

LESSON

Lesson I. A Plot That Failed.—Acts 23: 1-35. Commentary.—I. Paul before the council (vs. 1-10). The chief captain had brought Paul before the Sanhedrin that that body might examine him regarding the matters in question, inasmuch as he had come to know that the accusations pertained to the rites and ceremonies of religion. Paul looked earnestly upon the council and began his defence by declaring that he had "lived in all good conscience before God" until that day. He had carefully observed the law and had been devoted to his Master. When the high priest ordered that the apostle be humiliated by being smitten on the mouth, he uttered the prophecy that the high priest would be smitten by the Lord. He addressed the high priest as a "whited wall," this term being an expression for hypocrisy. Paul did not know it was the high priest who gave the command to smite him or he would not have spoken in that way, for he would not speak against one who occupied that high position in the Jewish ecclesiastical system. Paul observed that the Sanhedrin was composed in part of Pharisees and in part of Sadducees, and took advantage of the situation to declare his adherence to the doctrines of the Pharisees, he himself being a son of a Pharisee. He was called in question because he had preached the resurrection of Jesus, but he declared before the council his faith in that doctrine. Paul's statement stirred up the antagonism of the Pharisees and Sadducees toward each other, and the former party declared that they found no evil in the prisoner. So great became the strife between the parties that the chief captain ordered Paul to be taken from the council and returned to the castr.

II. Paul's vision (v. 11). From a natural point of view Paul's condition after being brought from the Jewish council to the castle of Antonia was not pleasant nor were his prospects flattering. To be sure nothing had been proved against him, but there was a strong tide of opposition setting in. The outcome of his appearance before the Sanhedrin was in a sense a triumph for the apostle, yet he was virtually a prisoner and there seemed to be no indications of his release. There was abundant occasion for Satan to assail him. He had entered the temple and undertaken the Nazarene vow with a view of conciliating the Jews, and he had only been saved from being torn to pieces of them through the interference of the Roman commander. He could not see in what way he might go forward in the fulfilment of his mission to the Gentiles, and there would naturally come to him the temptation to be discouraged. Whether there did or did not, the Lord came to him and stood by him that night, speaking words of encouragement to him. Paul had testified for him in Jerusalem and he gave him the assurance that he would testify also in Rome. He had expressed a desire to go to Rome (Rom. 1: 11-13), and now the way was being opened.

III. A plot against Paul (vs. 12-22). The Jews were in a highly excited state of mind over Paul and were anxious to put him out of the way. More than forty of them, probably the most fanatical in Jerusalem, conspired to accomplish his death. They not only agreed together to kill Paul, but they called a curse to come upon them if they should not do it, and that before they would eat or drink. Came to the chief priests and elders, and said: "The plotters and the leaders of the Sanhedrin must not have been in full accord, for the former would not have dared to disclose the conspiracy to the chief priest and elders. 15. Ye with the council signify.—The council was invited to join in the plot. The conspirators asked that body officially to request the chief captain to bring Paul before it, and to do it under false pretenses; for the council wished to make further inquiries of him. Ready to kill him.—The Jews had no longer the right to pronounce and execute the death sentence and they did not expect the Roman government would judge Paul to be worthy of death, hence they purposed to take the matter into their own hands. 16. Paul's sister's son.—This is the only reference we have to Paul's relatives. It is possible that this sister lived in Jerusalem, but it is more probable that her son had been sent to Jerusalem to be trained in the Jewish schools there. There were so many persons engaged in the conspiracy that it is not surprising that Paul's nephew heard of it. 17. One of the centurions.—A centurion was a Roman officer in charge of a hundred soldiers. Unto the chief captain.—That officer was favorable toward Paul, and Paul felt free to have his nephew taken before him to give the information regarding the plot. 18. Hath something to say unto thee.—It was a remarkable providence that was working to defeat the enemies of Christ and his servant Paul. The friendly attitude of the chief captain, the presence of Paul's nephew in Jerusalem, his becoming acquainted with the plot and his regard for his uncle conspired to rescue the apostle. 19. Took him by the hand.—The captain welcomed the young man as a messenger from Paul, and encouraged him to deliver the message. 20. That thou wouldst bring.—The chief captain had full jurisdiction over Paul and the Jews must ask him for the privilege of having the apostle brought before them. 21. Do not thou yield unto them.—The young man did not dictate to the captain, but gave him the information that would explain the reason for the request. Now are they ready.—Paul's nephew had the interview with Lysias none too soon, but soon enough to thwart the plans of the would-be assassins. 22. Tell no man.—Paul's safety required that the plans of the captain should not be made

