 2:21, 22, apply to the ministry of Jesus?
 5. Why did the Pharisees want to destroy Jesus? Chap. 3:6.
 6. What was blasphemy against the Holy Ghost?

A PASSION FOR SOULS

How many of us have a passion for souls? Great evangelists or soul winners have; and many an unknown, "insignificant" child of God has and is faithfully winning souls to Christ, in season and out of season, unrecognized by men but honored by God. General Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, was one of the great evangelists. The Evangelical Christian comments on a statement in Rudyard Kipling's *Memoirs*, describing his conversations with Booth at one time while touring the British Empire. Kipling writes: "I saw him walking backward in the dusk over the uneven wharf, his cloak blown upwards, tulip fashion, over his gray head, while he beat a tambourine in the face of the singing, weeping, praying crowd who had come to see him off. I talked much with General Booth during that voyage. Like the young ass I was, I expressed my distaste of his appearance at the wharf. 'Young feller,' he replied, bending great eyebrows at me, 'if I thought I could win one more soul to the Lord by walking on my head and playing the tambourine with my toes, I'd—I'd learn how!'" And so would the Apostle Paul have "learned how" if he had believed it would win any more to Christ in his day.

That is the consecration without which there can be no passion for souls. Booth and Paul made themselves servants unto all, that they might gain the more. As Paul wrote, "And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law, to them that are without law, as without law . . . that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake" (I Cor. 9:20-23). No one can "work up" a passion for souls within his own soul. Only God can give us this. But he will give it when we give Him all there is of ourselves, trust Him wholly, feed on His Word, and live "looking unto Jesus."—Sunday School Times.

Twenty per cent of the automobile victims and twenty-five per cent of those injured in falls were under the influence of liquor, the health director's figures reveal.—National Voice.

Temperance Column

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 1:20.

THE BOTTOMLESS JUG

Author Unknown

I saw it hanging up in the kitchen of a thrifty, healthy, sturdy farmer in Oxford County, Me.—a bottomless jug! The host saw that the curious thing caught my eye, and smiled.

"You are wondering what that jug is hanging up there for with its bottom knocked out," he said. "My wife, perhaps, can tell the story better than I can, but she is bashful, and I ain't, so I'll tell it.

"My father owned this farm before me, worked hard all his life, never squandered money, was a cautious trader and a good calculator; and when the old man was ready to go, and knew it, the others agreed that since I had stayed at home and taken care of the old folks, the farm should be mine, and to me it was willed. I had been married then three years.

"Well, father died—mother had gone three years before—and left the farm to me, with a mortgage on it for fifteen hundred dollars. I had never thought of it before. I said to Mollie, my wife:

"Mollie, look here. Here, father's had this farm for years, with all its magnificent timber, and his six boys, as they grew up, equal to so many men, to help him; and he worked hard, worked early and late, and you look at it! A mortgage of fifteen hundred dollars! What can I do?"

"And I went to the jug—it had a bottom in it then—and took a good stiff drink of something much stronger than water.

"I noticed a curious look on the face of my wife then, for I supposed she was thinking of what I had been talking about, and so she was, for she said:

"Charles, I have thought of this a great deal, and I have thought of a way in which I believe I can clear this mortgage off before five years are ended."

"Says I, 'Mollie, tell me how you'll do it.'

"She thought for a while, and then said, with a funny twinkle in her blue eyes—says she:

"'Charlie, you must promise me this, and promise me solemnly and sacredly. Promise me that you will never bring home for the purpose of drinking for a beverage, at any time, any more spirits than you can bring in that old jug—the jug your father has used ever since I knew him, and you have used since he was done with it.'

"Well, I knew father used once in awhile, especially in haying time and in winter when we were at work in the woods, to get an old gallon jug filled; so I thought that she meant that I should never buy more than two quarts at a time. I thought it over, and after a little while told her that I would agree to it.

"Now mind," said she, 'you are never to bring home any more spirits than you can bring in that identical jug.'

"And before I went to bed that night I took the last pull at that jug."

"We'll have the old brown jug filled tomorrow."

"And then I went off to bed. And I have remembered ever since that I went to bed that night, as I had done hundreds of times before, with a buzzing in my head that a healthy man ought not to have.

"Well, I got up the next morning and did my work at the barn, then came in and ate my breakfast, but not with such appetite as a farmer ought to have, and I could not think that my appetite had begun to fail. However, I ate breakfast, and then went out and hitched up the old mare, for, to tell the plain truth, I was feeling the need of a glass of spirits, and I hadn't a drop in the house. I was in a hurry to get to the village. I hitched up and came in for the jug. I went for it in the old cupboard and took it out and—

"Did you ever break through the thin ice on a snapping cold day, and find yourself over your head in freezing water? Because that is the way I felt at that moment. The jug was there, but the bottom was gone. Mollie had taken a sharp chisel and hammer, and with a skill that might have done credit to a master workman, she had clipped the bottom clean out of the jug; and then she burst out. She spoke—oh! I had never heard anything like it! No, nor have I heard anything like it since. She said:

"'Charlie, that's where the mortgage on the farm came from! It was brought home in that jug—two quarts at a time! And there's where your white, clean skin and your clear eyes are going. And in that jug, my husband, your appetite is going also. Oh, let it be as it is, dear heart! And remember your promise!'

"And then she threw her arms around my neck and burst into tears. She could speak no more.

"And there was no need. My eyes were opened as though by magic. In a single minute the whole scene passed before me. Sitting on a bench outside the door, I saw all the mortgages on all the farms in our neighborhood; and I thought where the money had gone. The very last mortgage father had ever made was to pay a bill held against him by the man who had filled this jug for years! Yes, I saw it as it passed before me—a flitting picture of rum! rum!—debt! debt! debt! And, in the end, death. And I returned to my Mollie, and, giving her a kiss, said:

"'Mollie, my own, I'll keep the promise! I will sure! And I have kept it. In less than five years, as Mollie had said, the mortgage was cleared off; and now we have a few hundreds at interest. There hangs the old jug—just as we hung it on that day and from that time there hasn't been a drop of spirits brought into the house for a beverage which the bottomless jug wouldn't hold.

"Dear old jug! We mean to keep it and hand it down to our children for the lesson it can give them—a lesson of life—of a life happy, peaceful, prosperous and blessed."

And, as he ceased speaking, his wife, with her arms drawn tenderly around the neck of her youngest boy, murmured a fervent "Amen."

SOME THINGS WORTH KNOWING

John 8:32

To know:

1. My state by nature (Rom. 7:18; Gen. 6:5).
2. Why Christ was manifested (I. John 3:5)
3. Know Jesus Himself (John 6:69; 2 Tim. 1:12).
4. Know God the Father (John 17:3; 1 Pet. 3:18).
5. Know the Holy Spirit (John 14:17-20; I. John 3:24).
6. That I have eternal life (John 5:24; 1 John 5:13).—Sel.