

Sunday School Lesson

January 22, Lesson IX—Jesus and the Law—Mark 2: 18-22; 3: 1-6.
Golden Text—Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.—Matt. 5: 17.

SUBJECT

THE SON OF GOD AT WORK, EMANCIPATING AND DELIVERING.

INTRODUCTION—The Pharisees, who were the strictest upholders of the law in Jesus' time, aimed at bringing the whole life of the Jewish people under the ceremonial requirements of that law. They were not content with what the written law demanded, but added a multitude of observances which had no foundation except traditional usage. These extra observances concerned matters like almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. For example, whereas the written Law required fasting only on one day in the year, namely, the Day of Atonement, the Pharisees were accustomed (at least at certain seasons) to fast two days in every week, and they insisted on all religious people doing the same. In the same way the Pharisees multiplied the rules relating to the Sabbath and other holy days.

It mattered not whether the regulations commended themselves to reason and to a spiritual understanding of the divine will. It was enough that they had a traditional sanction, and that they increased the separation between the religious and the non-religious classes. Jesus, on the other hand, declared many of these observances to be contrary to the will of the heavenly Father. He insisted that God wished joy and not gloom, freedom and not oppression, life and not death. In our lesson today we see him as Emancipator and Deliverer.

I. FASTING AND THE DIVINE WILL, 2: 18-22.

V. 18. The fasting regulations, which seem only to have been imposed at times, for example, the season of the autumn-droughts, were observed not only by the Pharisees, but by the followers of John the Baptist. John was an ascetic, and bound his followers to the strictest laws of abstinence. Jesus, on the other hand, declined to countenance a religion of gloom. He did not ask his disciples to fast, but interpreted the religious life as a life of joy. Hence, the question which is here put to him.

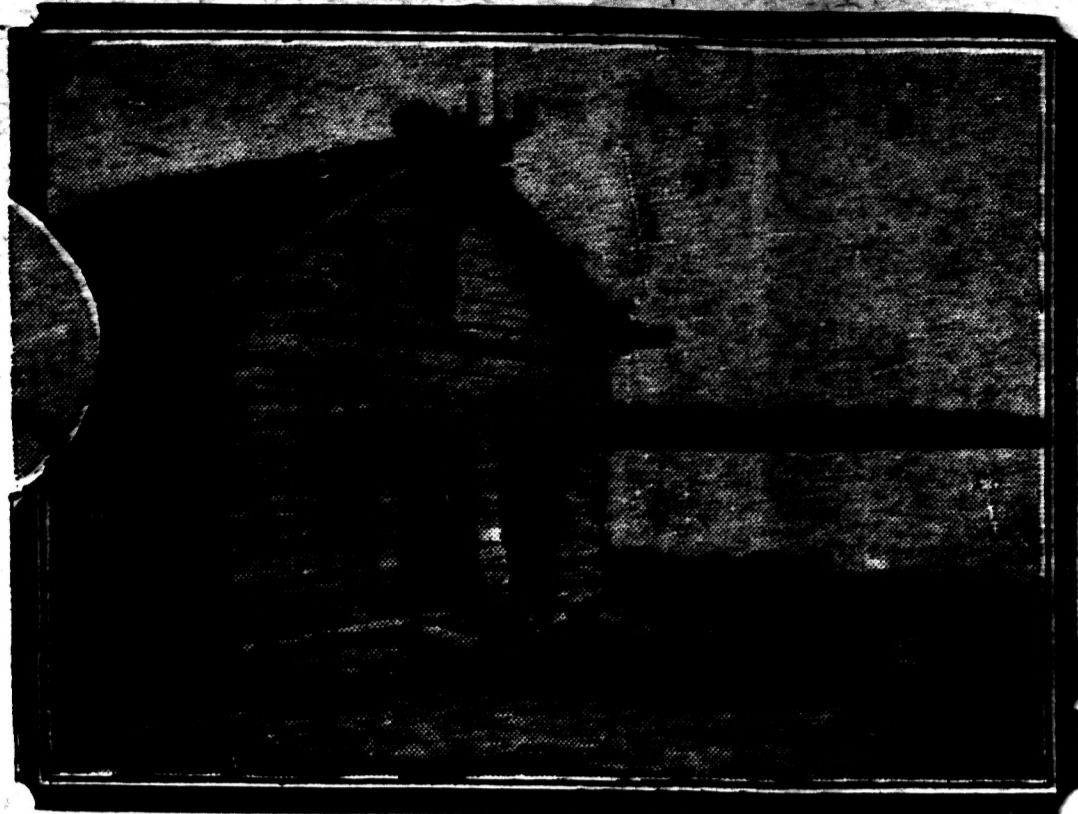
V. 19. Jesus, defending his disciples for not fasting, appeals to the rule observed by a wedding-company on a marriage day. Fasting was not required of "the children of the bride-chamber," that is, the companions of the bridegroom, for it was considered to be their duty "to increase the bridegroom's joy." Jesus compares himself and his companion to such a happy company, and says that they are under no obligation to fast. Why does Jesus use this illustration? Because he has seen into the heart of God, and he knows that God's service is the opposite of gloom. He knows also, that God is now fulfilling his promises of salvation, and that a new era in Israel's history is beginning. Compare Isaiah 61: 10.

