

# THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON X, FOURTH QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, DEC. 9.

Text of the Lesson, Mark x, 46-52. Memory Verses, 50-52—Golden Text, Mark x, 51—Commentary Prepared by the Rev. D. M. Stearns.

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46. "And they came to Jericho." Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem to accomplish that which He has promised to do. He is on His way to Jerusalem to accomplish that which He has promised to do. He is on His way to Jerusalem to accomplish that which He has promised to do.

The incident of our lesson occurred as He went out of Jericho. The healing of the blind man recorded in Luke xviii, 35-43, took place as He entered Jericho. In Mark x, 20-34, we have the same incident as that recorded by Mark, for Matthew says it was "as they departed from Jericho;" only Matthew speaks of two blind men, while Mark mentions but one. Taking all the records, we learn that in connection with this visit to Jericho He healed three blind men—one as He entered the city and two as He left it—and one of the two was Bartimaeus, a poor blind beggar, picture of utter helplessness, having nothing and unable to do anything but beg. He loves to open blind eyes. If any who have heard the gospel are not saved, it is because Satan hath blinded their eyes (II Cor. iv, 4); some saved people are blind also to many precious truths which they should know.

47. "Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me!" Thus this blind man cried when he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. He had probably often heard of Him and of His mighty works and had longed for the healing which he heard of others receiving. Can we imagine his excitement and his earnestness as, hearing that deliverance was within his reach, he lustily cried to the Great Deliverer. How much he knew of such prophecies as Isa. xxxv, 5, 6; Ps. lxxii, 12, we cannot tell, or whether he knew that the name "Jesus" meant "Saviour." His name as a poor Son of Man, the humiliated One, and that "Son of David" was His title as king of a kingdom, Israel's Messiah, we do not know. He did know that he was blind, and one was passing by who could open his eyes, and this was his first and might be his last opportunity, and he cried earnestly for mercy. When a sinner cries to the Saviour, "God, be merciful to me," that cry is never unheard.

48. "Many charged him that he should open his eyes." As well tell a man who is drowning, but has yet strength to cry out, or one in the upper story of a burning building with no apparent means of escape to hold his peace; as well tell this man, that he is not blind and poor and needy, or that Jesus can't stop to attend to beggars. He knows better; he has long realized his sad condition, and he believes that Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of David, is a deliverer for just such as he.

49. "Be of good comfort, rise; He calleth thee." What a word that was for the poor blind man! How his heart must have leaped within him! Blessed Jesus, hearer of the cry of the needy, Thou dost not respect the rich because of his riches, nor despise the poor because of his poverty. The poor man's importunity has prevailed, and the Lord of heaven and earth stops to grant him his desire. This word "Be of good comfort, rise; He calleth thee," the paralytic, the woman with the issue, the disciples in the storm, and also the eleven on the last night before He was crucified (Math. ix, 2, 22; xiv, 27; John xvi, 33), and today He is saying the same to every afflicted, tempest-tossed, troubled soul that comes to Him. Whatever your need is, remember "He calleth thee," and He is calling you personally as much as He did Bartimaeus.

50. "And he, casting away his garment, rose and came to Jesus." The man says that he "sprang up;" he lost no time, and that he might not be hindered he cast aside his outer garment and quickly came to Jesus. He did not say to any one, Please, fix my turban, make me presentable, tell me how to come before Him; but, knowing his need and that Jesus was calling him, he came just as he was, and he came quickly. The only garments we have before we come to Jesus are as filthy rags (Isa. lvi, 6), but He is ready to clothe all who come to Him with a garment of salvation and a robe of righteousness (Isa. lxi, 10). There are sight and health, life eternal and glory awaiting all who will come to Him, yet multitudes seem to prefer their rags and their poverty and refuse to come.

51. "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" They are now face to face, the Helper and the helpless, the Almighty and the undone, and these are the words of Jesus to the beseeching and expectant heart of the poor blind beggar. The same God who said to the great King Solomon "Ask what I shall give thee" is asking this blind beggar to state his desire. The very same gracious God is saying to us through Jesus Christ our Lord: "Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it."

