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Sunday School.

LESSON III.—OCTOBER 17, 1909.

Paul a Prisoner—Before Felix.—
Acts 24: 10-27.

Commentary.—I. The charges against Paul (vs. 1-9). Within five days the high priest, Annas, together with representatives from the Sanhedrin, accompanied by a professional orator, Tertullus, arrived in Caesarea to present charges against Paul. Tertullus began by flattery, Felix, as one who had great and noble deeds and who had greatly advanced the government. This was not in keeping with the truth, for both Josephus and Tacitus represent him as one of the most corrupt and oppressive rulers ever sent by the Romans into Judea. Tertullus then presented three charges against Paul. They were, 1. Sedition, on treason against the Roman government. 2. Heresy. 3. Sacrilege in profaning the temple. Those who were with Tertullus all assented that these things were true.

II. Paul's defense (vs. 10-21). 10. Paul answered.—Although twice before Paul had spoken what he called a defense—first, before a vast crowd of Jews in the temple area, and again before the assembled Sanhedrin—yet this is his first actual defense, as he now stands before an imperial tribunal, the governor representing the person and authority of the emperor.—Butler. Forasmuch as I know that it is remarkable that Paul did not begin his speech, as Tertullus had done, by any flattering address, or by any of the arts of rhetoric. He founded his plea on the justice of his cause, and on the fact that Felix had had so much experience in the affairs of Judea that he was well qualified to understand the merits of the case, and to judge impartially. Paul was well acquainted with his character, and would not by flattering words declare that which was not strictly true.

Barnes. Many years—for the comparatively long period of six or seven years Felix had been in Jerusalem and Caesarea. A judge—a magistrate, or one appointed to administer the affairs of government. More cheerfully answer.—Because of Felix's unusual familiarity with Jewish questions. The fact of his knowledge is attested in v. 22. 11. Mayest understand.—From the shortness of his stay in Jerusalem, any offense committed there must have been recent. There could be no difficulty in obtaining witnesses and proofs.—Cook. Twelve days.—From the time Paul left Caesarea, until his return, it was only nine days. Only eight of the twelve days had been spent in Jerusalem. His design in mentioning the number of days was to show the impossibility there in so short a time he could have produced a tumult. To worship.—He went on purpose to worship and had no thought of producing a tumult, or of profaning the temple.

12. 13. Neither found me, etc.—In term of unqualified denial he meets the first charge—of sedition. Worship, not insurrection, was the object of his visit to Jerusalem. He was arrested while worshipping, and had not even spoken in public. Neither can they prove—He challenged investigation. They had made vague, wild assertions, hoping the governor might be influenced to condemn him without trial, as doubtless he would have done but for his Roman citizenship. They very well knew that their charges could not be sustained under the Roman law. Accusation is not proof.

14. This I confess.—This verse and the following contain Paul's reply to the accusation of Tertullus that he was a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. He boldly and joyously confesses that he is a Christian, but at the same time declines to acknowledge the opprobrious terms used by Tertullus.—Lange. The way.—The way is here used by Paul to signify the Christian religion (see chap. 9:2). Heresy—"A sect."—R. V. The word used is the same that Tertullus used in verse 5, when making his charge. They had called the Christians a "sect," and Paul does not disown the name. So worship.—See R. V. It is as if he said: "After the way which they call false and erroneous, but which is according to the inward light given me, worship I my ancestors adore." 15. Hope toward God.—Having a hope of the resurrection of the dead. 16. I exercise myself.—He strives as the athlete or warrior, only his struggle and warfare is within his soul. His supreme aim and constant effort was to keep a clear conscience. Conscience.—The conscience does not tell us what is right, but urges us to do what we know to be right, and rebukes us for doing what we know to be wrong.—Hurlbut.

17. After many years.—Paul refers to the four years which had elapsed since his last visit to Jerusalem (chap. 18: 22).—Meyer. He came as the almoner of help, not as the fomenter of disturbance and source of injury to the nation. This incidental statement is the only allusion in the Acts to the fact that Paul had been engaged for four years in gathering collections from all the Gentile churches in aid of the poor Christian Jews of Judea. In the epistles Paul frequently refers to this matter.—Butler. He came to bring offerings, and therefore he had no thought of profaning the temple.

