

## Sunday School Lesson

March 9, 1947

### JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES' FEET

A. D. Cann

Lesson: John 13-15, 34, 35

Golden Text: A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. John 13:34.

This lesson takes us to the last messages given by Christ to his disciples. This last Thursday night was one of the most notable evenings of his life. Let us give rapt attention to his message.

#### JESUS OUR EXAMPLE IN HUMILITY—

"He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel and girded himself." Teaching may start from either of two points—(1) from philosophy; (2) from life. Jesus used both methods and proved that each is dependent on the other. It is not sufficient to lay down a doctrine in order to convince men of holiness, but we must be the very incarnation of the doctrine we teach or preach. The truly great by this standard are not those who merely "know all the answers" concerning doctrine, but those who know the doctrine as a result of having lived it. Had Jesus merely commanded the disciples to wash one another's feet, many would discount the translation and say he meant something else. Since Jesus did the act himself there can be no doubt as to the lesson he intended. Humility is not criticism of others; it is not inverted pride. "It keeps no looking-glass and is not aware that its face having turned toward God in long fellowship, burns with reflected glory of the image it has gazed upon." Humility is an active power in life, and the greater the humility, the greater the service rendered.

The lesson taught is this—that if Christ felt his Father's blessing and benediction in such a menial and humble employment as feet washing, then why cannot we have his blessing while milking cows, catching fish, working in a factory, or office or hospital, washing dishes, scrubbing floors or any other honorable employment that is for the glory of God and welfare of men.

#### JESUS OUR EXAMPLE IN SERVICE—

"For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." Jesus Christ never copied an example; he never needed time to put his thoughts together; he never made a mistake; he never needed to apologize; he was never second in conversation, but was always ahead of his age. His teaching was universal, for all people for all time. We cannot understand the significance of the service Jesus performed that night, until we ourselves are lost in the love of God and consequently a burning desire to cleanse the lives of others. Pride of idleness is never compatible with the holiness of Jesus.

#### JESUS OUR EXAMPLE IN LOVE—

"A new commandment I give unto you. That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." This is a new standard of love and goes beyond anything that the Mosaic standard required. Its standard is that we love our neighbour more than ourselves. It was this love that caused the Apostle Paul to give the Gospel to those that stoned him, put him in prison, and finally took his life. It was this motivating power that caused David Livingstone to give his life for the salvation of Africa. This love has led people to the ends of the earth, and to forms of service, that honor or money could not have hired them to perform. It is only as Christian people embrace this new commandment that revivals, camp-meetings, Sunday Schools and the work of God in general can prosper.

### QUESTIONS AND PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

1. What is the best way of proving truth and doctrine?

2. Name as many reasons as you can why Jesus is a perfect example.
3. What is the practical application of the new commandment mentioned in the lesson.

March 16, 1947

### INTIMATE WORDS WITH HIS DISCIPLES

Lesson: John 14:1-6, 12-18; 15:1-6

Golden Text: Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. John 15:14

We have in our lesson three sections consisting of sayings uttered in the upper room that are rich in spiritual value.

#### A PLACE PROMISED—

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." Jesus does not tell the disciples where the place will be, but he does assure them of his own presence. Home does not consist of houses and lands, but rather the presence of loved ones. Home in this sense is a symbol of Heaven. Home is a beautiful word and in some respects it corresponds with the word "mother." It is often after the home is broken that the members are made to better appreciate its worth. Jesus was about to leave his disciples and he wanted to assure them of a Heavenly Home. "I will not leave your orphans." I will not leave you without the Comforter in this life, and in the life to come an everlasting home. These words of Jesus have been a source of comfort all down through the centuries. Is it not wonderful that our Master has prepared such a wonderful place for his poor humble servants.

