

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL
Sunday School
'Lesson'

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Lesson for March 7
JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES' FEET

LESSON TEXT—John 12:1-17.
GOVERNOR'S TEXT—The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give His life a ransom for many.—Matt. 20:28.
PRIMARY TOPIC—The Loving Service of Jesus.
JUNIOR TOPIC—The Loyal Service of Jesus.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Jesus Washes the Feet of His Disciples.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Spirit of Christianity Illustrated.

With this chapter we enter into the very holy of holies of the book, namely, the inner revelation of Christ to His disciples.

I. Jesus' Amazing Love for His Own (vv. 1-3). Jesus was fully conscious of what was upon Him. He knew that the cross with all its anguish was just before Him. He knew that His disciples would shamefully forsake Him within a few hours. He knew that one of that number would be the instrument in the hands of the devil in His betrayal. He knew that all things were in His hands, was fully conscious of His deity. He did not withdraw His love from them because of their weakness and the shameful failure which would soon be made manifest. He loved them to the end—to the uttermost. True love does not consider circumstances or the shortcomings of the person loved.

II. Christ Washing His Disciples' Feet (vv. 4-11). This act is symbolic of His amazing love for His disciples. Jesus did not regard His hands too holy to do this menial service.

1. Steps in This Service (vv. 4, 5). (1) He arose from supper. (2) Laid aside His garments. (3) Took a towel and girded Himself. (4) Poured water into a basin. (5) Washed His disciples' feet. (6) Wiped them with the towel wherewith He was girded.

These steps symbolize Christ's work of redemption. His rising from supper represents His rising from His place of enjoyment in the heavenly glory. His laying aside His garments is putting aside His vesture of majesty (Phil. 2:7, 8). His girding Himself is taking the form of a servant in the incarnation (Phil. 2:7). The water in the basin, His cleansing blood. His washing their feet, their sanctification by actual cleansing men through His Word (John 15:3; Eph. 5:26). His taking His garments again, His return to His place and position of glory (Luke 24:34).

2. Peter's Impetuous Ignorance (vv. 6, 7). He goes from the extreme to the other. His failure to understand the significance of this service caused him to behave strangely.

3. The Significance of This Service to Those Who Participate in It (vv. 10-12).

(1) **It Is a Spiritual Cleansing** (v. 8). Fellowship with Jesus is only possible as we are continuously cleansed from our sin. "He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet but is clean every whit" (v. 10). The cleansing here is not the washing of regeneration (Tit. 2:5), but that of sanctification (John 17:17). Even regenerate people need the continual cleansing of Christ's blood in order to have fellowship with Him. He that is regenerated, washed in the blood of Christ (symbolized by baptism) does not need a repetition of the act; he only needs the denning of sanctification symbolized by the washing of the feet. After regeneration, as we go through this world we are contaminated by its sin.

(2) **A Badge of Brotherly Affection**. This act showed His abandonment to the service of His own. This is a lesson that is much needed today. We need more and more the faithfulness of brotherly love. Only can true love be proved by the service it renders.

(3) **A Proof of Humility**. This was a lesson much needed by the disciples and much needed by us all. They had just been disputing as to who should be the greatest in the Kingdom. Their selfish motive was expressing itself. Christ's action was a concrete expression of His Spirit.

(4) **Equalization**. As they would thus stoop to serve each other in the name of Christ, there would be the sure destruction of caste among them. Such service in the spirit of Christ is the great leveler of humanity.

III. An Example for Us (vv. 12-17). The disciples of the Lord are under obligation to do to each other as He did unto them. This obligation rests upon His Lordship (v. 14). All who call Him Lord in sincerity will obey Him.

God's Way. God works in a mysterious way in grace as well as in nature, concealing His operations under an impenetrable succession of events, and thus keeps us always in the darkness of faith.—Fetillon.

Unites and Still the Soul. Let the current of your being set toward God, then your life will be filled and calmed by one master passion which unites and stills the soul.—Alexander.

Interesting Experiences
of Dr. and Mrs. Davidson

(Continued From Issue of Feb. 17)

Sept. 11th. As the rainy season seemed to have set in we suddenly decided to bring our visit to a close and return to the south so we packed up and at 2:30 p. m. that day we left St. Louis. We were determined to get a good start the next morning and in order to do so we thought it best to cover the fifteen miles of mud road that afternoon. We found refuge at the home of an aunt who lives on the paving enroute to Chicago, where we had a good thirty-minute visit and stayed for the night.

Sept. 12th. It was still raining when we left my aunt's home at 8:30 that morning, but we ran out of the rain belt at Clinton, Iowa where we crossed the Mississippi river into Fulton, Ill. The river here is only about one-half mile wide and is crossed by means of a toll bridge, which is about 60 feet high allowing large excursion boats to pass underneath it. As we passed through the rich fertile country of Illinois we saw the farmers harvesting their tomatoes and sweet corn, which they were hauling to the near-by towns, to the large canneries, of which we saw many. That reminds me, I think I forgot to mention the crops at home. I would say that the eastern part of the state had splendid crops, but the western half, just as this, was burned out. Corn, wheat and oats are the principal crops but corn leads, as Iowa is the leading corn producing state in the Union; hence the slogan—"Iowa, where the tall corn grows." Father Davidson raised 90 acres of pop-corn alone. To continue our trip—we passed through many other manufacturing towns and reached Chicago about 6 p. m. Our first stop was to return a lady's hand-bag which I had found going out of Chicago a short time before. It was a nice bag, but it contained her address. The few days that we spent in the windy city this time were so full that I shall not attempt to tell all we did. I will however tell about a theatre which is Chicago's newest and is called the "Capitol." The ceiling in the auditorium is dome-shaped and made to resemble the sky by night, with the moon shining and the stars twinkling and the clouds slowly drifting about. It is a most beautiful effect and very realistic.