V. 20. The other side of the happy picture. Grief and fasting are in place when the bridegroom is "taken away," and the festivities are broken up. This may be a reference to Jesus' death, which caused his disciples to fast, or it may be an allusion to the fate of John the Baptist. John had been taken away from his disciples, and therefore, a sorrowful mood was appropriate enough to the latter. Jesus thus explains the fasting of John's disciples, but says that his own are excused.

Vs. 21, 22. Two little parables are added to illustrate the incompatibility of the religion of Jesus with such institutions as ceremonial fasting. The first parable should be rendered thus: "No one stitches a patch of new (unshrunk) cloth upon an old coat. If he does, the piece filled in takes away from the coat, the new (cloth) from the old, and the rent is made worse." In other words, the new religion of joy (Christianity) does not agree with the old religion of fasting (Judaism). John and his disciples belong to the old religion, and for that reason they continue to fast. The second parable about new wine needing new bottles (wineskins), means that Jesus cannot express the true idea of God's service under the old forms of Judaism.

II. JESUS AND THE SABBATH, 3: 1-6.
Vs. 1-3. A test case was provided by the presence in the synagogue one day of a man with a withered (paralyzed) hand. Jesus knew that the spectators were watching to see if he intended to heal the man on the Sabbath. The Jewish rule was that healing acts

Far From the Madding Throng



HE WILL SOON HAVE SUMMER NEIGHBORS ANYWAY

The only settler in Canada's new Prince Albert National Park is Louis La Vallée, who is seen here with his grandson in front of his cabin at La Vallée Lake (formerly called Pelican Lake).

Farm Notes

GOOD POTATO SEED FOR GOOD YIELDS.

In potatoes, as in all farm seeds, it is worth while to know that one is planting good seed. The tuber itself may look desirable in every way and yet it may inherit weaknesses that prevent it yielding a really good crop. Diseases of one kind or another take heavy toll of the crop. It is important, therefore, to be assured of the healthfulness of the potatoes that may be selected this winter for planting in the spring. What has now come to be known as certified seed potatoes, that is potatoes reasonably free from disease, can be secured in all of the provinces from growers that have had their fields inspected by Dept. of Agriculture officials who are able to recognize diseased conditions. As an evidence of the value of certified seed, it is stated in Pamphlet 84 of the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa, "Canadian Certified Seed Potatoes," that while the average yield of potatoes for Canada in 1926 was estimated at 148.3 bushels per acre, the average yields for certification were approximately 300 bushels per acre, many growers reporting yields exceeding 400 bushels to the acre. This pamphlet is particularly useful to those who would grow potatoes for seed purposes. Copies may be secured from the Publications Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, at Ottawa.

WOOD ASHES AS A FERTILIZER.
Wood ashes are recognized as a fertilizer of very considerable value. They are essentially a potassic fertilizer, and as such have no superior, being especially valuable for clover, grapes, fruit trees, and leafy crops generally, on sandy and light loams. In a pamphlet on Potash in Agriculture, prepared by the Division of Chemistry, Experimental Farms, and which may be obtained from the Publications Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa, farmers are advised to conserve this home source of potash more carefully, not merely collecting the ashes from stoves, but from burning brush piles, old roots, etc., which result from clearing land and pruning orchards, and saving the ashes.

