

Sunday School.

LESSON VIII.—MAY 22, 1910.

The death of John the Baptist.—Matt. 14: 1-12.

Commentary.—I. A guilty conscience (vs. 1, 2). At that time it was while the twelve were upon the mission to which Jesus had appointed them (Matt. 10, 5). Herod—Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee and Peraea. His father was Herod the Great, who was king of all Palestine when Christ was born, and who attempted to slay Him, causing the death of the infants of Jerusalem. At the death of Herod the Great, his sons were appointed to rule, the territory being divided between them. Archelaus had Judea, Herod Philip, Tetrarch of Galilee and Peraea, and Herod Antipas, Galilee and Peraea. Tetrarch—The title given to the ruler of a fourth part of a nation. Galilee and Peraea were thought of as the fourth part of the territory that had been ruled over by Herod the Great. It was the ambition of Antipas to be called king, and this title was sometimes applied to him through courtesy. Herod the report concerning Jesus (R. V.)—Jesus had been engaged in His public ministry for more than two years, and His teachings and miracles had been widely reported and the news had reached to the palace of Herod Antipas. The ruler had deserted his first wife, the daughter of Aretas, the King of Arabia, and Aretas made war upon Herod to avenge the wrong done his daughter. Thus the tetrarch was kept busy with his enemy on the southeastern border of his dominion. It has therefore been suggested that Antipas had but recently heard of the great works that were being wrought by our Lord.

2. Said unto his servants—It is quite possible that among Herod's servants were Chuzai, a steward, whose wife was a follower of Jesus (Luke 8, 3), and Manaen (Acts 13, 1). Luke says Herod "was perplexed." He was not able to find a satisfactory explanation of the mystery which had become a subject of conversation in his household. John the Baptist—Conscience was still alive, and its goadings suggested to Herod the name he could not forget. "If we mistake not, that dastardly head was rarely thenceforth absent from Herod's haunted imagination from that day forward till he lay upon his dying bed." Farrar. He is risen from the dead—Though a Sadducee, yet guilt made him a cowardly sort of a believer. So true it is that irreligious men are often tremblingly superstitious. Being unconvinced by the truths of religion, they are exposed to be frightened by any form of horror suggested to the imagination by a guilty conscience.—Whedon. Herod must have held John in very high esteem, otherwise he would not have thought the mighty works he heard of were attributable to him.

II. A fearless preacher (vs. 3, 5). Put him in prison—The place of the imprisonment was in the southeastern part of the dominion of Herod, at Macherus, where he had a palace with a prison attached. Macherus was probably his military headquarters during the war he was waging with Aretas. For Herodias' sake—Herodias was the daughter of Aristobolus, the son of Herod the Great. She had married his uncle, Herod Philip, whom she deserted for Herod Antipas. Herod Antipas had put away his wife, the daughter of Aretas, for the sake of forming a union with Herodias. 4. For John said unto him—There was courage in that rugged prophet of the wilderness to declare the truth in the presence of the ruler, even though that truth was in the highest degree unpleasant to the guilty pair. John spared neither common sinners, nor sinners high in the social scale in his denunciation of iniquity. Not lawful for thee—Herod was guilty in putting away his wife; was guilty in taking the wife of his brother (Herod Philip was living); was guilty in marrying his niece, who was also his sister-in-law. Herodias was unprincipled and ambitious. She had married Herod Philip, the eldest son of Herod the Great, thinking that he would enter upon the inheritance of his father, but, when Philip was disinherited and became poor, she deserted him for Antipas, who was tetrarch and rich. It was proper for John to reprove Herod. "1. Herod's course was bringing untold evils upon the people. John could not effectively denounce the sins of the people if he let sins in high places go unproved. 2. Unchecked crime in high places teaches, endorses and propagates crime among the people."—Pemberton. 5. When he would have put him to death—Herod's feelings toward John were mingled. He feared him, he admired him, he hated him. He feared him because he knew that his own course was wicked and deserved reproof. He admired his integrity and courage. He hated him because he had pronounced against his pet sin.