#### THE COMFORTER PROMISED—

"And I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Comforter that he may abide with you forever." "In this upper room message Christ uses a new home to designate the Spirit whom he would send to continue his work—the "Paraclete," a term used only four times in the four Gospels, and all of them in the consoling address in John 14-16, and translated Comforter, Strengtheners." (Condensed from "The Gospel of the Comforter" by Daniel Steele.) Reasoning from a human standpoint the disciples would feel that Jesus should stay with them until the last soul was saved. God's ways are not our ways, nor his thoughts our thoughts. Because Jesus was essentially human he could only be in one place at a time, but not so with the Holy Spirit. He is everywhere; not only in Palestine, but in the smallest home in America or Africa. Jesus was going to the Father according to plan, and in the best interest of his work. It is expedient for you that I go away. He left his workmen under the capable leadership of the Holy Spirit. As Jesus bore the burden of the Father's work while on earth, so does the Holy Spirit bear the burden of the work today. He is the agent of the Godhead. As the disciples looked to Jesus for leadership and leaned on him, so likewise must we look to the Holy Spirit for leadership and cast our burden on him. Let us always remember that we are but God's helpers while the Holy Spirit is the active agent. Looking to ourselves we would be distracted with the wickedness and sin, but in looking to the Holy Spirit we find comfort and assurance.

#### FRUITFULNESS EXPECTED—

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." It is well to notice the relationship here. The branch cannot exist without the vine, but the vine can exist without the branch. So with us: God can get along without us but we cannot get along without God. In the analogy taken from the vine and the branch we have—heart to heart, fibre to fibre and bark to bark. Likewise in our relation to Christ—heart to heart, flesh to his flesh and bone to his bone. This beautiful relationship can be broken, however, if we as Christians fail to bear fruit. Fruitfulness is indispensable to discipleship.

### QUESTIONS AND PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

1. Whose presence is essential to happiness?
2. Suggest some reasons why it was expedient for Jesus to leave his disciples.
3. What is the warning to believers in John 15:6? Does this Scripture teach the infallible perseverance of disobedient believers?

## CORRESPONDENCE

Binghamton, New York.

The King's Highway,

Moncton, N. B.

Dear Mr. Editor:

If you will allow me a little space in your valuable paper, I should like to report two meetings recently held in Reformed Baptist churches in New Brunswick.

Leaving home immediately after the first of the New Year, we journeyed to Saint John, N. B., where we opened a campaign in the local church, Rev. G. A. DeLong the pastor. We faithfully ministered to this group for two weeks with some most gratifying results, about a score of souls seeking help at the altar. Bro. DeLong led the singing splendidly and gave excellent human leadership and Brother DeVerne Mullin was made a blessing as he sang much appreciated solos at nearly every service. Our entertainment in the home of DeLongs shall long be remembered as a time of the most pleasant fellowship and association. Hurrying on from here we opened Tuesday night, January 21st, with the Hartland church, Rev. A. D. Cann pastor. During the first week a planned ministerial convention was held, thus meetings were held daily for three days with several of the ministers of the zone being in attendance. I spoke to the ministers each afternoon with delight and I trust mutual profit to all, also giving the nightly evangelistic message. This was a real revival, easy to preach, pray, sing, with seekers readily responding to the call, there being 65 in all. A glorious time of victory and the revival tide and spirit very marked in every service and noticeable right up to the last service. God is blessing the splendid ministry of Brother Cann in Hartland and we feel there is a good future for both this church and its capable pastor. I was kindly entertained in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude MacMullins. I had the delightful privilege of visiting the Bible Institute at Woodstock, being most favorably impressed with the entire set-up, materially as also spiritually. Fine buildings and a splendid student body. God bless this new religious educational center, is our prayer.

The re-newing of former friendships made while I was at Beulah Camp a few years since and the making of new acquaintances with spiritual contacts was a blessing indeed and we look forward to greater contacts with your denomination in the near future, as we are engaged for the camp at Robinson for this year, if God wills. May heaven smile upon the whole denomination with His blessings. Believe me to be,

Brotherly,  
Gen. Evangelist, D. E. WILSON.

### LETTERS FROM OUR PASTORS (Continued from Page 3)

truths of the Word of God.

Pray with us for an outpouring of the Spirit at the quarterly meeting here in March.

Yours for souls and holiness,

L. T. SABINE.