18-21. Jew from Asia.—Paul justly complains that the very persons who alone could testify against him were absent, and showed that there was really no well-founded charge against him. They alone could testify as to anything that occurred in the temple; and as they were not present that charge ought to be dismissed.—Or else.—Paul turns with a bold challenge to the Sadducean Jews present. He demands their own personal testimony upon the facts that occurred when he stood before the Sanhedrin. With a keen thrust he asks if the utterance of the hated truth of the resurrection was not the only charge of evil-doing they could bring.

III. Imprisonment at Caesarea (22-27). 22, 23. When Felix heard.—The governor or virtually decided the case in favor of Paul. But he wished to keep the goodwill of the Jews. So he delayed his final answer, in the meanwhile allowing Paul much liberty in the company of his friends. Having knowledge—Felix knew more than most Roman rulers about Christianity. He evidently knew the character of the disciples and that what Paul said was true. 24. After certain days—Felix came in the Sunday-morning with his wife, Drusilla, and the prisoner was summoned before

them. Thus Paul had an opportunity in his hands of preaching the gospel, and such an opportunity as he could hardly otherwise have obtained.

25. Reasoned of righteousness, etc.—Paul preaches as a faithful apostle should have preached to such hearers. They sent for him to hear about Christ. They heard much more than they cared to hear. Felix trembled.—In view of his past sins, and the judgment to come. Go thy way.—Felix was troubled, but instead of asking the way of peace, he sent the messenger of warning away. Convenient.—The sinner is always looking for a "convenient season" to turn to God. 26. He hoped, etc.—He hoped that Paul would pay for his freedom.

27. Left Paul bound.—Felix was desirous of gaining favor with the Jews as he retires from the governorship, and accordingly withdrew the special privileges Paul had been allowed.

Questions.—Who came to Caesarea to testify against Paul? How did Tertullus begin? What charges did he bring against Paul? Why had Paul gone up to Jerusalem? How did Paul answer his accusers? What privileges did Philip grant Paul? Before whom was Paul summoned to speak of Christ? Of what did he reason? What was the character of his hearers? How did the truth affect Felix?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

Paul Defends the Faith.
I. Paul speaks. "Forasmuch as I know" (v. 10.) Tertullus began his accusation of Paul with abject flattery (vs. 2-4). Paul respected Felix's office and what it represented, but did not flatter the bad man in the office. He was "subject unto the higher powers" (Rom. 13: 1). He spoke truly and avoided himself of a plain fact, when he said, "As I know that thou hast been of many years a judge unto this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself" (v. 10). A great man will honestly praise; he will never flatter. Jesus commended (Matt. 8: 10; John 4: 17); he never flattered.

II. Paul reasons (v. 25). To the judge, in public, the prisoner gave the deference due to his office; to the sinner, in private, the preacher dared to give the warning that his official character and his private conduct would both come under his judgment. To this unjust extortioner, this defrauder of widows, this plunderer of children, this buyer and seller of judicial decisions, "he reasoned of righteousness." To the woman, who had lost everything for which a wife and mother ought to live, whose passionate desires had never been checked, he dared to speak of self-control, self-restraint, self-government. To this tyrannical prince, this unjust judge, he dared to tell of "a judgment to come," until the man "trembled" at the sight of the great white throne and the opened books whose record was red with the blood of "private murder and public massacre." During the temperance crusade in Brooklyn, Louise C. Reynolds and a friend of hers, visited a liquor saloon. Turning to the bar-tender, she said, "Do you ever have a terrible war in the Bible pronounced against those who sell liquor?" and quoted to him Hab. 2: 15. "That is not in the Bible," he said at last. Most fiercely. She opened her Bible and pointed to the verse. He snatched the book from her, and pale and trembling read the words. Two days afterward the liquor saloon was closed. The fearless words of the holy woman smote his conscience, and he gave up the unrighteous traffic. At Paul's courageous words Felix "trembled," but he would not yield. He said, "Go thy way," to the Spirit of God, and "wait for a convenient season" to the Christ of God. "God... now commandeth all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30). Those who have a right to command expect prompt obedience. God has a right to expect instant obedience as Creator and Redeemer. That people delay instead of decline to become Christians is an admission of God's eternal right to their obedience and a proclamation that they deliberately intend to trample upon his claim and longer sin against the love that bought them with the price of blood. This is cowardly, ungrateful, rebellious.

III. Felix trembles (v. 25). "Paul was not the only one who was being weighed or judged in this lesson. Felix also was fear of the consequence of his sin. Many times men have committed sin which has atoned that they deliberately intend to trample upon his claim and longer sin against the love that bought them with the price of blood. This is cowardly, ungrateful, rebellious.

