SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON X, SEPTEMBER 8, 1918.

CONQUERING EVIL—TEMPERANCE LESSON—1 KINGS 21: 1-29; EPH. 5: 6-21.

Commentary.—I. A murderous plot executed (1 King 21: 1-16). 1-10. Ahab's capital was at Samaria, but he had a beautiful palace at Jezreel, in which he delighted. He lacked ground for a garden, and he greatly desired to possess a vineyard close by belonging to Naboth. There was no wrong in Ahab's wish to secure the desirable piece of property which lay close to his palace at Jezreel, provided he had no purpose of resorting to unjust means to obtain it. Naboth was justified in withholding the vineyard from Ahab, because Jewish law forbade the permanent sale of a paternal inheritance (Lev. 25: 23-23; Num. 36: 7-9). Ahab appears in an unfavorable light as we see him sulking in his bed-chamber because his desire to possess Naboth's vineyard is not granted. In telling his trouble to Jezebel he handed his case over to a resourceful conscienceless, cruel woman, who would hesitate at no iniquity if only she might accomplish her end. Jezebel appeared to hurl contempt at Ahab's weakness. In her view it was unreasonable for him, a king, to hesitate to appropriate Naboth's vineyard.

11. His city—Jezreel, about twenty miles north of Samaria. The king and queen were at the latter city. Elders ....nobles—Those in authority in the city. The elders were the representatives of the tribes dwelling in Jezreel. The nobles were leading men, socially, in the city. Did as Jezebel had sent unto them—The letter came to the elders and nobles bearing the royal authority since the king's seal was affixed. 12 Proclaimed a fast—The elders and nobles were carrying out Jezebel's directions. The proclamation of a fast indicated that there was cause for humiliation, either because of some calamity that had fallen upon the city or was about to fall. Jezebel did not scruple to attempt to cover her cruel perfidy with a cloak of religion. Set Naboth on high—They made the case as public as possible, so that when the witnesses testified against him, indignation would be strong. 13. Two men—Under the Mosaic law the testimony of two witnesses was necessary to condemn one to death. Children of Belial—"Base fellows."—R. V.

14. They sent to Jezebel—the elders and nobles had lent themselves to the wicked Jezebel to become the murderers of an innocent man, and then made their official report to her. Among other sins involved in this series were covetousness, lying, perjury and murder. 15. Take possession of the vineyard—Jezebel's plot seemed thus far to be successful. The death of Naboth and his sons apparently left no legal heir to the land, hence the way was open for Ahab to lay claim to it. 16. Ahab rose ..... to take possession—At last the coveted prize was within his reach.

II. The penalty for sin (1 Kings 21: 17-29). 17. Word of the Lord came to Elijah—Although the prophet seemed to Ahab to have disappeared from Israel after the test at Carmel and the restoration of the rains, he was within hearing distance of Jehovah, ready to do his bidding. 18. To meet Ahab—Elijah had met Ahab with messages from the Lord at the beginning of the drought, and again at its close. Once more he was called to face the guilty king. Which is in Samaria—"Who dwelleth in Samaria."—R. V. In the vineyard of Naboth—The Lord gave the prophet explicit information as to where Ahab was and his errand there. 19. Hast thou killed—The question does not imply doubt, but is the strongest kind of affirmation. Thus saith the Lord—Ahab and his wicked queen had proceeded in their fiendish purpose regardless of right or of Jehovah, but they must be made to know that Jehovah has regard for human conduct, and their wrongs must be expiated. Shall dogs lick thy blood—Because of Ahab's repentance and humiliation (v. 29), this prophecy was not literally fulfilled in him, though at the pool of Samaria dogs did lick up his blood that fell on his chariot (1 Kings 22: 38); but it was afterward fulfilled in his son, on whom Jehovah laid the burden (2 Kings 9: 25).—Whedon. 20. Hast thou found me, O mine enemy—As the king had previously regarded Elijah as one who troubled Israel (1 Kings 18: 17), so now he looked upon him as his enemy.