From 25 to 50 bushels of wood ashes per acre is an ample dressing even for very light soils. Clover, corn and mangels will be greatly benefited by them. For turnips, they may be mixed with one-third to one-half their weight of bone meal. They are best applied in the spring, preferably on a quiet, damp day, on the plowed land, and covered with a thorough harrowing. Ashes should not be used on heavy clay loams.

OFFICIAL LIST OF SEED NAMES

A pamphlet which will be of value to purchasers of seed of corn, peas, beans and vegetables has been published by the Dominion Dept. of Agriculture. It is an official list of established variety names of these crops. These standard names, 266 in number, were compiled from a list of 2,425

varieties names advertised in Canadian seed catalogues in 1923. In making up the list a large number of synonym names were eliminated and only the varieties of special merit were retained. None of these standard varieties of seed can now be sold under any other than the established name. The names of the varieties of each kind of seed are arranged in the list in order of earliness of maturity and those of outstanding merit for Canadian conditions are especially marked, making the pamphlet an excellent guide for truck gardeners and all others who use vegetable seeds. The pamphlet, which is a supplement to regulations under the Seeds Act, is available at the Publications Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa. (Issued by the Director of Publicity, Dominion Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.)

Imperial Preference

Leo Maxse in the London National Review: Free Trade throughout the British Empire, coupled with Protection against competitive nations, would be as difficult to establish today as it would have been easy yesterday. Having encouraged, and indeed constrained, the Dominions to cultivate indiscriminate Protection against other nations, including ourselves, by denying them all preferences in our home markets, and in effect treating them as foreigners, we cannot now turn round and invite them to reverse the process with any expectation that our invitation will be accepted. Their financial and fiscal systems are founded on Protection which has stimulated industrial production on a scale of which the British people have small conception.

Motor Show Held in Belgian Capital

Brussels.—The twenty-first Belgian motor show, which was opened recently, covers an area of 35,000 square meters and consists of 875 exhibitors and 560 stands. Eighty firms of motorcar builders are represented. Of these 42 are French, 20 American, 9 Belgian, 7 Italian, 1 Austrian and 1 German.

Greater comfort, simplification of the mechanism, and reduction of weight are the most apparent tendencies in the new models. Thanks to competition, the reduction of prices is becoming noticeable, at least for cars of the popular type. As to engines, the tendency is to an increase in the number of cylinders, with the 6 cylinders predominating. Closed cars seem to be in greater favor.

Fair-Weather Farmers.

What queer ideas some farmers have! They can not work unless the sun is shining. The farmer who expects to make "A Good Living and 10%" must be prepared to work in all weathers. Let the bad-weather day come to the relief of the swinging door, the broken stanchion, the broken implement, the sagging gate, the tractor that needs overhauling, etc. Lively, now. Spring is just around the corner.

CANADIAN SHIPPING

The shipping trade in Canada is making slow but steady progress both towards the necessity of half a century ago, but in 1926 the figures of those days. In 1910 the tonnage of 100,000 was recorded. In 1926 the tonnage built was 21,287. In 1926 the shipping tonnage increased to 21,287. There was a slight decrease in the tonnage of coasting vessels using Canadian ports but the decrease was almost an increase of over 1,000,000 tons. The figures for the last three years are as follows:

Year	Coasting	Overseas
1924	7,047,572	77,255,125
1925	7,000,000	80,000,000
1926	7,000,000	82,000,000

The number of vessels entering Canadian ports in 1926 was 21,287 of which 12,000 were of British registry and 9,287 of foreign registry. On inland waters 7,000 Canadian vessels with a tonnage of 6,100,000 entered Canadian ports as well as 10,158 United States vessels, of a tonnage of 7,751,875. This shows a decrease of over 5,000 Canadian vessels and 15,000 United States vessels on inland waters, the figures for 1925 being 12,140 Canadian and 21,228 United States vessels.



AN ATTRACTIVE NEW FROCK.