III. A wicked oath (vs. 6-9). 6. Herod's birthday—The celebration was an elaborate one. "Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee" (Mark 6: 21). The daughter of Herodias—This was Salome, the daughter of Herod Philip and Herodias. Danced before them—It was customary in the East on occasions of this sort to hire dancing girls to perform in the presence of the banquet. No reputable maiden could ever have done such a thing. Wine was flowing freely and the feasters in various states of intoxication, welcomed the demonstration of talent that was furnished by Salome. Herodias was so desirous of having her daughter executed, that it is more than probable that she was a party to the arrangement whereby her own daughter should be degraded to play the part of a dancing girl, knowing that the banquet would be likely to bestow condescension upon the performer. Pleased Herod—This was what might be expected, and the purpose of Herodias was being fulfilled. 7. Promised himself—In his half-intoxicated condition his judgment and reason fled. He was guilty in promising that the nature of which he did not know. He was not a king, only a tetrarch, yet in his mad state he thought he possessed a kingdom.

8. Before instructed by her mother—The plan was craftily and skillfully worked out. She asked her mother what she should demand of Herod. Give me here—As if the tetrarch might change his mind, should there be delay, she insists that the request be granted at once. John Baptist's head in a charger—A murderous request. The Jewish purpose of this senseless woman was to be accomplished. Perhaps the feast suggested the idea of having the head of John borne in on a large platter, as food had been served to the guests. 9. The king was sorry—His better nature attempted to assert itself, as he realized the import of Salome's request. He knew John was a righteous man, and he knew the people favored him. He cared more for his oath than for his conscience, or John, or his God. Which sat with him—He was afraid of offending the great men of his kingdom. A slave to public opinion. To be given—Note the steps that had led Herod to this: 1. Rejecting the truth. 2. Continuing to indulge in his sins. 3. A drunken feast; liquor is responsible for untold crime and misery. 4. An immoral dance; dancing can but result in sin. 5. A wicked oath, which never should have been taken, but, once taken, should have been broken immediately. 6. His fear of the people. IV. A ghastly crime (vs. 10-12). 10. Beheaded John in the prison—It was the work of a few minutes, as it is believed that the feast was held in the palace to which the dungeon was attached. John had been a prisoner here for a year, and must have expected an outcome similar to this. His work was done, and he was ready. 11. His head was given to the damsel—She was only the agency by which the bloody deed had been done. We can scarcely imagine that she was pleased with the ghastly gift. Geikie says: "This was in keeping with the brutal coarseness of the age, especially in the Eastern provinces." She brought it to her mother.—Who would feast her eyes upon the awful sight. She gained her purpose, but her gloating over the tragedy brought but partial and fleeting satisfaction. She remembered John with a bitter remembrance. Misfortunes followed this unhappy pair. The people said their troubles came because of the murder of John. Herod lost his dominion, was banished to Gaul, thence to Spain. Herodias shared his banishment, and both died in disgrace. 12. His disciples—took up the body, and buried it.—The body had been thrown out, and his disciples, faithful to the last, performed the sad rite of burial. Went and told Jesus—Their master, the forerunner of Jesus, was gone, and the most natural thing for them to do was to go to Jesus with their loss and sorrow. It is an open question whether they became his disciples in the proper sense of the word, but it is very likely they did. Questions.—What did Herod say when he heard of the fame of Jesus? In what prison had John been put? By whom? Why? Why did Herodias hate John? Why was the marriage of Herod and Herodias unlawful? Why did Herod fear John? What oaths did Herod take? What request was made of Herod, and by whom?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

"Herod had laid hold on John" (v. 3). Herod feared to offend Herodias, and yielding to that fear became the worst of cowards. Cowardice is a refusal to brave the dangers fear recognizes, or suffer the consequences of a right course of action. Cowardice is not fear, but yielding to fear. A hero conquers his fears; a coward is conquered by them. "John said" (v. 4). John was "the voice" (Matt. 3: 3). He first raised that voice in straightforward warning to the proud, self-righteous Pharisees (Matt. 23: 2). He last used it in the strong declaration of the truth to a self-indulgent tetrarch. Through life he was true to his mission. Luther was offered to be made a cardinal if he would be quiet. He answered, "No, not if I might be a pope!" adding, "Let me be counted fool, or anything, so I be not found guilty of cowardly silence." The Papists, when they could not rule him, called him apostate. He confessed and said, "I am indeed an apostate, but a blessed apostate, one that hath fallen off from the devil, Christ liveth and reigneth; that's enough for Luther!"