known to the oath-bound conspirators. IV. Paul rescued (vs. 23-25). 23. Called unto him two centurions.—There was no time for delay. The plotters had fixed upon the next morning to fulfil their oath, and Lysias would have the object not their hatred well out of reach before that time. These were troublous times in Jerusalem and a large garrison of Roman soldiers was maintained there. The guard provided was large, but the captain wished to be prepared for any emergency. There were two hundred ordinary foot-soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred light-armed soldiers. Caesarea.—A city on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea seventy miles from Jerusalem. It was the residence of the Roman governor. Third hour of the night.—Nine o'clock in the evening. 24. Provide them beasts.—Horses, mules or camels would come under the term translated beasts, which means an animal used for riding. Paul was provided for so that he did not need to walk. Unto Felix.—He was the governor, or procurator of Judea and Lysias was responsible to him. 25. Lysias, the chief captain, sent a letter to the procurator setting forth the facts of Paul's rescue from the mob and the plot that was made to take his life. The accusations against the prisoner were with regard to the Jewish law, and should be referred to Felix by the accusers. The company reached Antipatris, about forty miles from Jerusalem, and the footmen returned while the horsemen accompanied the apostle to Caesarea.

QUESTIONS.—How did Paul come to be a prisoner in Jerusalem? Give an outline of Paul's defence before the Sanhedrin. How was Paul benefited by being a Roman citizen? Why did the Lord appear to Paul? What did he tell Paul? What plot was made against Paul? Who made this plot? Who gave information concerning it? What did the chief captain do? Where was Caesarea? Why was Paul sent there?