52. "Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole." The margin says "hath saved thee." Compare the same words in Luke vii, 50; viii, 48; xvii, 19; xlvii, 42, and say from the heart, "What think ye of Jesus, who can heal souls and bodies? What is He to you, and what are you to Him? Has He forgiven your sins? Does your heart say gladly, 'With His stripes I am healed,' and are you anticipating with joy the body like His to His coming? (Isa. llii, 5, 6; Phil. iii, 20, 21.)" Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus in the way. All sickness, blindness and death flee before Him who is the Life and the Light. He who "in the beginning" said "Let there be light" continues ever the same Giver of light and life, for He is "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb. xiii, 8); and His eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of them whose hearts are perfect toward Him (II Chron. xvi, 9). This man, having received sight, followed Jesus in the way, and there are many who profess to have received sight who seem rather to follow their own inclinations, for "the way" is too straight for them. They are glad enough to be healed by Him, but unwilling to follow Him, at least fully. Let your heart answer for yourself.

In South Africa there is a great demand for donkeys, as they are proof against climate, plague and flies.

## GENERAL NEWS.

The length of the average public school term in the South is about one-half of what it is in the north and west.

The European powers have assured the United States that they do not desire to impose upon China conditions with which she cannot comply.

Hon. William J. Bryan, while in Chicago, said he would soon be heard from on the proposition to reorganize the Democratic party.

The police of Hoboken, N. J., have received a letter alleging the existence of a plot to assassinate President McKinley. The writer of the letter gave in his communication the name of the alleged chief conspirator, which the police refuse to make public at this time.

President Kruger landed in Marseilles, France, on the 22nd, amid immense enthusiasm and boisterous demonstrations by the French people. He made a speech and thanked the people for their interest in the Boer cause, and their reception of himself and declared that his people will not surrender or compromise.

United States Senator Cushman Kellogg Davis, chairman of the committee on foreign relations of the Senate, died at his home in St. Paul, Minn., on the 27th, after an illness of two months. He had suffered greatly during his sickness and gradually sank away, being unconscious for several hours before death and so far as known, suffering no pain.

The report recently circulated that the Pennsylvania railroad interests were about to absorb the Southern railway system has caused much talk and comment among local railroad men. It is the general opinion that the story is only a wild rumor from Wall street and has no foundation. The Southern railway system during the last year has had a great era of prosperity and is now in a strong condition financially, brought about possibly by the reorganization or manipulation of J. Pierpont Morgan, the great financier of both the Pennsylvania and Southern systems.

The Southern Railway is distributing among shippers the new freight tariff, which has gone into effect. The book is the most complete of its kind ever issued by a railway company, and in its arrangement the convenience of the shipper is the thing aimed at. It is a veritable shipper's guide, and all points reached by the Southern and connecting lines find place in two well arranged lists—the alphabetical and division. Another great convenience to the shipper is to be found in publication of class and commodity rates. The book is complete in every detail.

Pleased With Negro Labor in Cotton Mill.

CHARLESTON, S. C., November 31.—After the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Vesta Cotton Mill, held in this city yesterday, it was announced that the owners of the property were well pleased and satisfied with the operation of the mill with negro labor. About two years ago negroes were employed entirely in the mill and the experiment has been thoroughly tested, with the result that the stockholders are of the opinion that their judgment was wise. While the mill made money last year no dividend was declared, as the money was used in permanent improvements for the plant. A party of prominent capitalists from the east who have money invested in the mill came here to attend the meeting and they were evidently impressed with the idea that negro labor could be made a success. They expressed the belief that the property would pay better hereafter, as the negro operatives are now familiar with the handling of the delicate mill machinery.

Before the reorganization of the Vesta, mill negro labor was given a short experiment, but it did not seem to work well. After the property was sold, however, and reorganized under the name of the Vesta company, negro labor was used altogether, and this has proved successful, as shown by the formal announcement from the management.

Stamp Taxes are Going, so the Republicans Say.

The subcommittee of the Republican membership of the ways and means committee has not yet completed the draft of the bill to reduce stamp taxes but is making progress.

It is understood that in addition to reductions heretofore mentioned, the increase of 60 cents per 1,000 on cigars will be removed; also that the stamp taxes on steamship tickets will be taken off, because the revenue received does not justify the difficulties of collection. Members of the committee have been asked to remove the stamp taxes on foreign bills of exchange and bills of lading, and it is possible that the matter may be reopened. The tax on parlor car seats and sleeping car berths will remain.

The most important changes in the present law will be in schedule B, which practically will be wiped out and which includes medicines and proprietary articles. The tax also will probably be removed from conveyances, mortgages, etc. These, with the abolishment of taxes on express receipts, telegrams, bank checks and some other stamp taxes will, it is said, secure the reduction of \$80,000,000, which is the amount agreed upon by the treasury officials and the committee.

The Methodist Orphanage, of Raleigh, was formally opened for the reception of inmates last week. Bishop H. C. Morrison conducted the services.

No country has more rapid progress in the utilization of waste products than the United States.

