

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE LESSON

Lesson III. January 16, 1916.

Peter's Sermon in Pentecost—Acts 2: 14-41. Print 2: 2226, 28-41.

Commentary. I. Prophecy fulfilled (vs. 14-21). The charge the mockers made, that those upon whom the Holy Spirit came were filled with wine, gave occasion for Peter to meet the accusation and declare to the people the great truths of the gospel. Ourselves did not eat or drink early in the morning, which fact was a sufficient answer to their wicked charge. Peter in his discourse had a far deeper purpose than to clear himself and his fellow Christians of this accusation. He wished to show that the marvelous manifestations of that day were the fulfillment of prophecy. He quoted the words of the prophet Joel and applied them to the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The joy of the believers, their efforts to express them to the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The joy of the believers, their efforts to express that joy and their ability to declare in many languages the wonderful works of God, came as a result of their receiving the Holy Ghost.

II. Jesus, the Messiah (vs. 22-36). 22. Ye men of Israel—Peter addressed his hearers in a most respectful manner. They could have been called by no more exalted name than Israel. A man approved of God—Jesus is spoken of here as a man, as he really was, but is later shown to be the Son of God. He was approved of God in that he wrought miracles publicly. Miracles and wonders and signs—These distinct names are given to Christ's marvelous works according to the light in which they are viewed. The first name, miracles, literally, powers, is applied to them because they proclaimed the might of him who wrought them; they are named wonders, because they called forth that feeling when they were wrought; and signs because they point out their author as divine.—Cam. Bib. Know-

The works of our Lord were public and so numerous that all knew about them. 23. Being delivered—Jesus permitted himself to be delivered into the hands of men. Judas was the voluntary agent in betraying him. Determinate counsel—it was necessary to show the Jews that it was not through Christ's weakness or inability to defend himself that he was taken, nor was it through their malice merely that he was slain; for God had determined long before, from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13: 8) to give his Son a sacrifice for sin, and the treachery of Judas and the malice of the Jews were only the incidental means by which the great counsel of God was fulfilled; the counsel of God intending the sacrifice, but never desiring that it should be brought about by such wretched means.—Clarke. We saw your hand—Peter charged home his accusations upon his hearers. The Jews were responsible for his death. They had condemned him and wicked, lawless men had inflicted the death penalty. 24. Whom God hath raised up—the doctrine of Christ's resurrection was an essential part of the gospel message, and the apostle was bold in its declaration. Loused the pains of death—God undid the work that death had accomplished. Not possible—Jesus is divine and from the very nature of his being death could not claim him permanently. He had power to lay down his life and he had power to take it again. 25-26. To prove his declaration Peter quoted from Ps. 16, this scripture having direct application to Christ.

26. Men and brethren—Peter was addressing his fellow Jews and did know that they recognized the authority of the scriptures. Patriarch David—one of the greatest personages in Jewish history. His sepulchre is with us—His burial-place is in the southern part of Jerusalem. 30. Being a prophet—Although David is not classed among the prophets, yet he foretold future events and declared the word of the Lord, Raise up Christ—The promise of an everlasting kingdom is given in 2 Sam. 7, 12, 13, 31. His soul was not left in hell—"Neither was he left unto Hades."—R. V. The best manuscripts have no words for "his soul." Jesus did not remain in the abode of the dead. 32. This Jesus—He who is prophesied in the scriptures and He whom Peter's hearers had known and had put to death, and of whose resurrection the apostles were witnesses. 33. Exalted—Jesus had finished His earthly ministry and had ascended to the right hand of the Father. He hath shed forth this—Jesus had sent the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, who had promised (John 14: 26), and His coming had made the stir that brought the multitudes together. 34. David is not ascended—but Christ has ascended. The Lord said unto my Lord—The Father said to Christ the Son, "Be thou on My right hand." 35. Thy feet thy footstool—it was a custom of ancient emperors to place their feet upon the necks of those whom they had conquered. 36. Therefore—Peter is about to draw the powerful and inescapable conclusion from his argument that he whom the Jews had slain was the Messiah, Christ—the anointed one.

III. The church founded (vs. 27-41). 37. Pricked in their heart—The Holy Spirit had spoken through Peter and his hearers were awakened and deeply convicted. What shall we do?—It was not enough that they felt deeply. There was a call to do something. They felt their guilt and desired redemption. Repent—Turn away utterly from your sins. Be baptized....in the name of Jesus Christ—They were directed to declare publicly their faith in him whom they had put to death less than two months previously. For remission of sins—Baptism was the outward sign which signified the inward work of deliverance. Those who shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost—By the gift of the Holy Ghost, the house truly one with the same—about twenty and twenty, and are numbered to do mighty wonders in the name of Christ the exalted Lord.