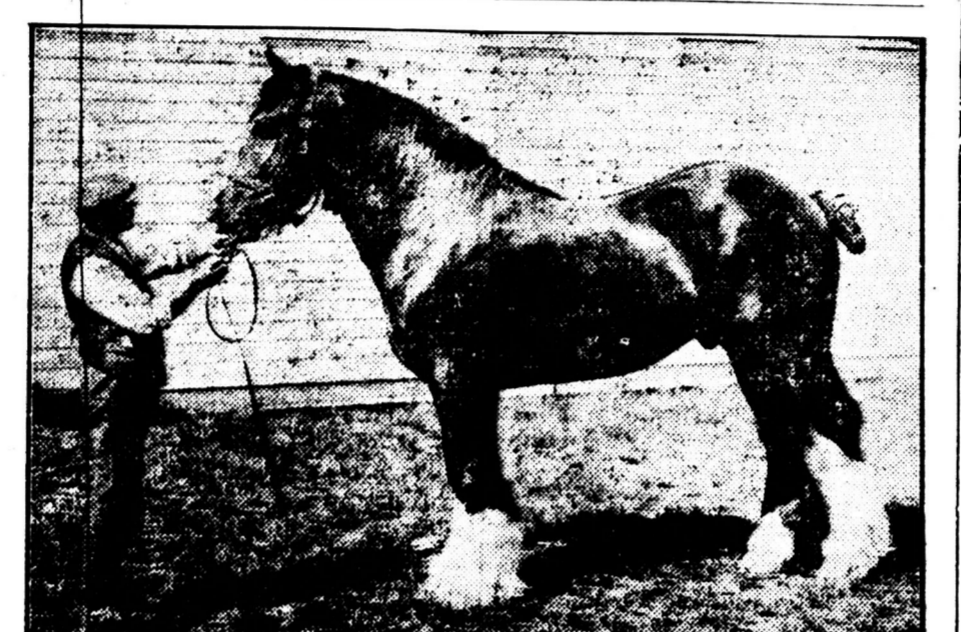
PRACTICAL SURVEY. Topic.—Defeated conspiracy. I. Enabled Paul to witness for Christ. II. Enabled Paul to advance toward Rome. I. Enabled Paul to witness for Christ, Paul was in the hands of Roman authorities. The chief captain referred his case to the Jewish Sanhedrin to ascertain the cause of the riot. In reality the council had no jurisdiction over the case. There being no regular high priest at this time, Ananias undertook the office. It is evident that Paul estimated quickly and skillfully the character of the judges before whom he was brought. He saw that their passions and prejudices were inflamed against him, and that his own integrity was no security against an unjust sentence. As he stood before the council, Paul's lack was one of conscious innocence and of watchful observation. He did not seem to be disconcerted. He rose to the occasion and began his defence. He spoke out of honest conviction. His words enraged Ananias. By Paul's claim to a good conscience Ananias was reminded of his own evil career. There was no assumption of self-concern in Paul's quiet assertion. His statement was simply the truth. Though pursuing a mistaken course before his conversion, he had done so honestly, according to his convictions. When the revelation of the Messiahship of Jesus came to him, he understood and heart, conscience smote him and he felt the exceeding shame of his past conduct. Thenceforward he had pursued the path in which God had directed him. There is no reason to think that Paul said what exceeded facts. Ananias was guilty of brutal outrage. His act revealed the extreme corruption and degradation of Jewish society. Instead of covering before the insult, Paul rose to noble defiance. He could respect the office of priest, but not his guilty occupant. Paul's resignation was worded so as to exhibit the insult done to righteousness and not to himself. Paul expressed no wish for the punishment of Ananias, but firmly declared the likelihood of retribution from God. His language was not a bitter retort, invective or imprecation. Though in form a denunciation, it was a merciful call to repentance. Christ had denounced the Pharisees as whited sepulchres. Paul stood for truth. He had no wish for anything but legitimate methods of defence. If Paul was to stand his ground for a moment in such an assembly, it must be by an immediate appeal to anything friendly to be found there. According to his uniform policy he made use of the things in which he and his hearers agreed. He saw that though his judges were incited by their common hatred toward him, there were strong elements of discord among them. It was an act of sagacity and policy to take advantage of this circumstance to divide his opponents to save himself. II. Enabled Paul to advance toward Rome. There was a contrast between the confusion and tumult of the day and the quiet of the succeeding night. At that time when Paul was cut off from fellowship with the disciples, the Master Himself drew near with the cheering assurance of distinguished, future service for him. Paul for the future. New service was the reward for past fidelity. A new battle was the honor to be conferred for past victories. With such assurance, nothing in Paul's outward condition had power to obliterate his sense of God's nearness and His infinite grace. Human agencies, directed and controlled by Providence, delivered Paul out of the hands of his enemies. Paul estimated the malice of the Jewish party and knew that nothing short of his death would satisfy those forty zealous. Party prejudices and unreasoning hatred called for heroic measures. Lysias was an unconquered agent. He was only bent on extricating himself from perplexing difficulties. Alarmed by the violence of the Jews and disturbed by his own grave mistake in threatening Paul with scourging, he promptly took steps to show his respect for him as a Roman citizen by sending him to Caesarea, considering this a safe way of relieving himself from responsibility. By so doing he avoided a mob in Jerusalem and effected God's purpose to bring Paul on his way to Rome where he should again witness for Christ.

On Exhibition--Both Horse and Horseman

What the Judge Looks for—How the Man Can Assist His Animal in Winning—Value of Proper Classification, Suitable Action and Good Manners.

BY A VETERAN JUDGE.

The success of horses in the show ring often depends as much upon their fitting and the manner in which they are handled in the ring, as upon their individuality. It is not unusual to see a horse of high-class individuality, that is neither well fitted nor well shown, beaten by an animal of poorer individuality and general characteristics, but that is well fitted and properly shown. In each case the judge is often blamed, but the exhibitor must remember that in order for his horse to win in reasonably good company, it is necessary that he be, at least, in fair show condition and that he performs well before the judge in the manner demanded of horses of his class. As in all classes of horses, action is very important, it is not enough that the general conformation of the horse indicates that he should perform well; he must show the quality of his action, and, hence, if from want of training or from other causes he fails to show the desirable qualities when in action, he should be beaten by his inferior competitor that has been educated to go and act well.



The horse should be taught to stand well, to back well, and promptly to obey the will of the driver at all times. With good manners an animal can hardly win a ribbon against keen competition.

The fact that a horse is fat and has a good coat and is of good conformation and good size, is not sufficient; he must show good manners and the characteristic action of his class in a reasonably well marked degree.

JUDGE SHOULDN'T CLASSIFY ENTRIES.