III. Felix trembles (v. 25). "Paul was not the only one who was being weighed or judged in this lesson. Felix also was in the balances. His conscience was accusing him for his sin. He trembled for fear of the consequence of his sin. Many times men have committed sin which has made them afraid all their lives, and they have been unable to die in peace." Felix trembled over his sin, but put off the remedy for curing them. If he had only listened to Paul and received Christ they would have all been pardoned; but he loved his sins so much that he put it off until some other time, and that time probably never came. How foolish for boys and girls or for any one to put off becoming Christians. Christians do not tremble when they hear about right living and the judgment to come. They know that to die will be their gain.

NO SUMMONSES.

Latest Move of Laura, the Tube-Fed Suffragette.

Birmingham, Oct. 11.—Laura Ainsworth, the tube-fed suffragette, who was released from jail here yesterday, applied to a magistrate to-day for summonses against Home Secretary Gladstone, the governor of the prison and the prison physician on charges of assault.

Miss Ainsworth swore that on one occasion her mouth was forced open by a steel instrument, and her nose, throat, legs and arms were forcibly held while a feeding tube was inserted. In consequence of this treatment she suffered from congestion, inflammation of the throat and nervous prostration, and lost thirteen pounds in weight.

The magistrate refused to grant the summonses, declaring that acts done in process of law did not amount to unlawful assault.

THE FARM

SHEARING SHEEP BY MACHINE.

Western Ranchmen Dispensing With Hand Work.

N. Y. Sun. The great sheep camp of the United States is now in the Northwest. The shearing of the twenty or more million sheep that produce wool, like the garnering of wheat and other big crops, requires the employment for a more or less shortened period of a large number of men. The local labor supply is entirely insufficient and were it not for the existence of a partly organized body of nomads, who start in at the south and work their way north as the season broadens, great difficulty would be met with.

Many of these shearers are easterners, New York furnishing quite a number. Before reaching Montana or Wyoming they have relieved many thousands of sheep of their fleeces. They begin down in Texas or perhaps Arizona and work north, taking in Kansas, Nebraska, Utah, Wyoming and the Dakotas before they land in Montana.

Many of them also come from the West. This gang starts in in California, and after shearing its way through Oregon, Washington and Idaho reaches Montana to aid in garnering on common ground the greatest crop of wool in any section.

These men are well paid and most of them end the season with from \$500 to \$800 in their pockets. All are experts. Most of them still use the wrist-thrust and hand shears, but in the last few years shearing by machinery has come in vogue and is rapidly superseding all other methods.

The better hand shearers average 100 sheep a day, and there are a few who have a record of 200 in twelve hours. It is hard work. A man must stand with legs stiff for hours, he must lean over until he can almost reach his toes and he must all the time be holding down a struggling, frightened animal.

These hand workers are paid at the rate of seven or eight cents for each fleece tied up and delivered to the shearer. The grading is done in advance of the shearing, so that subsequent trouble is avoided.

After the shearing has been accomplished the wool is sacked in long bale-like burlap forms and turned over to the freighters. Montana is not gridironed with railroads, and it is a long drive from many of the ranches to the railway depot or wool market. Two and sometimes three heavily laden wagons are coupled together and with eight or ten horses attached the outfit starts across the hills. It is hard, slow going, and if the rain comes and the roads get gummy the freighters often have to go into camp and wait for the sun to pave the way. Sometimes wool has to be hauled in this fashion for 125 miles.

In the last four or five years the shearing machine has pushed to the front. An ingenious mechanic has devised a shear which can be worked either by hand or mechanical power, and which has proven a tremendous economy. The machine is declared by sheep men to be as far ahead of the old hand shears as the self-binder is in advance of the old-fashioned cradle. R. M. Marquis, a Montana young man, holds the world's record both for hand and for machine shearing. At Bower Brothers' ranch near Martinsdale, Mont., he sheared 360 seven pound (to the fleece) wethers in 14 hours 46 minutes, taking off 2,650 pounds of wool with a machine. This record will likely stand for a long time.

Marquis has been at the business for about eight years and has often shorn 200 sheep a day and over by hand, and on the machine has several times gone above 300. His average work in Montana last season ran from 175 to 215 sheep a day, in nine and ten hour days. In one shearing season, not including the fall work, he sheared 17,013 sheep.