III. A clean life (Eph. 5. 6-21). 6-10. It is clearly stated that unclean persons are not to be admitted into the land of bliss. Although Paul was addressing some who had been in sin and spiritual darkness, yet they had become the children of light and were proving what was acceptable to the Lord. 11. Have no fellowship—Enter into no close relationship. Unfruitful works of darkness—The Christians at Ephesus were in the midst of paganism, and this warning was given that they might keep entirely clear of its evils. Reference is here made to certain "mysteries" connected with heathen worship, in which the most degraded and revolting evils abounded. Reprove them—We are called upon to reprove that which is evil. 12. A shame even to speak of those things—The practises referred to were so vile that they should not be spoken of only to reprove them. Done....in secret—Heathen worshippers were initiated into the "mysteries" of their degrading rites, and were pledged on pain of death to keep the secrets revealed to them. 13. Are reproved—The reproving of evils brings them out into the light. The liquor traffic must be exposed and its evils made to appear in their true and horrible light. 14. Awake thou that sleepest—This is a paraphrase of Isa. 60: 1. The Christian church is to be a great light in the world of spiritual darkness. 15. Walk circumspectly—Look carefully about you and shun all dangers. 16 Redeeming the time—We can redeem the time by constancy of faith, by steadily doing the work which God assigns to us, by being filled with divine love and by encouraging others to follow the Lord. 17. Wherefore be ye not unwise—Since "the days are evil." watchfulness is demanded lest we be drawn into the sins that prevail. The word "unwise" seems to be a reference to orgies that were held in the worship of Bacchus, the god of wine. 18. Be not drunk with wine—Wine was the common intoxicant among the ancients. The exhortation was to the effect that they should not give themselves over to the use of strong drink. Be filled with the Spirit—Paul here shows the difference between the worship of the true God and that of the heathen deities.

Questions.—What request did Ahab make of Naboth? Why would it have been improper for Naboth to grant it? Describe the course that Jezebel took. Of what sins were Ahab and Jezebel guilty in this matter? How did their course compare with the policy of the liquor traffic? How came Ahab and Elijah to meet in Naboth's vineyard? From what evils did Paul warn the Ephesians to keep free?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—Temptations resisted and evil overthrown in Christ's strength.

I. Temptation.

II. How resisted.

III. Evil overthrown.

I. Temptation. 1. Temptation is enticement to that which is wrong. The evil may lie in the character, the conditions or the consequences of the thing presented. The appeal may be made to the intelligence, the emotions or, more commonly, to the physical senses. Temptation is inseparable from present human conditions, and no excellence of character exempts from its assaults. The purer the character, and the cleaner the understanding, the keener will be the distress it occasions. Even Jesus "suffered being tempted." He experienced in the fullest measure the force of every temptation to which a pure soul and a perfect intelligence could be subject. Through all he preserved his spotlessness, "yet without sin." His public ministry commenced appropriately with a severe and prolonged mental and moral conflict, from which he emerged victorious; and which embraced in principle the original temptation of Eden, and temptations to which Christians are subject. The clear interference is that repeated experiences of temptation came to him during his earthly ministry. The devil "departed from him for a season." 2. Temptation is a means of moral disclosure. Its character and force are determined by inward rather than outward conditions. 3. Temptation, if resisted, contributes to symmerty and strength of character.

II. How resisted. 1. In Christ's strength. We are insufficient of ourselves. Defeat awaits the self-reliant. Occasions of temptation are to be avoided. "Go not in the way of evil men." It is never bravery, but bravado, to expose ourselves unnecessarily to danger, material or moral. 2. By maintaining a right attitude of the will. However severe or prolonged, temptation is never sin until the will assents to the suggestion. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation." The suggestion cannot be prevented, but consent can be withheld. There are five steps in the progress of a successful temptation: suggestion, consideration, desire, decision, doing. "Resist the evil and he will flee from you." 3. Meet the suggestion with the word of God. Jesus repelled every approach with, "It is written." The "sword of the Spirit," pointed, keen, and two-edged, is "the word of God"; and is equally efficient for defensive and offensive warfare. 4. Prayer, which is a confession of our own weakness and means dependence upon Christ. Jesus set the example, and an angel appeared unto him, "strengthening him."

III. Evil overthrown. The Christian warfare is offensive as well as defensive. God's people are called to personal conquest. He "always causeth us to triumph." "We are more than conquerors." Grace provides deliverance form every thraldom of evil habit, and taint of evil desire. Christians are called to aggressive and victorious warfare against the evils entrenched in civil, social and industrial conditions. It is the honor of the Christian life to meet and "overcome the world, rather than to seek moral perfection by monastic retreat?" Human slavery was overthrown when the Christian church decreed its downfall. The long-licensed liquor traffic quails before an awakened public conscience.

W. H. C.

If one be troubled with corns and warts, he will find Holloway's Corn Cure an application that will entirely relieve suffering.

The Tables Turned.

It is really amusing how the tables have been turned in France. It is now the turn of the Government officials to get anxious and worried when a newspaper appears with a sheet which obviously has been censored. The other day a solemn official note was issued to this effect: "An evening paper has appeared with a blank in its latest news columns. It was never asked to delete anything." The mysterious occurrence was explained on the following day by the Temps, the paper concerned. It had blanked out some of its own news, having found a repetition at the time of going to press. The consternation of Government officials is the subject of a good deal of amusement, but it is also much appreciated, as very clearly showing the entirely new basis on which the censorship is now being exercised.