In South Africa there is a great demand for donkeys, as they are proof against climate, plague and flies.

## STATE NEWS.

Charlotte is to have a new \$200,000 cotton mill.

The Henderson Herald suggests Hon. F. M. Simmons for chairman of the National Democratic Executive Committee.

Guy F. Wooten, a Winston boy, member of Company G, Twenty-eighth Infantry, was drowned in the Philippines on the 6th inst.

A negro hospital is to be established in Winston-Salem in connection with the Slater Industrial School. Mr. E. J. Reynolds has contributed \$5,000 toward it.

The Legislature which meets in January will be composed as follows: Senate: 39 Democrats, 8 Republicans and 3 Populists; House: 101 Democrats, 17 Republicans and 2 Populists. It will mark the passing of Populism in North Carolina.

White hunting near Reidsville, Saturday, Will Rankin, 18 years old, in shooting at a covey of partridges, lodged a full charge of shot in the brain of Wright Smathers, Jr. son of a prominent Rockingham county farmer, killing him almost instantly.

The Democratic State Committee, at a meeting September 5, adopted a resolution creating a committee to draft a bill to be submitted to the Legislature for a legalized primary for white voters. Chairman Simmons this week appointed as the committee Heriot Clarkson, Thomas J. Jarvis, Thomas W. Mason, Cyrus B. Watson and James S. Manning.

It turns out that the man who has set the cotton mill employes in Alamance county at enmity with the mill owners, their lifelong friends, is a Massachusetts man, J. F. Thomas, who was building a bridge at Haw river for the Southern railway. Thomas and three of his men beat a non-union cotton mill employe. He and one man were arrested. The other two fled. Now Thomas and the man arrested with him have fled the State, leaving their bondmen in the lurch.

Bryan Writes Now for Pay Only.

William Jennings Bryan says that he has ceased giving interviews to newspaper promiscuously or individually. He is now writing for pay. This policy, he says, he adopted at the close of the campaign and he intends to continue it till some matter of great and immediate portent to the nation or to the policy of its present managers renders his opinion necessary or advisable. When seen Sunday Mr. Bryan was jolly and talkative till approached on some question of public interest, when he immediately became silent.

"It is like the case of any newspaper editor," said Mr. Bryan. "He writes what he thinks but he will not write without the money. I am not writing for the money, but I will not write without it. If I were to discuss subjects of importance I should wish to do so only after consideration and study and I should wish to prepare careful statement at my leisure. If I should be willing to give interviews on all these questions the newspapers would keep me busy practically all the time and I should find when I came to write for myself that I had printed much of it before." Mr. Bryan said that his second reason for declining to discuss in the newspapers such subjects as the reduction of federal representation in certain of the southern states proposed by the Republicans was that he never believed in discussing a thing until it was existent or imminent and that no action had been taken in that matter as yet. "It is a nuisance," he said, "to be continually discussing matters which never come to pass."

Rural Free Delivery.

In his estimate for the forthcoming fiscal year the Postmaster-General sets aside the sum of \$3,500,000 for the extension and maintenance of the rural free delivery service, a branch of the general postal scheme which has developed into magnitude and importance during the last few years. While it is essentially a losing venture it is nevertheless a convenience of broad scope and justified in most cases by the circumstances of its creation. The tendency toward suburban residence among taxpayers of moderate means which has been manifesting itself more strongly year by year has also developed an extension which carries some of the suburbanites pretty well into the country.

Electric and steam railway service has kept pace with this natural sequence of urban growth and has furnished conveniences equal almost to those enjoyed in cities. It seems proper, therefore, that free delivery in the rural sections should be installed where conditions warrant it. The year about to close has brought nearly 4,800 rural routes, and plans now formulated contemplate the establishment of about 4,500 more during the next year. It is apt to prove costly, but the resident outside of the city limits who enjoys so many other conveniences is beginning now to expect free delivery of his mail.

George Griffin and wife, of Nash county, were recently sentenced to 12 and 6 years' imprisonment respectively, for causing the death of Griffin's four children by a former marriage. It is said that this case disclosed the most revolting cruelty ever heard of in North Carolina. The children, according to the evidence, were placed in a miserable bed in an outhouse and left to die from disease and starvation. They died one at a time and the dead were allowed to remain with the living until removed by neighbors, who were threatened with violence by Griffin. The evidence was such as to sicken judge and jury.

Parents who want their children to be polite must have good manners themselves.

## The Voice of Humanity.

Charlotte Observer.

