

Sunday School Lesson

February 9, 1947

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FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

Lesson: John 6:25-35; 56-58

Golden Text: I am the bread of life. John 6:48

It seems strange that the disciples had learned so little from the previous miracles that Jesus had performed. Already the water had been turned into wine, the nobleman's son healed and the man at the pool of Bethesda made whole; yet they could not conceive of Jesus feeding the multitude.

I. FOOD FOR THE BODY—

Our desire for food is one of the strongest appetites of our human constitution. It was to this desire that Satan made his appeal in the Garden of Eden. "Labor not for the meat that perisheth." Food for the body is not the primary motive for labor. Mr. William Carey, the early missionary to India, said something like this: "I serve the Lord as my business and mend shoes to pay expenses." Such should be the motivating power of all employment. Mr. John Wesley said: "Earn all you can, save all you can and give all you can." In his early ministry when his income was small he learned to live accordingly, and later in life when his income increased, he continued to live on the same amount and all that came into his possession over and above his current expenses he gave to the cause of God. There is great danger of over-estimating the needs of the body and under-estimating the needs of the soul. Practically every paper or magazine you pick up is filled with advertisements showing how to care for the body but comparative few have anything to say about the soul.

II. FOOD FOR THE SOUL—

"I am the bread of life." Having supplied the multitude with bread for the body, Jesus makes use of the opportunity to speak to them about bread for their souls. This group did not accept the truth as did the Samaritans. They had come to Jesus, not because of his miracles, but because they thought it an opportunity to get bread. Thus their motives were selfish. However, Jesus ministered unto them in spite of that fact. Thus again he is our example. Many today attend churches, missions, etc., not for worship, but for entertainment, material and social advantages. Let us be faithful in our ministry regardless of the people's motive in coming. We all acknowledge that food for the body is necessary if we are to live; it is equally true that we must have food for our soul if spiritual life is to be sustained. This soul food is available to all through faith in the broken body of Christ. This is a mystery to the natural man but a glorious reality to those who have been reborn by the Holy Spirit.

III. THE TRUE BREAD AND THE MANNA—

What sign showest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee?" These people had already seen signs that were greater than any that Moses had given, yet they still made demands for the spectacular. How much they were like the people of today. They needed eternal life and Christ was ready to give it to them, but they would not accept. They did not need any further signs for their trouble was not in their heads but in their hearts. Notice (1) the manna and true bread were supernatural in origin. (2) both need to be taken every day. (3) the manna was suited to the need of all people everywhere. (4) Each man had to eat for himself and so each individual must partake of Christ for himself. (5) A failure to eat results in death.

QUESTIONS AND PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

1. What should be our motive for all employment?
2. Soul food is found in the Word of God. From what other sources may soul food be found?
3. Compare the manna of the Old Testament with the true bread of the New Testament.

February 16, 1947

JESUS AT THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Lesson: John 8:12-16; 31-36; 9:1-5

Golden Text: I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 8:12

In our lesson Jesus is at Jerusalem attending the feast of tabernacles. It is well to read chapters 7 and 8 in order to get an understanding of the lesson.

I. CHRIST OUR LIGHT—

"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." As one sun gives light to all the earth, so Christ is a sufficient light for all men. Light marks out the way; it gives cheer, it gives and sustains life. Light keeps nothing for itself, but exists entirely for others. All that the sun is to the natural man, so is Jesus to the spiritual man. Without the sun there could be no existence on the earth, and so likewise without Christ there could be no life. Notice how Jesus completes the "I AM" of the Old Testament. (1) I am the light—fills all space and yet takes up no room; warms all the earth and yet harms nothing. (2) I am the vine—that is not complete without the next clause "ye are the branches." The same life in the branches as in the vine, with this difference—the branch derives its life from the vine. (3) I am the door—a door suggests welcome, hospitality, friendship and welcome. Nothing is more welcome to a man that is lost than an open door of welcome. (4) I am the bread—the staff of life. (5) I am the good shepherd. (6) I am the way. (7) I am the truth. (8) I am the life. (9) I am the resurrection. The "I AM" of the Old Testament was more or less distant at times but Jesus has become the light of the world by translating Jehovah into our own language and understanding.

II. CHRIST OUR LIBERATOR—

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Jesus is the truth and he knows us as we are. Since he is the truth, we can only know him as we are willing to know and acknowledge the truth. The truth is the instrument of the believer's sanctification. Said Jesus: "Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth." Thus the truth to produce freedom must make complete conquest over body and spirit. In other words the receiving subject must be obedient to the truth regardless of personal prejudice. Complete national freedom cannot be produced by legislation, but only as individuals make a complete, unconditional surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us notice a number of freedoms of the people of God: (1) freedom from the chains and bondage of sin. (2) freedom from the curse of the law; (3) mental freedom; (4) freedom from distracting care; (5) freedom of christian activity; (6) freedom from the principles of sin.

III. HEALING OF THE BLIND—

"And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man that was blind from his birth."

It is often true that diseases, afflictions, troubles are the direct result of our sins, but this man is an exception to the rule. Job in the Old Testament is the most outstanding exception to this law. God uses him as a

world example of suffering affliction with patience and resignation. God also had his purpose in permitting this man to be thus afflicted, namely—"That the works of God should be manifest in him." Because of this man's faith, obedience and perseverance he was made to see and also trust in Christ as his Saviour.

QUESTIONS AND PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

1. How did Christ explain the "I AM" of the Old Testament?
2. What are the freedoms of the people of God?
3. What did Jesus answer the disciples regarding the man that was born blind?

OBITUARY

The people of Perth learned with regret of the death of one of its most highly respected residents, **Mrs. Marjorie Green**, 73, widow of the late Henry Green, which occurred at the home of her son, Laurence A. Green, in Perth, on Thursday evening. She had been ill since September.

Mrs. Green is survived by four sons, Sheldon, Laurence and Reginald, of Perth, and Winfred, of Woodstock, Ont. Another son, Clair, was killed in action in World War I. Also surviving are three step-sons, a step-daughter, and a number of grandchildren.

The funeral was held Sunday afternoon. Following prayers at the house, the cortege proceeded to the Perth Reformed Baptist Church, where service was conducted by the pastor, Rev. M. M. Grant, assisted by Rev. B. G. Smith, pastor of Perth and Andover Baptist churches. A choir sang favourite hymns.

Interment was made in the Church of England cemetery at Andover, N. B.

Mrs. Green, a devout christian, will be greatly missed in this community where she had resided for many years and in which she had a host of friends who deeply mourn her passing.

The death of **Mrs. Irene J. Woodard** occurred Oct. 12th at the home of her son, Verne Woodard, in Hersey, following a long illness. Funeral services were held in the Reformed Baptist Church at Crystal, with Rev. R. L. Sabine officiating.

To the sorrowing ones we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

The death of **James W. Moore** occurred Oct. 30th at the Milliken Memorial Hospital, Island Falls. Mr. Moore had been a semi-invalid for a number of years.

The funeral service was held at the Spratt Funeral Parlor, Island Falls, with Rev. R. L. Sabine officiating.

Sincere sympathy is extended to the sorrowing ones.

THE GREATEST VICTORY

When Jim Burke, the champion heavy-weight pugilist, was converted to God, he said, "I have won the biggest fight I ever had. I have in my time, won many great victories, but the greatest victory I ever won was when I beat the devil." The victory over sin is the greatest triumph of the Christian life.—Sel.