The fellow who makes hay while the sun shines may be excused for feeling his oats.

SMOKE TUCKETTS ORINOCO

THE NAKED SOUL OF PRIVATE BROWN

(Major Donald Guthrie, in the Chicago Tribune.)

The effects of war upon men are not altogether bad. Of course, we all realize that it is a rough, red-handed business, and that certain of its reactions upon men are undoubtedly bad. Yet in France and Belgium I have seen a finer, more delicate courtesy and a sweeter, more insertive sympathy, as between coarse, crude men, than in any other of life's environments.

Whatever vices may mark the soldier's life, hypocrisy is not among the number. Staring Death steadily between the eyes day after day, men do not bother about keeping up appearances. Reputation is what you seem to be, character is what you are; and in war these two are more nearly coincident than in any other sphere of life. War strips a man's personality stark naked; and, bare of soul, he stands unashamed before his fellow: If you measure up in the present, your past, one way or the other, is unimportant. Who you were counts for nothing if what you are is satisfactory. Your ancestry, your bank account, your social standing—the things by which men ordinarily are estimated—war hurls into the limbo of the neglible.

In peace conditions we have a miserable habit of misjudging men—namely; by taking account of the accidentals and incidentals in a man's life. Few have the insight to penetrate through these externalities into the quiet region of the essentials. Perhaps, in view of everything, it is just as well that a man's "buried life" lies hidden as deeply and securely as it does. War ruthlessly lays open this hidden life; ruthlessly—yes; but frequently with fine results. It is a commonplace to say that many a man has found himself for the first time over yonder in France and Flanders; and many a man has found the rivets cut by war and the drag on his progress forever removed. I have seen a bad man's past melt away in war like the befouled residue of winter's snow under a soft spring rain. And so it happened in the case of Private Thomas Brown.

* * *

He was brought into the casualty clearing station on a stretcher late one pitch dark night. A terrible storm had come crackling up from the channel that afternoon, and the sleet was lashing across Belgium. At a glance our surgeon saw that the poor old duffer was all in. He was badly smashed up by a high explosive shell. Through the coating of mud you could see that his hair was nearly white. He had lied about his age in order to enlist; but as he had lied about everything for many years, one more—a patriotic one this time—did not matter much.

If you want a really good man, get a Scotchman; and if you want an exceptionally bad man, get a Scotchman. Brown was undoubtedly a Scotchman. You could easily tell that by the way he burred his r's; and by the gentle, liquid burr you would set him down as from Inverness—not from Aberdeen, where they raspingly linger on that letter. And he was a bad man—confessedly rotten from the core to circumference. He made no bones about that; yet he was proud to be able to set the two letters "A. M. (Edinburgh)" after his name. In the art of blasphemy his loquacity and creative genius were startlingly unique; but in regard to his personal identity and about his past, immediate and remote, his reticence was strict and stoical. Of course, we soon knew that his enlisted name, Thomas Brown, was not his real name.

As the days went by, little scraps of personal history would be dropped by him and caught by us. He was the younger son of a Scottish nobleman. Soon after graduation he had done something very disreputable. It may have been a money matter, or it may have been a girl—who knows? At any rate, he had to leave Scotland. He headed for Australia and the gold fields.

From Australia he had beaten his way to South Africa and the diamond mines. The Klondike knew his poisonous presence. He had killed his man time and again, and was tremendously proud of his prowess as a safecracker. From many talks with him, I should judge that he had spent about one-half—if not more—of his time in jails and penitentiaries. And now he lay in bed with one side of him a mass of bloody pulp; and the surgeons said they could not save his life. Brown took the grim verdict with a shrug and a string of curses. You see, he thought himself worse than he really was.

* * *

Brown's one good point was his whimsical Scotch pride. It was a family pride, which strange to say, he had lugged along with him through the many bad, black years. He would never reveal his own name—the one he had so sadly and madly disgraced a score of years before. I once knew a Scotchman, whose brother was at the head of one of the strongest banks in Glasgow, who deliberately starved to death rather than ask his brother for further financial aid. Brown was something like that. Though he had greatly disgraced it, he was proud of the stock from which he had sprung—so proud that he kept his name as a kind of hidden charm against the final ills of life. He lovingly fondled his secret; and this seemed to comfort him, though it bothered us at the clearing station.