The man's work is almost as mechanical as that of the machine he uses. He starts in by grabbing the animal by the right hind leg with his left hand, twisting it easily over on its back. He then pulls it into an upright position, with its hindquarters on the ground and the body resting between his legs. He begins by parting the wool at the forward end of the brisket and starts the clippers going. Bent over at an angle of 70 or 80 degrees, he keeps firm hold of the sheep with his knees, turning the animal as though it were in a vice and keeping the skin stretched tight. When half way through he has attained the position of having partly stepped back, while the sheep is flat on its side. It is no trick for him to finish the animal in two minutes, and he has turned out as many as twenty-eight in an hour.

Besides the advantage in time and labor cost the machine does not hack or cut the sheep, and it is possible to get from a half to a pound and a half more wool off each animal. The staple is longer and this means a better price. Usually it is not profitable to send hand sheared sheep to the market until a week after the clip, as it takes that long to feed them into presentable shape. This is avoided by the use of the mechanical contrivance, which leaves the animal evenly clipped and free from cuts.

The hand power machine is in almost universal use among the smaller flock masters who cannot afford a power plant or are unable to get the services of experienced shearing experts, who keep date and route books much like the average theatrical company manager. The usual model consists of a large wheel, fastened to an upright beam in the barn. On the face of the wheel, teeth are generated on an automatic machine that insures absolute accuracy. This gear is enclosed in a stationary frame and drives a hardened steel cut pinion, to which is connected a universal joint flexible shaft. The pinion shaft is fitted with a small turned balance wheel, which, running at a high speed, gives steadiness to the machine at all times. The shears, which greatly resemble at the end a pair of barbers' clippers, fit on to the end of this jointed shaft, and this is operated much like the power devices in dentists' shops for the drilling or cleaning of teeth. With a key to turn the big wheel by a convenient handle and a man to operate the shears it is not much of a trick to shear the sheep. The power plant machine is growing

HANDSOME JEWELRY CATALOGUE FREE

OUR 144 page Catalogue illustrated in colors will be sent free upon request. This is the finest Catalogue of Diamonds, Jewelry, Silverware, China, Cut Glass, Leather Goods, Stationery and Novelties ever issued.

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RYRIE BROS., Limited
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TORONTO

In favor. Makers of various devices in the last year have initiated, and for their own profit have established power plants at points in the sheep belt. The result has been that big sheep men have taken to installing them with gasoline engines for motive power. Many of these plants have as high as fifty shearing machines, with power furnished from overhead shafting and gearing. The newest departure in this line is an electrically driven affair, with direct connections, so that the instant a machine is stopped to change cutters or combs or that another sheep may be caught or let go the power is cut off absolutely from that one, while the others keep at work.

TORONTO'S GROWTH

Population Increase Has Fallen Off Somewhat.

Toronto, Oct. 11.—The Natural increase in Toronto's population, as given by the assessors, is 6,373, which is 8,228 less than the natural increase reported last year. The increase by annexation in the past year has been 17,780. All the wards, except the Second and Third, show an increase in the new population figures. In the Second Ward there is a decrease of 639, caused by the removal of buildings for railway yards, and in the Third Ward the decrease, 2,896, is largely due to the removal of buildings to make way for the new Toronto General Hospital.

LICENSES CANCELLED.

Three Windsor Hotelkeepers Forced Out of Business.

Windsor despatch: For repeated violations of the liquor law the licenses of the British American, Imperial, and Eureka Hotels in this city were to-night cancelled, and the proprietors given thirty days in which to dispose of their business. Each offender had received ample warning of what might be expected after the last offence, so that the action of the license commissioners was not a surprise.

The Presbyterian Mission at Point Barrow, Alaska, in the Arctic Ocean, the most northerly church in the world, was burned April 12. It was built in 1890 with funds given by Mrs. Eliot F. Shepard, of New York.

WORTH MOUNTAINS OF GOLD

During Change of Life, says Mrs. Chas. Barclay

Graniteville, Vt.—"I was passing through the Change of Life and suffered from nervousness and other annoying symptoms, and I can truly say that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has proved worth mountains of gold to me, as it restored my health and strength. I never forgot to tell my friends what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done for me during this trying period. Complete restoration to health means so much to me that for the sake of other suffering women I am willing to make my trouble public so you may publish this letter."—MRS. CHAS. BARCLAY, R. D. Graniteville, Vt.

No other medicine for woman's ills has received such wide-spread and unqualified endorsement. No other medicine we know of has such a record of cures of female ills as has Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

For more than 30 years it has been curing female complaints such as inflammation, ulceration, local weaknesses, fibroid tumors, irregularities, periodic pains, backache, indigestion and nervous prostration, and it is unequalled for carrying women safely through the period of change of life. It costs but little to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and, so Mrs. Barclay says, it is "worth mountains of gold" to suffering women.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

LIVE STOCK.