It is gratifying to note that the Western North Carolina Conference, in session at Greensboro, adopted, Saturday, a memorial to the General Assembly in behalf of enlarged accommodations at the State Hospital at Morganton. The number of insane persons in the district of this Hospital, who need its care and treatment but for whom accommodations cannot be found, is closely estimated at five hundred. Some of these wretched people are in county jails; others are in homes for the aged and infirm; others still are confined at their own homes, an unutterable burden upon their families, a constant source of anxiety, a constant menace to others of the same household. The very best possible is being done at Morganton with the means at hand, but after all is said and done there is not room for these hundreds, these unfortunate children of the State, who should be there. Many of them could be restored to lives of usefulness; others who might not be restored to lives of usefulness; others who might not be restored are tax-payers or their people are, and it is hard that they should be denied the care which they help pay to provide for others. The voice of humanity spoke through this memorial adopted at Greensboro Saturday. It is more than an appeal for humanity; it is at the same time a cry for justice. It is with the representatives of the people, soon to assemble at Raleigh, to heed or to disregard it.

Osteopathy.

The Augusta Chronicle gives a piece of encouraging information in connection with a very interesting explanation as follows:

"Rev. Sam Jones says he was cured of his recent serious illness by osteopathy, without drugs or any other medication. Wherefore, he hopes that when another bill is introduced before our legislature and passed, as happened at the previous session, Governor Candler will not veto it and deprive practitioners of this new healing art of a proper license. Osteopathy is, essentially, the manipulation of the human skeleton and its incidental environment. The contention is that many diseases originate from dislocation of the body structure, and, this derangement being skillfully removed, the malady caused by it disappears. The discovery of osteopathy was by a regular allopathic physician who was pronounced to be suffering from chronic heart-disease and incurable. One day while in his parlor he felt a twinge around his heart and thought if he could only roll some solid substance under his left shoulder blade it would relieve him. Glancing at the floor he saw a croquet ball and, prostrating himself on his back, he rolled it as he desired. Something seemed to snap in his anatomy and, upon rising, found his disease cured. This led him to investigate and finally to the osteopathic practice."

Disquieting News from China.

It is becoming apparent that the Ministers of the Powers are finding it difficult to arrive at a plan of rehabilitation of relations with China. The question of degree of punishment for the leaders of the rebellion, and the question of indemnity presents the certainty that China will have to borrow money. And of course that will give influence to the nation that lends it to her. Again, Russia has already gained territory in the North and this arouses the jealousy of Germany and England. Nothing is so much to be dreaded as a suspension of hopes of peace and a general "grab" for parts of the troubled Empire. The United States is hoping to win favor and power by kindness and consideration—a worthy part to play. We hear of rebellions and plots and sedition. No one really knows what are the relations of the Empress and the Emperor; nor do we know what a day may bring forth.

Baptist State Convention.

The Baptist State Convention, which meets in Raleigh December 5, will be the seventieth annual one. It met here last in 1892. Rev. Dr. R. H. Marsh, of Oxford, will preside. The number of church members with this convention is 167,000, an increase of 7,000 over last year. There are 140,000 negro Baptists in the State. The contributions for foreign, State and home missions during the year aggregate \$45,000, an increase of \$5,000 over last year. This does not include educational collections. All the Baptist educational institutions are flourishing and 1,200 students are attending them. They include Wake Forest College for Young Men, the Baptist Female University at Raleigh, Oxford Female Seminary, Chowan Baptist Female Institute and 49 academies, some of the latter having as many as 800 students.

First Lady (off for a journey)—I hope we've got the right train.

Second Lady—I asked 17 trainmen and 93 passengers if this train went to Blankville, and they all said yes; so I guess we're all right.

"Junson has developed into a confirmed kicker, but his wife can handle him every time. He kicked last night because his dinner was cold." "What was his wife's play?" "She made it hot for him."

Grover Cleveland may be named by the Democrats of New Jersey as their choice for United States Senator from that State. There is some talk to that effect among Democratic members of the legislature.

The Sun says that Mrs. Tiernan (Christian Reid) the authoress, is ill at her home in Salisbury.

Many a man is compelled to take married life according to directions.

## A CHINESE STATESMAN'S WARNING.

Ho Yow, in Leslie's Weekly.

Of course any man will fight against the invasion of his own country, but you must remember that in the interior of China are millions of peaceful people who do not even know that there is a war in progress.