"The daughter of Herodias danced" (v. 6), and pleased Herod" (v. 9). This reference to dancing, which is one of the very few of the Bible records of dancing as a social amusement, speaks of crime, shamelessness and destruction. Harold F. Scales suggests, "The dancing sanctioned by scripture was always a religious ceremony, or an expression of gratitude and praise, this text merely declares there is a time for mourning and a time for gladness and praise. 'Is it any harm for a Christian to dance?' said a young lady to Bishop McMillan. 'A Christian, my dear,' was the devious answer of the Episcopal prelate, 'has no desire to dance.'"

"He promised with an oath" (v. 7). Rash vows lead to sin and sorrow. Jephthah vowed rashly when he promised the Lord if he would deliver Ammon into his hand, to sacrifice the one who first met him on his return home (Judg. 11: 31). Early ravens bound himself and Israel by an oath to fast until they should be as good as their enemies, the Philistines (1 Sam. 14: 24). King David vowed wickedly in declaring vengeance on Eliab for the death of the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 19: 2). Jehoram, King of Israel, made a similar rash declaration concerning Elisha (2 Kings 6: 3). One "see follows another. Debauched morals, drunken men, a dancing maid and a daring vow cause Herod to commit through cowardice a crime from which he was being kept by cowardice" (v. 5). "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil" (Jer. 13: 23). "Beheaded" (v. 10). John was "faithful unto death" (Rev. 2: 10). He gave his life for the cause he loved. Among the missionaries who lost their lives at Ku-cheng in China, were two young ladies who had left a Christian home to carry the gospel to the heathen, and when the sad news of the massacre reached their mother, she exclaimed,

MISERABLE WITH DYSPEPSIA

Another Wonderful Cure By That Wonderful Fruit Medicine "Fruit-a-tives."

Mr. Mathias Dery, of 225 Church street, Ottawa, Ont., was treated for years by physicians for Painful Dyspepsia. He spent so much money for doctor's medicines without getting much relief that he had about made up his mind that his case was hopeless.

Seeing "Fruit-a-tives" advertised, however, Mr. Dery thought he would invest 50c in a box of these wonderful fruit juice tablets.

And this famous fruit medicine did for Mr. Dery what all the doctors could not do—it cured him.

He writes:—"Fruit-a-tives" positively cured me of severe Dyspepsia when physicians failed to relieve me."

"Fruit-a-tives" makes the stomach sweet and clean, insures sound digestion and regulates bowels, kidneys and skin.

50c a box, 6 for \$2.50, or trial box, 25c—at all dealers, or from Fruit-a-tives, Limited, Ottawa.

"Would to God that I could go to China to take up the work of my martyred daughters."

FOREST PRODUCTS

Forestry Branch Department of the Interior.

"Forest Products of Canada, 1908," is the title of the latest bulletin issued by the forestry branch of the Department of the Interior. It comprises the result of the first year's work of the Dominion forestry service in the compilation of statistics relating to the production and consumption of the forest products of the Dominion. Messrs. H. R. MacMillan and G. A. Gutches are the compilers of the figures.

This work was undertaken by the forestry branch with the object of meeting a long-felt want as to reliable statistics relating to the use of wood in Canada more frequent than the census figures, which are published every ten years.

The returns do not profess to be complete, but are thought to be reasonably accurate, and at any rate give a fairly exact idea of the quantities and values of material and products in the different lines.

The work was new, both to the manufacturers and to the officials of the branch, but in future years, as it continues, it is hoped to have much more complete and reliable returns. Copies of the bulletin may be obtained gratis by applying to the superintendent of forestry, Ottawa.

The total value of the production of lumber, lath, shingles, cross-ties, poles and pulpwood during the year was \$67,429,044.

The production of sawn lumber is shown by the figures to be in the neighborhood of 3,449,176,000 feet, board measure, per annum, valued at \$34,333,036.

