

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 1

THE LUNATIC BOY.

LESSON TEXT—Mark 9:14-23.
GOLDEN TEXT—"And Jesus said unto him, If thou canst! All things are possible to him that believeth."—Mark 9:23 R. V.

I. The Disciples' Failure—vv. 14-19.

Each of the Evangelists places this lesson in close connection with the mount of transfiguration. Sorrow and sin, crushed and bleeding hearts, are always to be found at the foot of our mountains of vision and of privilege. So also is to be found human impotence. Let us get the picture. As the little party reaches the base of the mountain they find an excited multitude surrounding the remaining disciples who were undergoing a series of questions propounded to them by the scribes. Arriving in the midst of this questioning Jesus challenged the scribes by saying, "Why question ye them?" Before either the scribes or the disciples could answer, "one of the multitude" (v. 17) told his story to Jesus. The speaker had brought his only son, demon-possessed, to the disciples to be healed. He goes on to tell Jesus the terrible sufferings of the boy's sufferings, and that to his bitter disappointment and anguish he has found that the disciples are not equal to the task of healing. This inability upon their part gave the scribes their opportunity and had undoubtedly raised in the father's mind a doubt as to the power of Jesus as a doubt as to the power of Jesus as

Takes Case in Hand.

Jesus at once takes the case in hand. Rebuke and pity are mingled in His words, "O faithless generation, how long shall I bear with you?" The disciples, the scribes and the multitude, all alike, are involved in his rebuke. All were in a greater or less degree faithless. Jesus had been in their midst performing his mighty deeds, speaking his marvelous words, and manifesting his wonderful power, yet they were without faith. Full often the present-day church and Christian workers stand impotent before the world's great need because of a lack of faith. How frequently we miss a blessing because of our dependence upon some one who makes a failure of faith and prayer. Jesus was then and always has been troubled and distressed at such failure (v. 19). However, the father was rewarded when, in obedience to the command, he brought his boy to Jesus. The conversation that ensued is interesting and pathetic, one that is too often repeated today. At last in his deep anguish the father cried, "If thou canst do anything, have compassion on us and help up." He thereby, as all true fathers should, completely identified himself with his son and his son's need. Fewer young men of today would be demon-possessed if their fathers would have identified themselves more fully with their boys. The reply of Jesus forms the golden text. What a magnificent response this father made, "I believe; help thou mine unbelief." Small wonder that Jesus should again work a wonder of healing.

II. The Master's Victory—vv. 20-29.

The son of man, who had just been so wonderfully glorified, again manifests to the world his power over an afflicted son of man. The evil one however, never gives up his possession without a struggle. Hence it was that, as the boy was brought near to Jesus, the very worst manifestations of his malady were exhibited, inasmuch, that as the multitude rushed together to witness his paroxysm and saw him as the demons led him, declared the boy to be dead. We must remember how long time the demons had ruled the boy (v. 21). A small boy once defined a habit as "something hard to break;" very true, and the longer the habit the harder it is to break. The father's faith was small but very earnest. It was sufficient to cry to Jesus for relief and that is always enough. Jesus repeats the man's use of the word "if" as though to challenge the implied lack of power and at once throws the burden of responsibility upon the father? It was not the question "if" Jesus could heal but rather "if" the father could believe. Realizing his lack, the father cried, "Help mine unbelief." 'Tis such a cry as this God always answers. Quickly avoiding the fast gathering crowd he takes the boy by the hand, raises him up and sends him to his father on their way.

No father has the right to transfer his obligations, spiritual or otherwise to any organization.

Entering the nearby house the disciples set us a good example by inquiring of Jesus as to the cause of their failure, and he tells them that the great necessity is prayer. There are more defeats in the church of Christ and in the lives of his followers that can be traced to a lack of prayer than perhaps any other one element. These disciples had cast out demons before this, but, shrinking from fellowship with him in the death he had foretold (Mark 8:32-33), they stood condemned before him, powerless in the fact of a great need, and condemned by the multitude.

STATE APPLE CROP

WORTH NEARLY \$1,000,000 MORE THAN YIELD OF GRAIN.

