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Sunday School Lesson

April 28th, 1946

DECISIVE MOMENTS IN PETER'S LIFE

Lesson: John 1:42; Mark 8:27-29; Luke 22:54-57, 61, 62; John 21:15-17; Acts 5:29.

Golden Text: We ought to obey God rather than men. Acts 5:29.

COMMENTS ON THE LESSON

In our lesson today we have a splendid outline of decisive moments in Peter's life. The first two selections shew that Peter was a converted man. The third selection shews that while he is a converted man he is still carnal. The last selection is uttered after Pentecost and shews the law of perfect love in action. The sin principle was destroyed in Peter's heart at Pentecost.

I. **PETER CONVERTED: John 1:42. He brought him to Jesus**—Andrew brought Peter, his brother, to Jesus. This is one of the greatest things that Andrew ever did. Every Christian should endeavour to bring his loved ones to Christ. **A stone**—The church is represented as a great building. Jesus Christ is the great architect. Peter, as one of the Apostles, and a representative of all, filled with faith in Christ, is a rock, one of the great foundation stones on which Christ is rearing His church. It was at Pentecost he became rock like or solid in Christian character.

II. **PETER'S CONFESSION: Mark 8:27: Whom do men say that I am**—He asks his disciples how much men understood his nature and his work.

28. **John the Baptist**—Returned to life. **Elias**—The scribes thought he would be incarnated before the coming of the Messiah.

29. **Whom say ye that I am**—He was asking the disciples their personal opinion. **Peter answered and said unto him, THOU art the Christ**—Simon Peter was one of the quickest to perceive truth and the readiest to utter it.

III. **PETER'S DENIAL: Luke 22:54—Peter followed afar off**—He followed at a safe distance.

55. **Peter sat down among them**—Peter and John were in the court near the fire. They were surrounded by a crowd, some saying one thing, some another.

56. **This man was also with him**—The maid knew that Peter was with Jesus before his arrest.

57. **Woman, I know him not**—He denies any acquaintance with Jesus. This is a plain manifestation of carnal fear.

IV. **PETER'S REPENTANCE: Luke 22:61 Peter remembered the word of the Lord**—“The crowing of the cock while the words yet in Peter's mouth, and the look of Jesus quickened his memory.” Matthew Arnold's Commentary.

62. **Peter went out and wept bitterly**—The sincerity of Peter's repentance was proved by a long life of devoted service to his Master.

V. **PETER'S COMMISSION: John 21:15: Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these**—This scripture is said to mean either “more than you love these things” or “more than these other disciples love me.” The latter view is preferable. **Feed my lambs**—Not only to feed but to take care of Christian converts.

6. **He saith to him again the second time, Simon son of Jonas, lovest thou me**—This time Christ dropped the “more than these” about which Peter did not care to answer. **Feed my sheep**—Sheep represent experienced Christians.

7. **He said unto him the third time**—Jesus allows Peter to confess him, once for each time he denies him, and out of that confession comes Peter's commission. This is the re-commissioning of an apostle who had recently fallen from grace of discipleship.

VI. **PETER AFTER PENTECOST: Acts 5:29—We ought to obey God rather than men**—Unquestionable obedience is law of life for the sanctified.

QUESTIONS AND THEMES FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is the significance of the name that Jesus gave to Peter?
2. Why was Peter the representative of the Apostles?
3. What was Peter's commission?
4. Describe Peter before Pentecost, and account for the great difference in his character after Pentecost.

May 5th, 1946

TWO BROTHERS LEARN TOLERANCE

Lesson: Mark 3:14-17; Luke 9:49-56;

I. John 4:7:8

Golden Text: This commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also. I. John 4:21.

COMMENTS ON THE LESSON

Our lesson today shews the difference between Christians that are not sanctified and Christians that are.

I. **TWELVE ORDAINED: Mark 3:14 He ordained twelve**—“He appointed twelve”—R. V.

15. **To have power to heal sickness, and to cast out devils**—“The business of a minister of Christ is: (1) To preach the gospel (2) To be the physician of souls (3) To wage war with the devil and destroy his kingdom.” Dr. Clarke.