38. The promise—The same quoted from the prophet Joel and the promise of the gift of the Holy Ghost. Shall call—God has invited all mankind to come to him. 40. Save yourselves—Salvation is provided, therefore take the steps necessary to salvation. Unwashed—Coveted persons. 41. Received his word—they not only heard the word, but believed and obeyed it. Were added—to the one hundred twenty believers in Jesus there were added in one day three thousand more, as a result of the gift of the Holy Ghost in His fulness of the world.

IV. Christian fellowship (vs. 42-47). The fellowship that came to exist among the disciples and converts was produced by all partaking of the Holy Spirit. They became at once in nature and purpose. The most demanded that those who had possessions should share with those who were destitute. Multitudes were present from a distance and must be provided for. There was a recognition of the need and a hearty response on the part of those who were able to assist. They were all like one great family. They were daily gathered in religious meetings in the temple and in other places, and the Lord gave them great success.

QUESTIONS.—What was the occasion of Peter's address? Give the leading points in the address. What effect did it have? What question did the people ask? What was Peter's reply? How could they save themselves? How many were converted on that day? How did they prosper? How did they keep the unity of the Spirit? Who were added to the church? What is the duty of the church to-day with respect to the poor?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

I. Upon ancient prophecy.

II. Upon personal experience.

I. Upon ancient prophecy. Peter spoke to an audience of different nations who expressed every variety of surprise, doubt and curiosity. His discourse was a disclosure of the purpose of the ages past. He challenged the knowledge of those to whom he spoke in a summary of indisputable historic facts. However prejudiced they might be, none could object to his citation from the prophet Joel. Peter began where his hearers could begin. He set before Israel their remaining opportunity. From the very first, gospel preaching was made to rest upon an historical basis. The whole gospel of man's salvation was included in Peter's discourse. His subject claimed attention by the importance of the blessing which it set forth. He made his hearers feel that Jesus was God's messenger. He affirmed that, regardless of appearance as they viewed them, Jesus had gained a complete victory. The multitude felt the application to themselves of the apostle's appeal. What they heard was a narration of facts. What they understood by them was a summons to action. All was seen to be clear and consistent though the inference was one of shame and condemnation to them. Compunction was the first fruit of Peter's preaching. His hearers were stung with remorse at the enormity of the wickedness which had been committed in the crucifixion and at the blindness with which the whole nation had closed their eyes to the teaching of the prophecies concerning the Messiah. Their words indicated an intelligent, conscientious, heartfelt awakening. Censoriousness was repressed. Reverent respect was produced. That which followed immediately on Peter's preaching brought out the truth of the gospel as fully and forcibly as the discourse itself.

II. Upon personal experience. The gift of the Holy Spirit brought forth abounding evidences of spiritual life. The brave, outspoken tone of Peter's discourse evidenced the power and influence of the Holy Spirit upon his mind. His sermon was remarkable because of its enlarged and enlightened spirituality. It proved the Spirit's power in illuminating the human consciousness. There were elements of power in Peter's discourse noticed in its adaptation to circumstances, its scriptural basis, its unsparking rebuke of sin, its faithful setting forth of the life, death and resurrection of Christ, and the acknowledged presence of the Holy Spirit. The change in Peter gave a true idea of the effect of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The ardent, impulsive, enthusiastic, cowardly Peter was the subject of Pentecostal power. He was transformed into a profound expositor of the divine purpose in the creation and education of the church. Peter calmly and kindly rooted out the false charge of drunkenness as the actual opinion of intelligent men. He then interpreted the facts which the mockers had misinterpreted. His position was that of spokesman for and defender of the brethren. With him there was no trace of hesitation or embarrassment. There was calm, concentrated force in his sermon. He wrought no miracle to astonish or impress the people. He prevailed by the word of his testimony. He declared to the astonished world that they were not witnessing the fulfillment of an ancient Jewish prophet's prediction. He uttered the words of Joe on the very day of their fulfillment, the day on which God had poured out his Spirit upon the apostles in the bestowment of the great gift of the Holy Ghost. It was the giving of a new life, a new energy, the spirit of truth, the spirit of love which enabled them at once to see things as they were and as they might be. They saw how dark, how bad, how imperfect, how sin-stained men's lives were. They were impelled to issue the call to repentance. That first sermon preached on the day of Pentecost was a great event in the history of the church. Three thousand felt the power of truth and yielded to it. Peter demanded repentance, faith and confession. The results of that Pentecostal day were evidenced in the perseverance of discipleship, a general spirit of reverence and a new mode of life.