GOSSIP FROM STATE CAPITAL

Items of Interest Gathered from Reliable Sources and Presented in Condensed Form to Our Readers.

Secretary C. G. Marshall of the State Horticultural society has completed a tabulation of the apple crop for 1912, the figures being secured from returns of county assessors and from reports made by the orchardists directly to the State Horticultural society. According to this report, the apple crop of Nebraska amounts to \$7,378,899, being almost twice as much as the potato crop, which is estimated at \$4,836,255. The apple crop is worth almost one million dollars more than the combined crops of spring wheat, barley, speltz and rye, and is exceeded in value only by corn, winter wheat, oats, hay and alfalfa.

This puts Nebraska fairly in the apple belt and entitles her orchard possibilities to recognition not only by the resident, but by the prospective investor.

Buildings Will Remain Closed.

The board of public lands and buildings, after discussing the advisability of creating a deficit by furnishing two new buildings at the Lincoln asylum, decided not to expend any money on the buildings until the legislature makes an appropriation. The buildings are practically completed, but it will cost about \$24,000 to connect them with the asylum heating, sewer, light and water plants and to supply furniture. The board believes it would be impossible to complete the work in less than sixty days. The legislature made no appropriation for the connections or for furniture, so the buildings will remain idle until next spring.

Indian Relics for State Museum.

The state museum has just received from Prof. N. H. Winchell of Minnesota a valuable collection of ancient Indian relics representing early neolithic and paleolithic man. These relics were collected in the Kansas valley during the past summer by Professor Winchell himself. Like all early implements, they are characterized by crudity in chipping. Very few of the implements are properly formed, and all of the chipping is of a crude order as compared with the flint implements of later Indians. The collection consists of rough scrapers, hoes and flint tomahawks, of exceedingly crude design.

May Have Platinum Thief.

The thief who stole several hundred dollars' worth of platinum cups from the laboratory of the Nebraska state food commission is believed to be under arrest. Nine similar robberies occurred in different parts of the country, the thief in each case being the same man, according to descriptions given. The American Chemical society issued a letter to all chemists in the country warning them against the thief and giving a description of him. This society has notified State Chemist Redfern that a man answering the description of the thief has been arrested at Baltimore while apparently planning a raid on the laboratory of a steel company.

\$10,000 for Sub-Fisheries.

Superintendent W. J. O'Brien of the state fisheries at South Bend and Chief Game Warden Miller have filed an estimate of the appropriations which they desire for the support of the fish and game commission for the coming two years. They ask for a little less than usual for the state hatcheries at South Bend, but request an appropriation of \$10,000 for the maintenance and improvement of the sub-hatchery at Valentine. The Valentine hatchery is newly established and is to be used for hatching trout and bass. It is situated on Minnechadua creek.

Eleven surety companies will share in the \$5,000 premium to be paid by the state of Nebraska on the million dollar bond to be furnished for State Treasurer George during the coming two years.

Governor Besieged for Pardons.

As usual just before a retiring governor leaves his office, Governor Aldrich is besieged with applications for pardons or of the commutation of sentences for convicts in the state penitentiary. The state board of pardons is merely an advisory board and under the constitution the power to pardon is still vested in the governor. Governor Aldrich proposes to require applicants for pardon to run the gauntlet of the state board of pardons before he takes action, unless he is sure speedy action is necessary.

One hundred and forty-seven thousand dollars will be required to meet the expenses of the state penitentiary during the next two years, according to an estimate made by Warden Melick and furnished to the state auditor. Notwithstanding the fact that considerable more money is now expended by the state in furnishing the prisoners with better food, and more money is paid for guard service, this amount is not over \$4,000 above the amount required for the past two years.

TOM MOORE IN BERMUDA

Irish Poet Wrote Verses to Calabash Tree That is Still Preserved.