British Columbia easily leads in the production of shingles, producing 724,652,000 of the value of \$1,391,206. Its nearest competitor is Quebec, which produced 406,440,000, valued at \$849,737, and then follows Ontario, with a production of 223,533,000, valued at \$461,155.

The total production for the Dominion was 1,499,295,000 shingles, the aggregate value of which was \$3,101,996.

In the manufacture of lath Ontario takes first place with 3,024,199 to her credit, valued at \$612,249. The total number of laths manufactured was 671,562,000, of the value of \$1,487,125.

During the year the railways purchased 13,078,416 cross-ties for which they paid \$5,281,685.

Reports as to the poles purchased were received from 46 telegraph and telephone companies, 151 electric light, power and railway companies and 19 steam railways owning their pole lines. These represent 66,544 miles of line, supported by 2,433,245 poles.

70 POUNDS OF MILK PER DAY

In this busy age when Canada is making a name for herself by big things, water power, timber, minerals, railroads, real estate deals and so on, it is perhaps as well to remind ourselves that the ordinary farm operations occasionally show very big things. We hear now and then of poor cows and low yields of milk, so we need constantly to bear in mind that huge things are accomplished by the proper combination of the brainy dairyman, good feed and the selected cow. We have plenty of good cows in Canada, some that give 10,000, 15,000 and 20,000 pounds of milk in a year, one or two big records were made in March by excellent cows, one of six in one herd giving a total gain of 9,388 pounds of milk, and some giving as much as seventy pounds of milk in one day; think of it, enough to supply the needs of 35 ordinary people at the rate of one pint each. Such cows are not picked up every day; they are not average cows, but they are an indication of what is being accomplished by brain work, applied intelligence in dairying. We need to realize that it is perfectly feasible to do a good deal more raising, not only the much needed raising of the general standard of the average cow, so that the 3,000 pounder is no longer "our midst," but the raising of a good many more cows of at least the 10,000 pound type. Dairy records of milk produced and feed consumed will soon show which cow in the stable of the average dairyman is not worth keeping, and which will respond to more liberal feeding so as to produce milk in abundance. Cow testing associations will help every dairyman to success; join the nearest to you or assist in forming a new one.—C. E. W.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

LIVE STOCK.

The railways reported 85 carloads received on the market on Wednesday and Thursday, consisting of 1,072 cattle, 2,342 hogs, 248 sheep, 279 calves and 20 horses.

The quality of cattle was fair to good. Trade in domestic dairy cows was fair to good, considering the light run for the two days, was slow for butcher cattle, at about the same price as quoted for Tuesday's market.

Exporters—There was an important sale of 225 selected export cattle, made on this market, by Mr. Geo. Rowntree to Alexander McIntosh, for Gordon, Ironsides & Phares Co., averaging 1,225 lbs. each, at \$7.15 to \$7.20, and one load of these was at the lower figure. But it must be remembered that they were "selected cattle" to bring these prices. Export bulls sold from \$5.50 to \$6.

Butchers—Geo. Rowntree bought 300 cattle for the Harris Abattoir Co. Steers and heifers, \$6.85 to \$6.65; cows, \$4 to \$6; bulls, \$5 to \$6.10.

Stockers and Feeders—Mr. Murby reports handling in the neighborhood of 300 cattle at following prices: Steers, 900 to 1,050 lbs. each, at \$5.50 to \$6.50; steers, 800 to 900 lbs., at \$5.25 to \$5.75; steers, 600 to 800 lbs. each, at \$4.50 to \$5.25; common light stockers, \$3.50 to \$4.25.

Milkers and Springers—There has been a fair supply of milkers and springers all week, but too many of the common medium light cows that are not wanted. Prices remained steady at \$35 to \$67 each.

Veal Calves—Prices for veal calves have been firmer, having nearly regained the late decline. Prices ranged from \$3 to \$7 per cwt., but the average price was about \$6.40 per cwt.

Sheep and Lambs—The market for sheep and lambs is slightly lower; ewes sold at \$5 to \$5.75; rams, \$4 to \$4.50; yearlings, \$6.50 to \$8 per cwt.; spring lambs, \$1 to \$3.50.

Hogs—Prices have again advanced over our last quotations. Sows fed and watered, \$9.30 to \$9.75, and \$9.40 to \$9.50 f.o.b. cars at country points.