T. H. A.

It is a strange whim of fashion indeed to decree that the Russian boots which are now all the rage must have the stamp of German silver.—Charlotte Newell and Charles.

FARM GARDEN

BUG-KILLING TIME

Butchering time is near at hand, and the popular handling of the pork supply, after the usual killing and cleaning the carcass, is a subject well worth considering. Before curing is begun, meat must be thoroughly cooled, but not frozen. If the animal heat is not out of it the salt will cause shrinkage of the muscles. On the other hand, salt will not penetrate frozen meat, and uneven curing will result. The most suitable vessel for curing meat is a good clean barrel, tight enough to prevent leakage, though for small quantities a stone jar is good.

For 100 pounds of meat thoroughly mix five pounds of salt, two pounds of granulated sugar and two ounces of saltpeter. Every three days the meat should be rubbed with one-third of this mixture, and after the last rubbing it is left in the barrel for a week or ten days. Then it is ready to be smoked. This receipt should be used only when there is a cool and moist place in which to keep the meat. If a warm or dry place is used the preservatives do not penetrate evenly. For plain salt pork every piece of meat is rubbed with salt, packed closely in a barrel and allowed to stand overnight. For every 100 pounds of pork brine is made, consisting of ten pounds of salt and two pounds of saltpeter dissolved in four gallons of boiling water. When the brine is cold it is poured over the meat, which is then covered and weighted down to keep it under the solution.

To prepare sugar-cured meat rub every piece with dry salt and allow it to drain overnight. Pack it in a barrel, and for every 100 pounds of meat add a brine of eight pounds of salt, two pounds of brown sugar and two ounces of saltpeter dissolved in four gallons of hot water. In summer the brine must be boiled, but that is not necessary in winter. Let the brine cool before using. Bacon strips should be left in the solution from four to six weeks, and ham from six to eight weeks.

Sausage should be made of clean, fresh pork. To every three pounds of lean meat add one pound of fat and mix them together by chopping. When this is done, spread the meat out thinly and season with a mixture of one ounce of fine salt, one-half ounce of ground black pepper and one-half ounce of pure leaf sage, rubbed fine, for every four pounds of meat. The seasoning should be sprinkled over the meat and the two mixed together by running them through a food chopper. The sausage may then be packed in jars or casings.

If large quantities of meat are to be smoked, a permanent smoke house is necessary, but for small quantities a large dry goods box serves the purpose. A smoke house should be eight or ten feet high and should have plenty of ventilation, so that the warm air may be carried off and the meat prevented from overheating. It is best to have the fire-pot outside, with a flue to conduct the smoke into the meat chamber, but if this cannot be arranged the fire is built on the floor of the house and the meat shielded in some way. The construction should allow the smoke to pass freely over the meat and out, though too rapid a circulation is a waste of fuel. The best fuel for smoking meat is green maple or hickory smothered with sawdust. Hard wood is always preferable to soft, and risinous wood should never be used, for it will give meat a bad flavor. Corn cobs are the best substitute for hard wood.

Meat to be smoked is removed from the brine two or three days before it is put into the smokehouse. Two pieces should not be allowed to hang in contact, as this prevents uniform smoking. After the smoking has started the fire should be kept as constant as possible, for if there is any great variation in temperature the smoke does not penetrate evenly, the outer portions being heavily smoked and the inner portions lightly. At all times the house should be kept dark to prevent flies and other insects from getting in it.

FARM NEWS AND VIEWS.

The strawberry mulch should be put on in early winter. Scatter the straw over the entire surface, covering the spaces between the rows as you cover the plants. Do not cover the plants heavily, but put enough on to prevent them from the freezing and thawing in early spring.

Canadian farmers know well the value of rutabaga turnips for feeding sheep. Lambs weighing 75 to 100 pounds will consume three or four pounds of roots daily, and from one to two pounds of grain ration. Two parts of oats to one of bran is considered a good grain ration when fed in connection with roots. Sheep will consume 15 or 20 pounds of roots daily when given little else.

The "Shepherd's Bulletin" points out that it doesn't need a heavy soil to raise heavy sheep. The Cotswolds in England range on a thin limestone, stony soil, 4,000 or 6,000 feet above the sea level. Moreover, some of England's best Hampshire farms are of very thin soil.

Sugar exists not only in the cane, the beet sugar and maple, but also in the sap of about 190 other plants and trees.