The quality of fat cattle was not any better than in the early part of the week, very few of them being good enough to sell over \$5 per cwt., as will be seen by the many sales reported below.

Trade was much the same in all classes, excepting that good butchers and good butchers' cows sold at a little higher prices. Nearly all offerings were cleaned up.

Butchers.—Geo. Rowntree bought for Harris Abattoir Co. on Wednesday and Thursday 515 cattle. Butchers' steers and heifers, \$4 to \$5.25; cows at \$1.50 to \$4.60.

Stockers and Feeders.—Harry Murby reports the trade for feeders and stockers to be about the same. The demand is principally for the best quality of steers, from 900 to 1,050 lbs. each. Mr. Murby bought 200 to-day, and a total of 450 for the week and quotes prices as follows: Best steers, 900 to 1,050 lbs. each, at \$4 to \$4.50; best steers, 800 to 900 lbs. each, at \$3.50 to \$3.85; good stockers, 500 to 700 lbs. each, at \$2.75 to \$3.25; common stockers, \$2 to \$2.25.

Wethers and Springers.—As will be seen by the many sales given of milkers and springers, there was an active trade at fair to good prices ranging from \$30 to \$60, with a few at \$65 and one at \$70.

Veal Calves.—Trade was good for the calves at steady prices, ranging from \$3 to \$6.50, and a very few at \$7 per cwt.

Sheep and Lambs.—Trade steady, prices unchanged as follows: Export ewes, \$3.50 to \$3.90; rams, \$2 to \$2.50; lambs, \$5 to \$5.25, with a few selected at \$5.90.

Hogs.—Selects fed and watered at the market, \$8, and \$7.75 f.o.b. cars at country points. Dealers all say that prices must go still lower this coming week.

FARMERS' MARKET.

The receipts of grain to-day were small, with prices generally firm. About 150 bushels of fall wheat sold at \$1.01. Barley higher, there being sales of 200 bushels at 60 to 61c. Oats unchanged, with sales of 300 bushels at 42 to 43c.

Hay in moderate supply, with prices unchanged. 25 loads sold at \$16 to \$20 a ton for timothy and at \$8 to \$10 for clover. Straw firm, bundled selling at \$13.50 to \$16 a ton.

Dressed hogs are firmer, with prices from \$11 to \$11.25.

Wheat, white, new \$ 1.01 0.00

Do, red, new 1.00 0.00

Do, goose 0.96 0.08

Oats, new, bushel 0.42 0.43

Barley, bushel 0.60 0.61

Rye, bushel 0.68 0.70

Hay, timothy, ton 16.00 20.00

Do, clover, ton 8.00 10.00

Straw, per ton 15.50 16.00

Seeds—

Alsike, fancy, bushel 6.75 7.00

Do, No. 1 6.50 6.75

Do, No. 2 5.75 6.00

Do, No. 3 5.00 5.25

Red clover, bushel 7.50 8.00

Timothy, bushel 1.40 1.60

Dressed hogs 11.00 11.25

Butter, dairy 0.25 0.28

Do, inferior 0.20 0.21

Eggs, dozen 0.30 0.32

Chickens, lb. 0.14 0.15

Ducks, lb. 0.13 0.14

Turkeys, lb. 0.20 0.22

Geese, lb. 0.11 0.12

Fowl, lb. 0.10 0.11

Apples, bbl. 1.00 2.50

Potatoes, load, bag 0.60 0.70

Celery, dozen 0.30 0.35

Onions, bag 1.40 1.50

Cauliflower, dozen 0.75 1.25

Cabbage, dozen 0.60 0.75

Beef, hindquarters 10.00 10.50

Do, forequarters 5.00 6.00

Do, choice, carcass 8.00 8.75

Do, medium, carcass 7.00 8.00

Mutton, per cwt. 8.00 9.50

Veal, prime, per cwt. 8.00 10.50

Lamb, per cwt. 9.00 10.00

THE FRUIT MARKET.

The receipts of grapes were large, but other fruit was only in limited supply. Prices steady.

Grapes, basket \$ 0.12 1/2 \$0.51

Do, large 0.25 0.30

Oranges, Val. 2.75 3.50

Bananas, bunch 1.50 1.75

Lemons, Verdeli 3.75 4.00

Peaches, Can., com. 0.50 0.65

Do, Crawford 0.75 1.25