

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

The International Sunday School Lesson for Next Sunday April 19.

THE COST OF DISCIPLINE.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Whoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." (Matt. 16:25.)

LUKK 14:25-35.

25 And there went great multitudes with him; and he turned, and said unto them,

26 If any man come to me and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

28 For which of you intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him.

30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an embassy, and desired conditions of peace.

33 So likewise, whosoever he is of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

34 Salt is good, but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be seasoned?

35 It is either to be for the land, or yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

TIME AND PLACE.

Late autumn, A. D. 26. Journeying toward Judea in the country east of Jordan.

In railway stations and in other public places one may see pictures of young men with an offer of a reward for their capture. In large, heavy type their age, height, color of hair and eyes, name, and personal appearance are announced, and they are published as deserters from the United States Army. These boys enlisted as soldiers, attracted to the army by love of travel, novelty, certain pay, and the expectation of a general good time. They were not influenced by patriotism or a sense of duty, and the hardships of camp life soon destroyed their zeal. They deserted their sworn allegiance, and henceforward through life they are disgraced. They are not willing to pay what it costs to be a soldier under our great government. Why is it that we condemn a deserter? Is it because we are sure that in our own lives there is no drawing back from the great task we have entered upon?

THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS.

Great multitudes were following Jesus as he journeyed and taught, and many of the people were eager to become his disciples. They thought that our Lord was soon going to establish a kingdom of his own, and that all who were known as his followers would have ease, pleasure, and protection all their lives. Before all such zealous but superficial adherents our Master set forth the dangers, hardships, and heartaches of his fellowship. The cold, hard facts of sorrow and sacrifice were not withheld from any in the hope of winning recruits. Said Jesus: "For ease, you shall have a crown of thorns; for pleasure, the taste of death; for protection, the separation from loved ones; for reward, you shall have the cross. No man can enter into true fellowship with me who does not bear the cross and follow me to the hill of crucifixion." The cross does not mean simply that it is hard to do; it means what St. Paul found it to mean when he said: "I die daily." "I am crucified to the world." "For me to live is Christ." One who has not a purpose to surrender everything he holds dear and to live as his Master, cannot have the true spirit of a disciple. A traveler in Central Africa describes a native hut so filled with idols and fetishes that there was no room to turn around. Christ cannot be one of many idols, one of many treasures; he is "all in all, or not at all," in each man's life.

AN UNFINISHED TOWER.

A certain man, acting upon an impulse, set out to build a tower which should be a means of defense in time of war and a monument to his name when he was dead. As it proceeded, labor was hard to secure and his money gave out; so, with building material lying about in heaps, the tower was left half finished. His neighbors laughed when they passed it, and

said: "Look at his castle for defense and his enduring monument. Is it not worthy of him?"

Thus the men in the railway station laughed at the picture of the deserters from the army. "Brave soldiers!" said they. "They soon had enough of bugle calls and drills. They ran before a gun was fired." Thus it is with the man of the world.

The men of the world want the "tower" of Christ who desert him when the cross appears in sight. "How can he be a good place," they sneer; "that you do not want to go there today." If these Pharisees had counted all the cost and had acted upon a better impulse, the weary struggle would have been as nothing compared to the sweet fellowship with Christ, and then the men of the world would have been lost in the praise of Christ.

A DISHONORABLE SURRENDER.

A certain king, having a weak first-born son, determined upon war. He sent out no armies to report the strength or condition of his enemy, but assaulted the aggressor with no sufficient basis for his contention. When the ranks of his adversary appeared across the plains, numerous small detachments met and under a flag of truce he capitulated before a few war steeds. Such a surrender dishonored not only his own generalship but upon all the soldiers in his army, who might have been taught to be better soldiers. So it is with every one who enters the warfare with Christ. If he does not first capitulate when he is demanded of him, his name brings disgrace both to his own name and the name under which he pretends to fight.

THE WAR WITHOUT DISGRACE.

We can have the souls of Christ's followers in two ways. We can let our swords be cut. There is no discipline if we cannot meet this simple condition of service. I would be better for to not to enlist. But if we choose to enter his holy army to fight in the world, if we say we will fight, we cannot be faithful; if we are faithful of the soldiers he commands of us, new have we proved our courage? How do we escape the charge of cowardice if we surrender at the first sign of our being in debt? There is only one thing to do: We must put ourselves wholly on the side of our Lord and continue the fight until our bodies are freed from the flesh. Christ is the royal Commander. He orders us into the conflict. To stay out is moral cowardice; to surrender is everlasting disgrace.

A Card of Thanks.

During the sickness of our dear father, we have been the recipients of many favors from our good friends and neighbors. It is impossible to thank every one personally and we wish in this way to express our most sincere thanks to every one who has in any way shown kindness or expressed sympathy.

Sincerely,  
Mary Zachary and Children.

Statesville Sells Bonds.

Statesville, April 14.—Thirty-thousand dollars of 30-year five per cent. improvement bonds were sold yesterday afternoon by the aldermen to Cutter, May & Co., of Chicago. There were six or eight bidders. Statesville bonds always appearing to be in demand. The purchasing company pays a premium of \$35 and bears all expenses, including attorney fees.

The Bush League Recruit.

Billy Evans, the famous American League umpire, tells about the Bush League Recruits in an article appearing in The Sunday Philadelphia Press for the issue of April 19th. Nobody knows more about this subject than Billy Evans. In his article he does not confine himself to players alone, but takes in Umpires as well. Every baseball fan will be interested in this article next Sunday.

McCarthy's Misfortune.

Mrs. McCarthy's husband went out in a boat alone, says The Poplar Magazine. The boat overturned and he was drowned. A friend met her some weeks later. "I hear," said she, "that Pat left you well off—that he left you \$5,000." "True," said Mrs. McCarthy, "he did." "How was that?" asked her friend. "Pat couldn't read or write, could he?" "No," said Mrs. McCarthy, "nor swim."

Huerta Calls Congress.

Washington, April 15.—General Huerta submitted to an executive session of the Mexican senate today the demands of the American government for a salute to the flag. No answer has been received by the Washington government late tonight of the result of the deliberations.

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WILMINGTON CROWD THRILLED BY PLAY.

Pleased and Interested by Thomas Dixon's "The Leopard's Spots," Says The Star.

The play with an ability power from beginning to end is "The Leopard's Spots," the new play of Thomas Dixon. The play was presented at the Wilmington Playhouse yesterday afternoon. There were large audiences at both the matinee and the evening performance, and they showed their appreciation by frequent applause and cheering.

The play has attracted the interest of the Wilmington community. Thomas Dixon writes, and whether you admit it or not, the play is a masterpiece of its kind. The play is followed throughout with a realism and a truthfulness that are not to be mistaken. It is clear as crystal and it is a masterpiece of the kind.

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by noon today there had been cast more than 500 votes for the issue and only 112 against it. The voting of the board is taken to be a very favorable endorsement of the three commissioners whose present administration is under the scrutiny here in beginning to end is "The Leopard's Spots," the new play of Thomas Dixon. The play was presented at the Wilmington Playhouse yesterday afternoon. There were large audiences at both the matinee and the evening performance, and they showed their appreciation by frequent applause and cheering.

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