A Missouri farmer increased the income from his orchard from \$6.35 to \$8 an acre by spraying the trees. All costs deducted, a profit of \$16.50 was left. The work was done in co-operation with the Missouri Experiment Station. The difference between \$6.35 and \$16.50 shows what it may cost per acre to board insects in an orchard—\$16.15. That's too much of a bad thing!

You grow fruit for the insects or you grow it for yourself, just according to whether or not you spray.

Cattle can be economically raised on the farm where their dams are used as work animals, provided they have pasture and are fed grain and hay in sufficient amounts to stimulate growth and normal development. This is the cheapest and best way to secure efficient teams for farm work.

It isn't altogether illogical that prompts a woman to give her husband a piece of her mind.

There are no details for this heading.

"We are fond of making a business mainly used in insurance, but with that, on the other hand, we have no one who can do that.

Every farmer should have a note of account.

The farmer will depend upon the different uses he may have for them in the smaller towns and communities.

It will be profitable for a number to go in together and purchase a lot of stock or some seeds. No other test is so convincing as to what progress we are or not making as in setting the stock across the scales at regular intervals. Many other scales can be found for scales on the farm.

Beef, pork, mutton, butterfat, wool, etc., are finished products that should afford a double profit, one for producing the raw materials as, for instance, the feed for the stock, and the other the manufacturing, as in cheese, butter, beef, mutton, pork, etc. Why not engage in this kind of manufacturing on the farm?

The United States Department of Agriculture announces that a peach which bears an edible fruit containing a smooth stone has been brought from China and may be used to improve the commercial peach.

The deeper the farmer goes into the soil the higher his success will be as a business man and producer.

The man who takes pride in plowing a straight furrow is very apt to take equal pride in all the rest of his farm operations.

The successful farmer must follow the plant down into the soil as well as follow it up from the soil. Too long have farmers thought horizontal. It is now time to do some vertical thinking down as well as up.

GERMAN TRICK UPON ITALY

New York Report German prisoners captured with Austrians on the Italian front all have, without exception, certificates signed by Austrian military authorities stating that they are in the Austrian army as volunteers, according to passengers who arrived here to-day on the steamship Giuseppe Verdi from Italian ports.

In explaining these certificates, it was pointed out that no official declaration of hostilities exists between Italy and Germany. For this reason it is believed in Italy, the passengers said, that the certificates are issued in an effort by Germany to prevent an open break with Italy through the presence of Germans in the Austrian forces along the Italian front.

"Let us be proud of our might and our right. Let us think of the past only to find in it reason for confidence. Let us think of our dead only to avenge them. While our enemies are talking of peace, let us think only of war and of victory."

"At the beginning of a year, that will be, thanks to you, a glorious one for France, your commander-in-chief addresses to you from the bottom of his heart the most affectionate greetings. (Signed)

"J. Joffre.

"General Headquarters of the French Army, Dec. 20."

FORWARD WITH GOD.

In the order of the day issued on Jan. 4, Crown Prince Frederick William said:

"Comrades of the Fifth Army, for the second time we are in the enemy's country on New Year's Day. The past year has strengthened the ties of friendship between us—I know that I can rely upon you.

"If the new year brings a decision with the help of God then only one thought must inspire us; forward with God, for the Emperor of Germany towards a great future."

At the beginning of a year, that will be, thanks to you, a glorious one for France, your commander-in-chief addresses to you from the bottom of his heart the most affectionate greetings. (Signed)

"J. Joffre.

"General Headquarters of the French Army, Dec. 20."

ONTARIO HEALTH

Mosquito Very Serious in Toronto During Last Month.

Toronto Report.—The city of Toronto has about fourteen cases of measles for every case throughout the rest of the province. This condition of affairs is known by the Board of Health report of the Provincial Board of Health. In Ontario last month 3,432 cases of measles were reported, with 34 deaths, and of this total Toronto contributed 3,159 cases and 32 deaths. Only 273 cases and 2 deaths were reported from the rest of the province, and these showed no epidemic in any particular locality.

Whooping cough was also more prevalent last month, but otherwise the public health shows improvement.

The statistics show:

Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.
Smallpox	20	1
Scarlet fever	140	1
Diphtheria	375	12
Measles	3,132	34
Whooping cough	111	5
Typhoid	72	2
Tuberculosis	93	6
Infantile paralysis	2	0
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	8	7
	4,223	132

Market strong.

Lamb, receipts 5,000.

Steers, native

Western steers

Cows and heifers

Calves

Market receipts 48,000.

Market strong.