This charming frock shows to advantage the use of contrasting material employed for the lower part of the skirt, the vestee and pointed cuffs on the dart-fitted sleeves. There is a shirring at each shoulder and a wide belt is crushed into a buckle which fastens at the front. No. 1699 is in sizes 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust. Size 38 requires 3 1/2 yards 39-inch, or 2 1/2 yards 54-inch material, and 1 1/2 yards 39-inch contrasting. Price 20 cents the pattern.

Our Fashion Book, illustrating the newest and most practical styles, will be of interest to every home dress-maker. Price of the book 10 cents the copy.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred); wrap it carefully for each number and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Ave.

Formosa To Gain Japanese University

Tokyo.—A sixth Imperial University is to be established next April, the Ministry of Education having appropriated \$500,000 for the purpose. The new university will be established in the colony of Formosa. There are four Imperial universities in Japan proper, and another in Korea, established a few years ago.

The new university will be on a par with those in the homeland, the only difference being that the Governor-General of Formosa will take over the duties performed by the Minister of Education here.

The Vicious Circle

London Daily Chronicle (Lib.): It is beyond question that armed force, any great modern war, must depend in the long run on economic resources. To persist in clinging to the efficacy of armaments—which reduce economic strength—is like defying fate.

Old Lady—"Girls wear fewer clothes to-day than they did when I was a girl." Old Gent—"Yes, so the 'figures' show."

Within the Empire During 1927

Jan. 2—A five-year naval program for building two 10,000-ton cruisers is announced for Australia by Premier Stanley M. Bruce.

March 11—Judicial Committee of the Privy Council awards New Foundland her boundary claim against Canada by which 110,000 square miles of valuable forests, fishing, hunting and mining territory pass to the former.

April 7—Eighteen anti-British plotters are convicted in India, three being sentenced to death.

April 11—Chancellor of the Exchequer Winston Churchill, in presenting budget to Parliament, states that of the 1926 deficit, £38,500,000, at least £21,000,000 was due to the coal strike; expenditures for 1927 are estimated at £213,390,000; the national debt is given as £7,554,750,000, of which £4,500,000,000 is due the United States.

April 12—Lowering the minimum age of voting women from 30 to 21 years of age is approved by the Cabinet.

May 11—The suit of the Irish Free State to recover title to a \$2,500,000 bond issue of the "Irish Republic" is dismissed by a New York court.

May 16—In Quebec elections, the Liberal Government, headed by Premier Taschereau, wins, the Conservatives getting only eleven seats out of 85.

June 1—In Ontario, after eight years, the prohibition regime comes to an end.

June 7—The wealthy British Co-operative Society, with a membership of 5,000,000, vote, 1,960 to 1,843, to form an alliance with the Labor Party.

June 9—Irish Free State elections for 152 seats result as follows: President Cosgrave's Government 46, Labor 22, de Valera's Republican Party 44, Independents 15 and Farmers 3.

On Aug. 11 the Republicans take the oath to the King and are seated, thus threatening the Administration's position. By Sept. 15 the Government holds 61.

July 23—Lord Beatty, Admiral of the Fleet, resigns as First Sea Lord of the Admiralty and is succeeded by Sir Charles Madden.

Aug. 23—Owing to a difference in policy with the Foreign Secretary, Austen Chamberlain, Viscount Cecil of Chelwood resigns from the Cabinet and automatically from his position at the League of Nations.

Aug. 29—Hindu-Muslim disorders in India result in 300 dead and 2,500 wounded.

Nov. 7—The British Government decides to send a royal commission to India to investigate the country's potentialities for self-government; the mission is to depart Jan. 20; resolutions of boycott are meanwhile passed by various Indian social and political organizations.

Dec. 22—In his speech proroguing Parliament King George regrets that the tri-power naval limitation conference, inspired by President Coolidge could not agree; he extols the influence of the League of Nations.

Dec. 22—London's first penny paper, The Daily Telegraph, is sold by Lord Burnham to Sir William Berry, James Gower Berry and Sir Edward Hille.

Teacher—"Robert, here is an example in subtraction. Seven boys went down to the creek to bathe, but two of them had been told not to go into the water. Now can you inform me how many went in?" Robert—"Yes'm; seven."

MUTT AND JEFF—By Bud Fisher.



A Bit of Typical London Conversation.



What many people often mean by stomach. The stomach corrects the acidity of the stomach. The corrective is a natural kind of milk. The standard in the 50 years of...