Barcelona.—Winter tourists in the Isle of Bermuda are still reminded of the sojourn in the Arcadia of the poet Moore, not only by the religiously preserved roof that gave him shelter, but by the almost reverential care of a "calabash tree," possibly better remembered than many more interesting relics of the Irish lyricist through verse he dedicated to them when he was "his majesty's registrar" for the island of Bermuda, says a correspondent. In a poetic epistle to a corymb he leaves this metrical souvenir of the tree under which the winter wanderer perhaps now for the first time reads the "amorous and convivial outpourings" of the rollicking poet:

"'Twas thus by the shade of a calabash tree,
 With a few who could feel and remember like me,
 The charm that to sweeten my goblet I threw
 Was a tear to the past and a blessing to you."

In this mingled merry-go-round of social dissipation and really astounding accomplishment it would naturally



Moore's Calabash Tree.

be taken for an impossibility to relax into the heavenliest diversion inherited by the sons of men—courtship and marriage. But the engaging Celt, true to his racial instinct, didn't forego that crowning completion of manhood, the taking of a wife.

When he found leisure to win the adorable actress, Bessie Dyke, even his own memoir doesn't dilate on, but but he was married at the time that half the grand dames of the social scene were making soft eyes to eyes that spoke back not less invitingly. Earl Russell, who wrote Moore's biography, signaled the union in these significant words:

"She proved the best of wives, receiving from her husband the homage of a lover from the hour of their nuptials to that of his dissolution." The equal of this testimony can hardly be found in literary unions; the single exception that comes to mind at the moment is that of Elizabeth Barrett Browning and her husband Robert.

For this wife, who fills James Russell Lowell's picture, "not as others are, she who to my soul is dear," Moore broke from the enchantments of the world he loved, took up his abode in a dovecot in Leicestershire, hard by the mansion of Lord Moltre, where he substituted the noble lord's library for the Perian spring, mingling its earnest drafts with the intoxicating bliss of the honeymoon dream. In fact, to the day of his death the union was a honeymoon, for the gentle Bessie found her gallant lord the most domestic of rollickers, the tenderest of mates.

SHE SELLS 10,000,000 STAMPS

Mrs. Charles H. Parkhurst Disposes of Collection of Thirty Years.

New York.—A collection of 10,000,000 canceled postage stamps, domestic and foreign, done up in 100,000 neat packages, were on exhibition recently at the office of a New York dealer. They were sold to him by Mrs. Charles H. Parkhurst, wife of the pastor of Madison Square Presbyterian church. Mrs. Parkhurst has been patiently collecting them for 30 years, and sold them because the Parkhurst family moved to a smaller house, where there was no room for the stamps. Thirty years ago Mrs. Parkhurst read an advertisement which offered free tuition for a Chinese lad at an American institution of learning in exchange for 1,000,000 canceled stamps. Mrs. Parkhurst began to collect them with great diligence, but when she had a million she could find no place where they might be exchanged for college days for a celestial, so she just went on saving them.

LOSES FOOT; SHEDS NO TEAR

Boy Living at Petersburg, Ind., Shows "Nerve" When Run Over by a Freight Train.

Petersburg, Ind.—One of the legs of Howard Smith, age fourteen, was severed at the ankle while he was hopping on a freight near here the other day. He never shed a tear, and told bystanders to hurry to get a doctor, but not to tell his father.

Sure of Her Age.

Boston.—Marshall Hatch of Norwell has a hen that is 21 years old and still laying eggs. Hatch is sure the hen is twenty-one because her egg was set the day his mother died.

REGION IN AMAZON

Brazilian Traveler Sees More Here Than in Africa.

Declares Big Game is Plentiful and Many Virgin Rubber Forests Are to Be Found Far From Civilization.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.—In speaking of the wonders and the resources of the Amazon region in Brazil in connection with the International Rubber Exhibition which was held at the Grand Central Palace Dr. Louis Weiss said:

"My knowledge and acquaintance with this most interesting region has extended over a period of twelve years. On one of my expeditions I never left my canoe for over two and one-half years, all of which time was spent on the Amazon and its countless tributaries, and yet I did not begin to touch upon all the wonderful possibilities of these mighty water-courses.

