

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

JESUS THE GIVER OF LIFE

International Sunday School Lesson For February 2, 1947.

Golden Text: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."—John 11:25.

Lesson Text: John 4:46-51; 5:2-9; 11:41-44.

After his talk with the Samaritan woman and a two-day stay in Sychar, Jesus and his disciples went on to Galilee and from there to Cana, where he had performed his first miracle. There he was benighted by a certain nobleman, from Capernaum, to heal his sick son. After receiving evidence of the man's faith in his healing power, Jesus performed his second miracle, healed the boy and told the father that his boy would live. The father believed, went home and found that the boy had begun to get well

the very hour that Jesus had told him that his son was healed.

This Sunday's lesson tells of two other miracles which Jesus performed. Going down to Jerusalem to observe a feast of the Jews, Jesus passed a pool by the sheep market. Because of certain healing qualities in the waters of the pool, great multitudes of sick people—the blind, the halt, and the withered—gathered there that they might dip themselves in the waters and be healed.

Jesus beheld a man who had been sick for 38 years and who had become almost hopeless because he was unable to dip himself in the pool alone and no one offered to help him. Yet the mere fact of his being there testified to his desire that he might be well again.

In order to make him conscious of his own hope and faith, Jesus asked him, "Wilt thou be made whole?" The man then called Jesus' attention to the fact that no one was interested enough in him to assist him into the water.

Jesus told the man to help himself when he commanded: "Rise, take up thy bed and walk." The man, without hesitation or doubt as to his ability to do so, immediately arose, took up his bed and walked. Jesus passed through the crowd and entered

ed the temple.

While the son of the nobleman and the man at the pool of Bethesda were personally unknown to Jesus before he performed miracles on their behalf, our third example is even greater than the other two; for it tells how he raised his beloved friend, Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, to life after he had been dead for four days. After receiving word that his friend was desperately ill, Jesus purposely delayed answering the plea that he go to the home in Bethany.

After tarrying for two days, he announced to his disciples that they would leave immediately for Judea. With vivid memories of a recent attempt at stoning, they tried to discourage him, but he was determined and unafraid. He realized that his disciples needed a strengthening of their faith for the tests and trials just ahead, for he told them he was glad, for their sakes, that he had not been in Bethany when Lazarus died.

When Martha saw Jesus coming, she ran to him and expressed faith in him. To her, Jesus gave the wonderful words that are our Golden Text and he emphasized again the importance of the word "belief". At the tomb of Lazarus, after the stone was removed from the door, Jesus gave thanks to God. He knew, of course, that all power in heaven and

in earth comes from God, but it was necessary for the witnesses of this miracle to realize that they were about to see something which could only take place by God's grace. After giving thanks to God, he cried, "Lazarus, come forth." Death heard the voice of its conqueror and obeyed. Lazarus came forth and Jesus commanded, "Loose him and let him go." Jesus still says to those walking in the valley of the shadow of death, as he said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25.)

Now Is Time To Make Farm Machinery Safe

Predicting that new farm machinery will continue to be hard to get in 1947, Prof. David S. Weaver, head of the Agricultural Engineering Department, State College, says it is highly important that Tar Heel farmers get their present equipment in shape for this year's work.

"Farm machinery that is poorly conditioned reduces an operator's alertness, is irritating and fatiguing, and fosters carelessness," Prof. Weaver maintains, pointing out that timely servicing of all farm equipment before field work starts will reduce accidents as well as costly field break-

downs. For safety's sake, farm machinery repair—should begin with a thorough check, he says, citing the National Safety Council's reminder list of things that should be gone over. They include hitches, seats, clutches, wheels, brakes, steering and unguarded parts such as gears, chains, shafts, fuel lines and wiring. Leaky fuel lines or hazardous wiring can easily lead to a disastrous fire. Trash and grease should be removed from platforms, pedals, foot rests or steps if safe footing is to be assured during operation.

An alarming number of accidents occur each year from home made labor-saving equipment, Prof. Weaver says, advising that special care be taken in checking such equipment.

The number of death claims for National Service Life Insurance received by the central office of Veterans Administration during September declined to 3,599.



Deciding An Argument
The English lane was dark and deserted, and Jones was suddenly accosted by two men, the bigger of whom said politely: "Excuse me, sir—I wonder if you could oblige me with the loan of a penny?" "Why—er—yes, I think so," replied Jones. "But may I ask for what purpose you require it?" "Oh, certainly, sir," the other replied. "My mate and I wish to toss the coin to decide our little argument as to which of us shall have your watch, and which your wallet."

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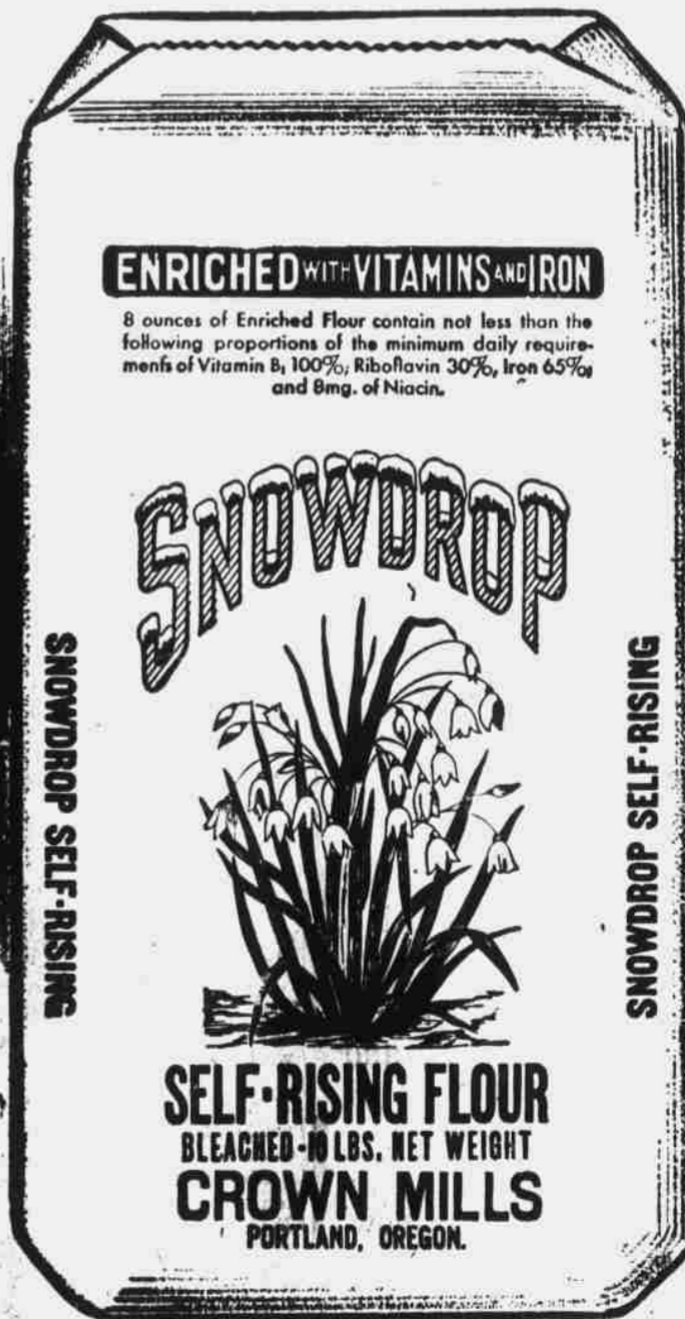
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