We shall take it for granted that the prospective exhibitor has decided the class to which his horse or horses belong. Here again mistakes are often made by the exhibitor. He enters and exhibits a high-class animal in the wrong class, and is beaten by horses worth much less money, but properly belonging to the class. Here again the judge is often subjected to severe criticism, many claiming that the most valuable animal should win. This argument, of course, has force when the entries are all properly classified, but where some of them are not in their proper class it does not apply. Some claim that the judge, especially at small exhibitions, should classify the horses. We think that this would be a mistake. The judge has no right to answer for as it is, there would be no end of trouble if he commenced to tell the exhibitors which class to show in. Each exhibitor would expect his entry to win in the class he was told to show in, and as all cannot win the judge would be blamed for telling an exhibitor to exhibit in a certain class and then not giving him first place.

Many will say, it is easy to tell which class a horse belongs to. But it is not always as easy as some think. In the very heavy classes, the difference between a draft horse and an agricultural horse is simply that of weight. In the latter classes the action of a horse, especially one of mixed breeding, is often the determining factor for classification. He may be a carriage horse, a roadster, a runabout, or a saddle or a combination horse, according to his style of action and speed. Of course in pure bred, or nearly pure bred animals, that are reasonable representatives of the breed there should be no trouble in classification; but in horses of composite breeding, the blood of one breed may predominate in one animal and that of the other breed in another of exactly the same breeding, probably full brothers or sisters, which they properly belong to different classes, although when standing they may be a well mated team.

MUST UNDERSTAND TYPICAL ACTION.

Having decided the class to which a horse or pair belongs, the prospective exhibitor should commence to fit them. With the heavy classes, we may say that it is seldom that a horse is too fat for show purposes, so long as he is not carrying enough flesh to make him dull and clumsy. With the lighter class it is different. A light horse of any class may easily be overburdened with flesh. This, of course, applies especially to the roadster and saddle classes. The amount of flesh and the coat of a horse depends upon the food consumed, a proportion to the labor performed, and to grooming.

During the process the horses must have regular exercise, and each time they are exercised care should be taken to intensify the type of action demanded in the class. In many cases shoes of special weights and conformations enable the animal to set in a more typical manner. The trainer in order to be a successful exhibitor,

see more good points in his own horse than others can, and also that the judge is in a better position to compare the respective merits of the entries than he is. Even though, as is sometimes the case, he has not been given his just dues, he should take what is given without remark or evident displeasure, and hope for better results next time before another judge. The fewer remarks or voluntary information an exhibitor makes to the judge respecting the cause of some blemish or unsoundness, the cause of his entry not looking so well, the record of his entry in the show ring, and, in fact, in anything regarding his entry, except he be asked a question by the judge, the better. As stated, a judge is supposed to be competent and honest, and even though his performance may have indicated that he fails in either respect, it is unwise for an exhibitor to tell him so in the ring, or by his actions indicate that he considers him either incompetent or dishonest. If an exhibitor thinks that he is not getting justice, he is justified in refusing to exhibit before the judge again, but the use of foul or obscene language or any well-marked symptoms of anger is unardonable.

—CANADIAN COUNTRYMAN.

THE Quiet Hour FOR THOUGHTFUL PEOPLE

WHAT COUNTS. It isn't the bad that you did down here, When your time of life is through That will hurt so much in that other sphere. As the good that you didn't do. Oh, the times you slipped and the times you fell, Won't show when your race is run; But it's going to hurt when you're forced to tell. The good that you could have done. —Detroit Free Press.

ABIDE IN HIM.

He that—wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven by the wind and tossed. Let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Father. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel; which is not another. Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. Ye did run well; who did hinder you? As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him, Amen, into the glory of God by us.

"NO LONGER I"

The Book is a humbling book, and the cross is a humbling instrument. In the world "I" stands first; in the kingdom of God, "thou" stands first. A man takes a tumble, a fall, a knock, a little patient thought to discern that before honor is humility. "I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live and yet no longer I." The usurper is an uncrowned and thrust forth to its extinction. Long time it was a yoke which is not easy, and a burden which is not light. Hence the reproach of the victor divine.

THE CHEESE MARKETS.