"As long as we need rubber we must get the best from Brazil. There are still many virgin rubber forests that very few Brazilians have any idea of. At the present time they collect rubber along only the rivers and very few go further than two or three miles from the rivers. Ninety per cent. of the rubber forest is yet untouched. Of all the Brazilian states, Amazonas is the greatest producer of rubber. It is the largest state in Brazil and has more than three times the area of Texas. It is one of the most interesting regions in the world and many parts are yet unexplored and unknown.

"On the Amazon River, with its countless tributaries, a man can travel in his canoe for months and for years, procuring all his necessary food supplies daily from the streams and the forests in great abundance and in great variety.

"The most wonderful fruits grow in the forest from which one can make the best of drinks in a few minutes by processes which can be quickly learned from the natives, thus furnishing both food and drink. On exploration trips, when we stopped any length of time in a place, I would take my gun, knife and flint and for days, even weeks, at a time go off into the forests and yet invariably come back a few pounds heavier.

"The whole Amazon is like a zoological garden without a gate. Along



Skirting the Shores of the Mighty Amazon River.

the banks of the rivers or in the woods of the Amazonas, with a gun and fishing tackle, the traveler can at the same time cast a hook for fish and shoot monkeys, reptiles and amphibians and innumerable varieties of birds. When one first hears the howling monkeys (Stenor guaribas) from a great distance he thinks at once of lions, the sound greatly resembling the roar of that animal. The flesh of some monkeys makes very good eating. Alligator steaks are also very good. Fried caterpillar is another dainty, but I never liked caterpillars broiled. Smoked ants are another delicacy.

"If the traveler does not care for these dishes he can have turtle in many varieties—large, small, water or forest—and also large or small turtle eggs. There are over a hundred varieties of fowls, fish and other game suitable for food. The tapir also is eaten and makes a very fine dish when smoked with the hide on. It tastes like beef, and the longer the meat is smoked the better it is. At the last it gets soft, like liver sausage. In the tropics all big game meat must be cooked with the skin on, else it will be tasteless and tough.

DUNNED FRIENDS AT BIER

Funeral Orator at Hungarian Funeral Asked for Return of Loan to "Protect Memory."

Budapest.—The best friend of a villager who died recently at Temesvar, Hungary, was chosen to pronounce the funeral oration. His words, however, had not the desired effect on the audience, and no satisfactory response was made to his appeal. "Friends, the good man whom we mourn once borrowed 100 francs from me, but he died before he could repay it. Knowing your high sense of honor, I suggest that a collection be made on his account, so that his memory may remain unblemished for all time."



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Frontier Medical List.
 In good old frontier days castor oil was the principal medical beverage—good full measure, too. Only the biggest person could hold a whole dose—geat person could hold a whole dose—one-half a dipperful, with half a dipperful of New Orleans molasses added to help slick it down and make it taste good, only it didn't taste good. In those historic days every old woman was a doctor and gathered her own "yarbs" in the woods and knew how to mix up medical messes that would stir the vitals of a brass monkey or a cast iron dog. All backwoodsmen believed in "yarb" doctors. Something in "yarbs" at that.

Smelled a Grafter.
 A Boston clubman recently returned from a visit to New York city. In discussing his trip one of his friends asked him whether he had a policeman in his pocket. The clubman hesitated for a moment, seriously questioning his friend's sanity, when the latter added:
 "I didn't know whether you could be there a week without some grafter or other getting into your pocket."

Society.
 Mrs. Wayupp—No wonder I look worried, my dear. My husband has just gone out, and if he is discovered it will probably cost us our social position.
 Mrs. Blase—Goodness! Where is he?
 Mrs. Wayupp—He has gone out incog. to pay a bill.—Puck.

A FREE SURPRISE BOX.
 In another part of this paper you will find a large ad of the Loose-Wiles Biscuit Co., Omaha, Neb. They offer to send to any reader a box of assorted biscuits absolutely free. Don't miss this opportunity. Cut out the coupon from their ad and mail it today.

Limit.
 "Here's your portrait, sir."
 "That my portrait? Well, I may have sat for it, but I won't stand for it."
 Not According to Rule.
 "Her emotions are ungrammatical."
 "What do you mean by that?"
 "All her moods are tense."
 Providing.
 "Is it really easy taking candy from a baby?"
 "Not if the baby takes the place."

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