Then came a quiet afternoon when the surgeon asked me to make one more effort to get Brown's real name, as very shortly he would "go west." We had fine flower beds all about our clearing station, and the nurse had put a great flowing bunch of sweet peas on the little table beside Brown's bed. He lay looking at them. The fingers of his only hand were tapping on his breast, where his hand lay, although keeping time to some Scotch song—"Ye Banks an' Braes o' Bonnie Doon," I wonder—long forgotten, but now rhyming in his mind. We could hear the music of the band from the Fifth London field ambulance, which was playing to the boys at the clearing station across the railroad track. Like the sound from a distant sawmill was the hum of the engine of one of our planes 15,000 feet overhead. An occasional groan or sigh quivered for an instant through the long, low hospital hut. The guns were very quiet that afternoon. The sunshine came slanting through the windows, on which there were no shades. The hop poles in nearby fields were loaded with masses of clinging green. And Brown was going out, slowly but surely.

* * *

I quietly and firmly asked for the name and address of his nearest of kin; but with the same shake of the head my request was negatived with the same formula: "I'll not tell my name, since years ago I dishonored and disgraced it."

Then he looked me fair in the eyes, though his own were growing filmy and too far-seeing, and in hard heard tones he said, "Sir, I'm doing the one decent thing since I became a man."

"What is that, Brown—the one decent thing?" I asked.

"I'm dying for other people," as Brown, and seemed wearied by the effort.

I saw that the end was but a few moments distant; and, notebook in hand and pencil ready, I knelt beside the bed ready to set down the much wanted name and address. His lips were moving, though the lines about them were growing very marked and rigid. He was mumbling some words. "I have your secret now, my man," I said to myself.

"Yes, yes, Brown—your name—your real name....You remember your sister, don't you—your elder brother—the old home in Scotland?" I was trying to suggest him into a disclosure.

Again the lips moved and words were muttered. I stooped closer over him. My ear was very near his lips:

"'Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep;
If I should die—should die—die
....'"

And Brown had cast off the last mooring and his boat was adrift on the broad-bosomed stream we call eternity.

It Rubs Pain Away.—There is no liniment so efficacious in overcoming pain as Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. The hand that rubs it in rubs the pain away and on this account there is no preparation that stands so high in public esteem. There is no other painkiller procurable, as thousands can attest who have used it successfully in treating many ailments.

Four Good Recipes.

Apple custard pies are very nice to make. Grate or steam 12 apples, to this add a teaspoonful of salt, sugar, nutmeg, three eggs well beaten, a pint of milk, and a tablespoonful of melted butter, the grated rinds of two lemons and the juice of one.

Pour the mixture into lined plates and arrange strips of paste in a network over the top. Sift powdered sugar over them when done.

For apple fritters beat three eggs very light, then stir in one teaspoonful of salft ,one tablespoonful of sugar, the grated rind of half a lemon, and the juice, one pint of milk, two cups of chopped apple and two cups of flour; stir it well together and fry in lard, or can be baked on a griddle as pancakes. Sift sugar over them, and send to the table.

To make dyspepsia bread take one pint bowl of graham flour, dissolve one-half teaspoonful of soda in two-thirds of a cup of homemade yeast, and add to the mixture one teacupful of molasses; pour in sufficient warm water to make it somewhat thinner than flour bread.

Cracker pudding is made by pouring one quart of boiling milk over six crackers; let it stand till the crackers are very soft; then add four beaten eggs, half a pound of raisins, and salt, sugar and spices to taste. Steam three or four hours. Use brown sugar sugar.

The King of Space.

An albatross in a form is a wonderful sight. No matter how fierce the hurricane squalls of Cape Horn, the great bird soars up against the blast grim and serene. Then wheeling, he comes sweeping down on the wings of the gale at a speed so tremendous that it cannot be less than eighty or ninty miles an hour, when, describing a low but immense circle, with the tip of his lee-wing just brushing the top of the giant waves, he again takes his flight upward against the storm. No living creature conveys the idea of houndless freedom so perfectly as the King of Space, the Wandering Albatross.

To Make a Cheap Filter.

In order to make a cheap filter, take a large flower pot and stop the hole in the bottom of it by placing a piece of sponge in it. Cover with a few inches of powdered charcoal, fill with water, supported by two or three sticks laid across. The water filtering through the charcoal will be freed from all impurities and will be fit for family use. The charcoal should be changed every three months, and the sponge several times a year.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

FARMERS' MARKET.