16. **Simon he surnamed Peter**—(A rock or stone).

17. **The sons of Thunder**—James and John are no doubt so called because of their disposition. They were neither hot headed or loud mouthed, but they had natural abilities which when sanctified could be used to advantage in the kingdom of God.

II. **INTOLERANCE FORBIDDEN: Luke 9:49 We forbade him because he followed not us**—The disciples referred to was doing a good work, but because he was not of the apostolic band, John protested against his work. People today sometimes put the organized church ahead of the kingdom.

50. **Forbid him not**—James and John are taught to bear with others.

51. **He steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem**—He is conscious of death awaiting him at Jerusalem but he is determined to go.

52. **Sent messengers before his face**—The messengers evidently were James and John. Since Jesus had made many enemies it would save time if the company only stopped in those places where Jesus would be welcome.

53. **They did not receive him**—There was intense hatred between the Jews and the Samaritans. Jesus however did not share this hatred. They rejected him because he was on his way to Jerusalem to take part in the worship there which was not shared with the Samaritans.

III. **CARNAL DISCIPLES REBUKED: 54 Wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven and consume them**—“The kill spirit is a symptom of carnality, and needs the remedy of cleansing. These same apostles exhibited no such spirit after Pentecost.” Higgley's Commentary.

55. **He turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of**—The disciples were greatly mistaken and manifested unholy irritation.

56. **The son of man is not come to destroy men's lives but to save them**—Jesus had preached to them in the Sermon on the Mount that they must love their enemies. This was more than they could take until they were utterly crucified to carnal self.

IV. **LOVE ENJOINED: I. John 4:7 Let us love one another**—Note the difference in John before and after Pentecost.

8. **God is love: Love in a sanctified Christian is the same as love in God except that in God, love is original and in man it is inwrought by the Holy Spirit.**

QUESTIONS AND THEMES FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is the business of a minister of Christ?
2. Why did John rebuke the man who was casting out the demons?
3. What lesson is there for us in Christ's reply to John?
4. Name some symptoms of carnality; when were the disciples made free from this evil.

Temperance Column

A SORRY ADVERTISEMENT

At the top of the liquor industry in the United States are some smart people who are becoming increasingly concerned about cleaning up the industry from the inside. One of their greatest concerns is the drunkard. He hurts their business; he is a sorry advertisement. You never see him pictured in the magazines by the industry when advertising its product. Currently, the industry is trying to counsel against intemperate drinking and is quoting science to the effect that some people simply cannot drink moderately. They must be total abstainers or drunkards.

So far, this is commendable. But the industry is overlooking the fact that alcohol itself creates a demand for more and more. All the drunkards began as moderate users and the chronic alcoholics are recruited from among those who never expected to go that far. Seeing that those who have this low tolerance for alcohol cannot be predetermined, the only safe course for all people is to leave the stuff alone. No one can use alcohol, even moderately, without exposing himself to the immoderate use of it. Just a little “to be sociable” calls for more and more in far too many instances. This, the industry ignores. And here is the weakness in its efforts to teach moderation. There simply is no such thing as safe and sane drinking. All of it is fraught with much danger.

One is not fanatic nor narrow nor bigoted to insist upon this. The prohibitionists therefore have no apology to make for their insistence upon total abstinence. They are on good, scientific ground when they do so. Let all those who deny this prove otherwise—*National Voice*.

PROTEST!

Dear Highway Readers:—

Noting the determined attitude of the liquor interests in keeping before the public their wares, through their advertising in our magazines, I believe we ought to take as many steps as possible to defeat their aims.

How can we do this? By cutting out the ad, be it ever so patriotic or beautiful, and mailing it to the editors of the magazine or journal, voicing our objection. Don't be deceived by the beautiful picture, for it covers up the same evil purpose, that for the dollar is willing to traffic in misery, crime and shame, for alcohol still steals from men and women their respect and health; from children bread and a right to respectability; and sets the feet of all who traffic in it (directly or indirectly) in the ways of death and hell.

Be determined. Act now, and see what a four-cent stamp and five minutes of time can accomplish.

J. A. OWENS

I had rather come out “from among them,” than be rejected with them. II. Cor. 6:17.