FARMERS' MARKET.

The Street Market was again quiet today, the only grain received being 200 bushels of oats, which sold at 33c per bushel.

Hay quiet and steady, there being sales of 12 loads at \$17 to \$20 a ton for timothy and at \$12 to \$15 for mixed and clover; straw nominal and \$12 to \$13 a ton.

Dressed hogs are unchanged, with quotations ruling at \$12 to \$12.50.

Wheat, white, new	\$1.09	\$1.01
Do. red, new	1.00	1.01
Do. goose	0.95	0.97
Oats, bushel	0.39	0.40
Peas, bushel	0.70	0.80
Barley, bushel	0.48	0.50
Pye, bushel	0.65	0.60
Hay, timothy, ton	17.00	20.00
Do. mixed, ton	12.00	15.00
Straw, per ton	12.00	13.00
Dressed hogs	12.00	12.50
Butter, dairy	0.25	0.30
Eggs, dozen	0.18	0.22
Chickens, spring, lb.	0.50	0.60
Turkeys, lb.	0.21	0.23
Fowl, lb.	0.15	0.17
Apples, bbl.	1.00	2.50
Potatoes, bag, by load	0.40	0.45
Onions, sack	2.50	2.75
Beef, hindquarters	11.50	3.00
Do. forequarters	8.00	10.00
Do. choicest	10.50	12.00
Do. medium	8.50	9.00
Mutton, per cwt.	11.00	13.00
Veal, prime, per cwt.	11.00	12.50
Lamb, lb.	0.16	0.18

OTHER MARKETS.

WOOL MARKET.

London—At the wool auction sales today 5,503 bales were offered. The small selections attracted spirited bidding from the continent and the home trade. Firm

Bakes—Roasts—Broils—Toasts



BAKES bread, pie and cake—bakes them perfectly all through, and browns them appetizingly.
ROASTS beef, poultry and game with a steady heat, which preserves the rich natural flavor.
BROILS steaks and chops—makes them tender and inviting.
TOASTS bread, muffins, crackers and cheese.

New Perfection Oil Cook-stove

has a Cabinet Top with shelf for keeping plates and food hot. Drop shelves for the coffee pot or saucepans, and nicked towel racks. It has long turquoise-blue enamel chimneys. The nickel finish, with the bright blue of the chimneys, makes the stove very attractive and invites cleanliness. Made with 1, 2 and 3 burners; the 2 and 3-burner stoves can be had with or without Cabinet.

CAUTIONARY NOTE: Be sure you get this stove—see that the name-plate reads "NEW PERFECTION." Every dealer everywhere; if not at yours, write for Descriptive Circular to the nearest agency of the

The Queen City Oil Company, Limited, Toronto.

prices were realized, especially for scour of merinos and coarse cross-breeds.

CHEESE MARKETS.

Tweed—To-night 210 white cheese boards; ten and one-eighth cents bid; no sales.

Woodstock—Four hundred white, six hundred colored, 10 3/8 cents bid; no sales.

Belleville—At the meeting of the cheese board, held here today, there were offered 150 boxes of cheese. Sales were 240 at 10 1/2 lbs. 900 at 10 5/8, balance refused 10 5/8c.

WINNIPEG WHEAT MARKET.
Wheat—May 38 1/4c, July 39 3/8c, Oct. 37 3/8c, July 34c.

BRITISH CATTLE MARKETS.

London—London and Liverpool cables quoted live cattle (American) steady, at 13 1/2 to 14 1/2c, dressed weight; refrigerator beef steady, at 12 to 11 1/4c per pound.

ALFALFA.

A Splendid Crop For Ontario Farmers.

Ontario farmers who have gone into alfalfa experimentally have proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that this is the best paying fodder crop that an agriculturist can grow. Alfalfa has been known since 490 B. C. and was successfully grown in Greece and Rome nearly 2,500 years ago. In the State of Kansas, where in 1891 20,000 acres were grown, while last year nearly a million acres of alfalfa were under crop, resulting in untold financial benefit to the farmers of this State.

There are five different varieties, viz.: American, Turkish, Arabian, Persian and German, but for Ontario the American variety is best suited.