We have as yet only 40,000 regular troops, and all the rest are irregular fighters. But even these 40,000 are poorly paid, and we have no pension system. They are poorly equipped and poorly drilled. Just wait until the allies have established garrisons—in Tientsin, for instance. Then you will see our people taking careful note of all that goes on. They will drill; they will copy modern methods and arm themselves in modern style, and in the end they will overthrow and massacre any garrison, however strong. The European nations cannot place strong enough garrisons to hold down these millions of people. They may hold them now just for a little while, but as soon as the Chinese shall be sufficiently civilized foreign occupation will not only be impossible, but the Orientals will be a menace to Europe itself.

I believe that the allies themselves will see this and that they will acknowledge the futility of attempting to hold this immense country. As soon as one province shall be subdued another will rise, and so on throughout the empire, when it will be time to begin over again. It does not require a statesman to see the futility of that; it can never be accomplished—not with millions of money, nor, I was going to say, in millions of years.

To sum up, China is a tremendous force, dormant now, but she is exceedingly quick to learn and amazingly intelligent and imitative. Her people love their country more, perhaps, than any other nation in the world. They have not yet been stirred, and they do not understand true fighting methods; but when they do, look out, for there will be a new force in the world, and if the powers remain in China, whose territory they seem to covet, they will rouse a force which not all the power in the world can put to sleep again. The allies make a great mistake if they think that China will tamely or ultimately submit to being sliced up. She is dazed now, but she will awaken, and nothing in the world can stop her then.

North Carolina Furniture.

Raleigh Times.

Mr. J. Elwood Cox, of High Point, in an interview with a Times man stated that there are 23 furniture factories at High Point, and all are doing well. This has been a development of the past 10 years, for in 1890 one could almost count on his fingers the furniture factories in the State. It is in the development of such industries that the State is enriched and made prosperous. If we devote all our capital and energies to the manufacture of cotton, when a depression comes in that industry it means serious loss. But if our industries are diversified it would take the most severe and far-reaching depression to cause disaster. Mr. Cox himself has developed one of the smaller industries—the manufacture of shuttle blocks; and he probably makes more of them than any other man in the South.

A Woman, Though Only 20, Dies of Old Age.

Miss Fannie O'Kennon, daughter of Peter O'Kennon, died at her father's home, in Mataoca, near Petersburg, this morning.

Miss O'Kennon, the doctors say, died of old age although it was in April that she celebrated her 20th birthday. Her case was remarkable.

She had not grown in stature since she was 2 years old, and her faculties at the time of her death were those of a child. She was two feet, two inches tall, and could speak only such words as she was able to articulate at the age of 2 years. She played picture books and toys, and in all her actions was a perfect child. Her face was wrinkled like that of a woman who had lived many years. Her case has attracted the attention of physicians for some time.

Ground to Death by Engine Wheels.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Nov. 26.—Mr. Ernest L. Adams, a brakeman on the South Carolina and Georgia extension railroad, was ground to a pulp under an engine at Catawba Junction, S. C., about 4:30 Saturday afternoon. Mr. Adams was riding on the cow-catcher of the freight engine, preparing to make a coupling, when he slipped, in some way, and was instantly killed. The pony-trucks and driving wheels passed over his body and his mangled form, lifeless, was drawn from under the engine.

This death is a particularly sad one. It has been less than three weeks since Mr. Adams was happily married to Miss Lillian Starr, of Blacksburg, S. C.

Great Floods in Pennsylvania.

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 27.—After three days of incessant rain, a flood unprecedented for this season of the year, and quite unexpected in its fury, swept down the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers last night. In their mad rush the waters ruined hundreds of dollars worth of property, caused the loss of at least three lives, temporarily threw out of employment thousands of workmen by the forced suspension of the many industrial establishments lining the banks of both streams and rendered hundreds of families homeless.

The Burt Shoe Company, of Salisbury, a leading concern in its line of business, closed under an assignment last Monday night.

—Mr. L. B. Wheeler and Captain Hopkins, of Lexington, have purchased the Paragon Drug Store, in Asheville, from Mr. Baxter Shemwell.

## Earth Opened Up and Swallowed Teams.

John Newton, a prominent farmer residing at Petro, Tenn., had a narrow escape of his life a few days ago. He was plowing in a large field near his house when the earth suddenly opened and his team was swallowed up, he barely escaping going down with the team. The field has been in cultivation for over sixty years, and never before has such a thing occurred. Newton was plowing with a double team and both horses went in the pit. A number of neighbors at once set to work digging, and after some time secured the team, but one of the horses had to be killed. It is supposed that a large underground waterway was the cause of the cavern, but none was discovered in the chasm. One theory is that it marks the outlet of the lake on the mountain near by which seems to be bottomless and that the outlet is in the bed of the Tennessee river.

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