Dairy produce—		
Butter, choice dairy	$ 0 45	$ 0 48
Do., creamery	0 48	0 53
Margarine, lb.	0 35	0 37
Eggs, new-yaid, dozen	0 52	0 55
Cheese, lb.	....	0 30
Do., fancy, lb.	....	0 35
Dressed poultry—		
Turkeys, lb.	0 30	0 33
Fowl, lb.	0 36	0 40
Spring chickens	0 50	0 55
Roosters, lb.	0 23	0 25
Ducklings, lb.	....	0 35
Fruits—		
Apples, basket	0 25	0 50
Blueberries, basket	1 50	2 00
Do., box	....	0 25
Lawton berries	0 28	0 30
Pears, basket	0 75	1 25
Plums, 6-qt. basket	0 60	1 00
Do., 11-qt. basket	1 00	1 50
Peaches, 6-qt. basket	0 75	2 25
Do., 11-qt. basket	1 00	2 00
Melons, basket	0 65	1 00
Do., each	0 08	0 10
Vegetables—		
Beans, small measure	....	0 15
Beets, new, dozen	....	0 25
Carrots, new dozen	....	0 25
Cucumbers basket	....	0 50
Do., pickling, basket	0 75	1 50
Cucumbers, dozen	0 25	0 30
Cabbage, each	0 05	0 10
Cauliflower, each	0 10	0 20
Celery, head	0 05	0 10
Lettuce, head, bunch	....	0 05
Onions, 100-lb. sacks	4 50	5 00
Do., green, bunch	0 04	0 05
Parsley, bunch	....	0 10
Pumpkins, each	0 15	0 20
Potatoes, new, bag	....	2 25
Radishes, 3 bunches	....	0 10
Rhubarb, 3 for	....	0 10
Sage, bunch	....	0 05
Savory, bunch	....	0 05
Tomatoes, basket	0 35	0 50
Do., 1 pound	....	0 07
Veg marrow, each	0 05	0 10

MEATS—WHOLESALE.

Beef, forequarters	$17 00	$19 00
Do., hindquarters	26 00	28 00
Carcasses, choice	22 00	24 00
Do., common	21 00	22 50
Veal, common, cwt.	13 00	15 00
Do., medium	16 50	19 00
Do., prime	23 50	25 00
Heavy hogs, cwt.	19 00	21 00
Shop hogs	25 00	27 00
Abattoir hogs	26 00	27 00
Mutton, cwt.	22 00	25 00
Lamb, cwt.	28 00	30 00
Do., Spring, lb.	....	0 35

OTHER MARKETS.

WINNIPEG GRAIN EXCHANGE.

Fluctuations on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange yesterday were as follows:

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
Oats—				
Oct.	0 83	0 83⅜	0 82⅝	0 83⅜
Dec.	0 79½	0 80⅝	0 79½	0 80½
Flax—				
Oct.	4 13	4 13	4 10	4 12
Nov.	4 04	0 04	4 99¼	0 01
Dec.	3 99	3 99	3 95	3 96½

MINNEAPOLIS GRAINS.

Minneapolis—Cash wheat—No. 1 Northern, old $2.22½. Corn—No. 3 yellow, $1.73 to $1.76. Oats—No. 3 white, 67½ to 68c. Flax, $4.25½ to $4.27½. Flour unchanged. Bran, $29.31.

DULUTH LINSEED.

Duluth—Linseed, $4.35; September, $4.35 bid; October, $4.22½ bid; November, $4.20 bid; December, $4.17 bid.

CHEESE MARKETS.

Utica, N. Y.—Another half-cent increase in the price of cheese was the feature of to-day's session of the Utica Dairy Board of Trade. Sales reported are: 1,700 boxes of twins, triplets excepted, at 25c; 1,000 boxes of singles, at 25¼c. Butter was quoted at 46c.

Protect the child from ravages of worms by using Mother Graves Worm Exterminator. It is a standard remedy, and years of use have enhanced its reputation.

Ancient Thessalonians.

Nowadays the girl who doesn't marry a soldier is rather looked upon with suspicion.

Don't be a pessimist. It takes more than a wet blanket to smother the fires of patriotism.

You never can tell. Even the optimist may be blinded by concentrating his gaze on the bright side.

When in doubt tell the truth.—Mark Twain.

Thus he spoke; and the sire of men and god out-laughed.—Hesoid.

It's a good plan to tax the luxuries, and, while carpet may not be a luxury, we ever hear of carpet tacks.

"Safety first" is a good rule of times of peace, but it doesn't make soldiers.

Mighy few of us are willing to forgive our enemies as we forgive ourselves.

—Merchants in the city want to know how it is that they are compelled to refrain from using electric lights in their windows in the city, while the Burlington merchants are not handicapped by any such restrictions. It is a fact that the Burlington merchants burn electricity unrestrainedly in their windows.

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