Alfalfa, unlike many other crops, enriches the soil rather than exhausts it. The roots extend into the earth from five to twelve feet, reaching down and bringing to the surface nitrogen and other valuable mineral plant food. It has been grown continuously on a farm in one of the counties of this Province for nearly thirty years, and still produces good crops. It can be grown suc-

cessfully on sandy, heavy clay loam or on nearly any variety of soil properly drained. Successful experiments with it have been conducted on a limited scale with success in nearly every part of Ontario both with and without a nursing crop. Spring sowing has given best results. If sown with a nursing crop barley at the rate of one bushel per acre is an excellent one for this purpose. Eighteen or twenty pounds per acre of alfalfa is the proper quantity of seed. From three to four crops can be harvested in one season and the average height of a plant runs from fourteen to twenty inches. When about one-third of the crop is in bloom is an excellent time to start cutting, as it then possesses its greatest food value. The cutting should be done in the forenoon when the dew is off the grass and the tedder should follow immediately and be kept at work until late in the afternoon and the crop left in windrows. This process should be repeated the following day and the hay put in coils and left for several days. It should not be cut too close to the ground, as the plant may be injured thereby.

The yield per acre of green crop is about 20 tons and of dry hay five. It should not be allowed to remain too long in the hot sun as the leaves are liable to become dry and break off, and they contain most of the nutriment. Seed is produced best from either first or second cuttings and averages five bushels per acre, although it sometimes runs as high as ten.

Alfalfa contains about 50 per cent more digestible protein than hay made from red clover. It makes a splendid pasture for horses or hogs, but care is required when sheep or cattle are turned in as there is a tendency to bloat if allowed to eat too much, especially when the grass is wet.

An application of about twelve bags of barn yard manure per acre every four years has proved very satisfactory. Fertilizers containing phosphate have given the best results. When a field of alfalfa is ploughed down the surface soil is completely filled with roots rich in fertile elements.

It is to be hoped that every farmer in Ontario, who has suitable, well drained soil, will put in a field of this most desirable crop.

J. Leslie Wilson.

NA-DRU-CO

Formulae Have Been Well Tried Out

Though the NA-DRU-CO line of Medicinal and Toilet Preparations have been on sale for a few months only, don't think for minute that in buying NA-DRU-CO goods you are experimenting with new or untried preparations.

Their Origin

The twenty-one wholesale drug firms now united in the "National" had all of them lengthy careers, some for fifty to one hundred years, prior to the union. Each firm had acquired or developed a number of valuable formulae for medicinal and toilet preparations, all of which became the property of the "National". Since the union our expert chemists have carefully gone over these formulae and selected the best for the NA-DRU-CO line. Every formula has been carefully studied by these experts, improved if possible, and then thoroughly tested again, in actual use, before we consider it good enough to bear the NA-DRU-CO Trade Mark.

An Example

A good example of what we mean is NA-DRU-CO's Nervonox for Headache or nervous break-down. The formula was selected the most scientific combination of nerve sedatives, but this was enough for us; we had it tried out with a dozen different kind of Brain workers—School Teachers, Lawyers, Bookkeepers, as well as Society leaders and home workers, and everywhere the result was so good that we adopted it as one of the best of the NA-DRU-CO line.

Some NA-DRU-CO Preparations: You'll Find Most Satisfactory.

Campbell's Cream Tooth Powder	Baby's Tablets	Prurient Tablets	Rheumatism Cure
Creosote Toilet Cream	Cardiac Gels	Headache Wafers	Sugar of Milk
Creosote Toilet Cream	Cascara Laxatives (Tablets)	Nervonox Tablets	Stomachic Laxative
Creosote Toilet Cream	Cold Liver Oil Compound	Nervonox Tablets	Stomachic Laxative
Creosote Toilet Cream	Creosote Toilet Cream	Nervonox Tablets	Stomachic Laxative

National Drug and Chemical Company of Canada, Limited

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HALIFAX, ST. JOHN, MONTEREAL, OTTAWA, KINGSTON, TORONTO, HAMILTON, LONDON, WINNIPEG, REGINA, CALGARY, NELSON, VANCOUVER, VICTORIA.

ALWAYS LOOK FOR THIS TRADE MARK