Woodstock.—At the regular session of the Woodstock Cheese Board held to-day 300 boxes were offered. All sold at 19-7-8. Madoc.—At the regular meeting 320 boxes were offered. All sold at 19-8-0. Peterboro'.—The Peterboro' Cheese Board this morning sold 2,023 cheese at 22-3-4.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Market—Steady. Native beef cattle . . . \$ 6 50 \$11 30 Western steers . . . 6 00 9 25 Stockers and feeders . . . 4 60 7 25 Cows and heifers . . . 3 50 9 20 Calves . . . 8 50 13 00 Hogs, receipts 18,000. Market, dull, 15c lower. Light . . . 10 00 11 15 Mixed . . . 9 85 11 20 Heavy . . . 9 80 11 15 Rough . . . 9 80 10 00 Pigs . . . 6 75 9 70 Bulk of sales . . . 10 20 11 00 Sheep, receipts 14,000. Market, steady. Wethers, native . . . 6 85 8 50 Lambs, native . . . 6 85 11 00

BUFFALO LIVE STOCK.

East Buffalo, Despatch—Cattle receipts 100; steady. Active, \$4.50 to \$13.25. Hogs—receipts 2,500; active, heavy \$11.40 to \$11.50; mixed, \$11.35 to \$11.50; yorkers, \$11.25 to \$11.40; light yorkers \$10.25 to \$11; pigs, \$9.75 to \$10; roughs, \$9.75 to \$9.95; stags \$7 to \$8.25. Sheep and lambs—receipts \$6, unchanged.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE. Wear: No. 2 winter, 13s 8d; No. 1 Montebello, 14s 2d; No. 2 Montebello, 14s; No. 3 Manitoba, nominal. Corn, spot, weak; American mixed, new, 10s. Flour, winter patents, 47s. Hops in London, Pacific Coast, 24 15s to 25 15s. Lams, short cut, 14 to 16 pounds, 100s. Bacon, Cumberland cut, 26 to 40 pounds, 93s. Clear bellies, 14 to 16 pounds, 92s. Long clear middles, light, 25 to 34 pounds, 97s. Long clear middles, heavy, 25 to 40 pounds, 96s.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

FARMERS' MARKET.

Butter, choice dairy	10 30	10 32
Do, creamery	9 30	9 32
Eggs, new-laid, dozen	0 31	0 32
Lard, country	0 15	0 18
Flour, No. 1	0 14	0 15
Do, No. 2	0 13	0 14
Do, No. 3	0 12	0 13
Do, No. 4	0 11	0 12
Do, No. 5	0 10	0 11
Do, No. 6	0 9	0 10
Do, No. 7	0 8	0 9
Do, No. 8	0 7	0 8
Do, No. 9	0 6	0 7
Do, No. 10	0 5	0 6
Do, No. 11	0 4	0 5
Do, No. 12	0 3	0 4
Do, No. 13	0 2	0 3
Do, No. 14	0 1	0 2
Do, No. 15	0 0	0 1
Do, No. 16	0 0	0 0
Do, No. 17	0 0	0 0
Do, No. 18	0 0	0 0
Do, No. 19	0 0	0 0
Do, No. 20	0 0	0 0

MEATS—WHOLESALE.

Beef, hindquarters	10 00	10 00
Do, forequarters	9 50	9 50
Carcases, choice	10 00	10 00
Do, common	9 50	9 50
Veal, common, cwt.	8 00	10 50
Do, extra	9 00	11 00
Do, prime	10 00	12 00
Heavy hogs	11 00	12 00
Light hogs	10 00	11 00
Medium hogs	10 50	11 50
Abattoir hogs	10 00	11 00
Mutton, heavy	10 00	12 00
Do, light	9 00	11 00
Lamb, spring	8 00	9 17

SUGAR MARKET.

Wholesalers quote on Canadian refined sugars as follows:

Royal Assorted, granulated	10 00	10 00
Domestic, granulated	9 50	9 50
Domestic, white	9 00	9 00
Domestic, yellow	8 50	8 50
Domestic, light	8 00	8 00
Domestic, dark	7 50	7 50
Domestic, black	7 00	7 00
Domestic, brown	6 50	6 50
Domestic, red	6 00	6 00
Domestic, orange	5 50	5 50
Domestic, yellow	5 00	5 00
Domestic, light	4 50	4 50
Domestic, dark	4 00	4 00
Domestic, black	3 50	3 50
Domestic, brown	3 00	3 00
Domestic, red	2 50	2 50
Domestic, orange	2 00	2 00
Domestic, yellow	1 50	1 50
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