Sept. 14th. This was the first time in my life that I ever sat in a barber's chair and what happened there makes a short tale. (Tell)

Sept. 15th. We left Chicago at 8:45 a. m., reaching Danville, Ill. along in the afternoon, a distance of 133 miles of flat country every foot of the way. We desired to stay in the camp here at Garfield Park for old times sake, as it was the first camp in which we stayed when we started for the good old state of N. C. two years ago.

We found it to be in the same splendid condition in which it was when we saw it first. It is equipped with table, water, lights, ovens, shower baths, police protection and every thing else for the convenience of the tourists.

Sept. 16th. We left Danville at 7:30 a. m., going south as far as Marshall, Ill. where we struck the old National Trail Highway again, turning east we crossed the state line into Indiana, going through Terre Haute and Ellettsville; Indiana's largest city and capital. It is very easy to get lost here as the city is laid out on the same plans as that of Washington, D. C. The main streets are laid like the spokes of a wheel converging at the center in a circle street around a large Soldiers' and Sailors' monument, 286 feet high. The store buildings and hotels on this circle street all have circular glass fronts. It was only a matter of a few hours run, when we reached Greenfield, Indiana, the home of James Whitcomb Riley, where we found refuge for the night in a neat little camp near the "old swimming hole" of his famous poem. This also was a camp which we had had the pleasure of enjoying on our previous trip.

Sept. 17th. Left camp at 8:07 a. m. and had another good day. We noticed first signs of drowth, and the corn crop did not look very promising. Richmond was the first town of importance through which we passed. Its population is about 30,000 and was settled by Friends or Quakers, many of that faith are still living there. There are many fine streets, and beautiful drives and several lovely parks. Our car balked here for the first time which was due to a drop of water in the gas. From Richmond we continued east to Eaton, Ohio, which is just across the line. Here we left the old National Trail, turning south to Hamilton where we struck the Dixie Highway into Cincinnati arriving about 3 p. m. We saw a good deal of this city as we chafed around quite a bit looking for a particular road guide which we were anxious to get. Its population is 500,000 and it is known as the "Queen City." We were disappointed in its business section, as many of its streets are very narrow, paved with cobble stones and very hilly, some of them being as steep as mountains. The city is noted for its hospitality, music and culture, happily combined with great industrial activity. We crossed a large suspension toll bridge into Covington, Ky. It was five o'clock by this time and we were beginning to look for a good place to pitch camp



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for the night. As the Dixie Highway through this section had been recently paved and reopened, tourists camps were scarce, but about ten miles out of Covington on the top of a very high hill we spied a neat little farm house surrounded by a large lawn. This place appealed to us so much that we stopped and asked permission to camp there for the night, where-upon we received a very cordial welcome. A few minutes after our arrival, a young chap about eight, came out and presented us with a basket of tomatoes. After supper when my husband went for a pail of water, the gentleman of the house offered him half of a watermelon which was very acceptable as the water was the only objectionable feature about this place, it being cistern water. We learned that practically all the water through this section was cistern water, there

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being no wells and very few springs. The view from here was wonderful, as we could see almost ten miles in any direction. The next morning after a friendly visit with the family, we had the pleasure of carrying their little boy to school, which was about three miles down the hill.

Sept. 18th. All day today we traveled through the hills of Kentucky. It was about 2 p. m. when we passed through Lexington, Ky. a town of about 50,000. It is in the centre of a beautiful and exceedingly fertile blue grass region. The growth, however was very evident here. Lexington's racing meets, horse, auto and style shows entertain people from all over the country. It is the greatest thorough-bred horse centre in the world and the home of many famous Kentucky saddlers. It is also one of the largest "burley" tobacco markets. From here on, the road was unpaved most all of the way and we were compelled to make several detours, and that is when the real joy of touring ceases. About five o'clock we learned that just ahead of us was a twenty mile stretch of road through the hills that was under construction and which traffic was not permitted to pass over during working hours; so we stopped in a school yard long enough to cook our supper and then made the afore-said twenty miles to Mt. Vernon, because we realized that we never could have made it before six in the morning, thus avoiding a hazardous detour. It was about nine o'clock when we finally reached our destination over our worst rough roads, and it is needless to say that our little old, soft bed felt good to us that night.

Sept. 19th. We passed through several coal-mining towns, of these Middlesboro, being the largest, about 12,000. It lies at the foot of Cumberland Gap at the summit of which is the Va.-Ky. line with Tenn. joining in about 450 yards west. It was through this famous pass that Daniel Boone led the emigrants into Kentucky in 1775. It was about 6:30 when we reached

(Continued on Page Six)

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