

Improved Uniform International Sunday School Lesson

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Lesson for November 2

SIMON PETER, FROM WEAKNESS TO STRENGTH

LESSON TEXT—Mark 8:27-29; Luke 22:31-34; John 18:25-27; 11:15-17.
GOLDEN TEXT—Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.
PRIMARY TOPIC—A Weak Man Becomes Strong
JUNIOR TOPIC—A Weak Man Becomes Strong
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—How a Weak Man Became Strong
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—How Christ Gives Strength.

I. Peter Confessing Christ (Mark 8:27-29)

The time was near at hand when Christ should make the supreme offering of himself for sins on the cross. Knowing the tragic experience through which the disciples would pass because of it, he sought to prepare them for it by leading them into the apprehension of the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith such as: the integrity of his person, atoning death, resurrection, and second coming.

Peter's confession was provoked by two questions of Jesus.

1. "Whom do men say that I am?" Opinions differed, but all recognized him to be a teacher or a prophet with more than human authority and power.

2. "Whom say ye that I am?"

Jesus persistently claimed to be the very Son of God. He would have his disciples to possess a personal and experiential knowledge of himself as to being God manifest in the flesh.

II. Christ Warning Peter (Luke 22:31-34)

1. He told him of Satan's desire concerning him (v. 31). Satan is constantly striving to destroy men.

2. Christ's prayer for Peter (v. 32). He prayed that Peter's faith fall not, not that he should escape the siftings.

3. Peter's confidence (v. 33). His fall began when he refused to listen to Christ's words about the cross. Believers begin to weaken when they no longer desire to hear about Christ crucified.

4. Denial announced (v. 34). This was to take place three times before the crowing of the cock.

III. Peter Denying His Lord (John 18:25, 27)

1. Before the servant maid (vv. 15-18).

Peter blundered in attempting to follow Jesus at this time (John 13:36). Presumptuous boldness frequently leads into embarrassing positions. Under the taunt of the Jewish maid he openly denied the Lord.

2. Before the servants and officers (v. 25).

Peter was now warming himself at the enemy's fire. When questioned, he denied his relation to the Lord. Separation from everything that is opposed to the Lord is necessary in order to have a clear testimony (II Cor. 6:14-18).

3. Before the kinsman of Malchus (v. 26).

This man had seen Peter with Jesus in Gethsemane (v. 10) when Peter rashly cut off the ear of Malchus. He put the question straight to Peter, "Did I not see thee in the garden with him?" At the utterance of the third denial, the cock crew, reminding Peter of Christ's warning (Mark 14:72).

IV. Peter's Restoration (John 21:15-17)

Peter had thrice denied his Lord. Therefore, before his reinstatement in the Lord's service he must thrice confess his love for Jesus. In this reinstatement and commission of Peter is set forth the motive and nature of the service which has Christ's approval in all times. Love for Christ, not primarily love for the sheep, proves the genuine shepherd.

1. "Feed my lambs."

The word "feed" as well as "lambs" signifies that the work here enjoined is that of nurturing babes in Christ.

2. "Feed my sheep."

The word here means to feed, guide, correct, and lead the maturer classes of Christians. It carries with it not alone responsibility of feeding, but corrective discipline. Failure will inevitably follow if this be attempted without love.

3. "Feed my sheep."

This doubtless relates to the care of aged Christians. The word "feed" returns somewhat to the meaning as in the first instance where he says, "Feed my lambs," so that the minister's responsibility to care for the aged is equivalent to that of the young. Peter was to express devotion to Christ by a martyr's death.

In God's Husbandry

Heart troubles in God's husbandry are not wounds, but the putting in of the spade before planting the seeds.—H. W. Beecher.

When Testimony Has Weight

When a man lives up to what he preaches, then his testimony has weight.—Dwight L. Moody.

Line of Least Resistance

Taking the line of least resistance is what makes rivers—and some men—crooked.—Churchman.

FROM GRAPE VINE

Saturday and Sunday were our regular meeting days. Our pastor, Rev. A. J. Sprinkle, began a revival meeting Monday nite. He had to be away Monday morning to preach the funeral of Rev. J. M. Pickens.

We were glad to have Prof. and Mrs. R. L. Moore and others of Mars Hill with us Sunday. Prof. Moore spoke to us on the history of the Baptists in North Carolina, and Tithing.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Quillen Fisher, a baby girl.

Mrs. Easter Gosnell gave a supper and a reception party at her home Saturday night in honor of her son, Devious, and his wife, formerly Miss Edna Ball, who were married Thursday of last week. Those present were Mrs. Gosnell's children and their families and a few friends. All present seemed to enjoy the occasion.

Mr. Arville Hudgins, who has been in the West for nearly two years, returned to Grape Vine Monday.

Mrs. Judson Bailey and family of Petersburg were guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Gosnell Saturday night and Sunday.

Mr. G. W. Bruce, Jr., is on the sick list at this writing.

Mrs. Vera Sprinkle, who recently underwent an operation for appendicitis in an Asheville hospital, is now at the home of her parents and is recuperating nicely.



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FROM HOT SPRINGS

Miss Lura Brown of Inman, S. C., stopped awhile Wednesday with relatives before going to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Brown of Bluff, N. C.

Miss Annie Smith and Mrs. Bales spent Friday in Asheville.

Mr. and Mrs. George Heilman and daughter, Miss Elizabeth, motored to Greenville, Tenn., Friday. Mr. Heilman attended the game at Knoxville Saturday.

Misses Schaffer and Miller of Dorland Bell spent the week-end in Asheville, N. C.

Mrs. J. W. Morris spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Freeman of near Marshall.

Mr. W. T. Davis and son, John, Mr. Phil Brown and Mr. Sidney Izlar attended the game Saturday in Knoxville, Tenn.

Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Duckett and Miss Beulah motored to Lake Junaluska Saturday.

Mr. Jim Council of near Robinsville stopped a while with friends Saturday before going to Knoxville, Tennessee.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Rhyne and little son of Newport, Tenn., and Mrs. Rumbough of Asheville, N. C., spent Sunday with their parents, Mr. and

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SATURDAY AND MONDAY

Mrs. T. B. Ruff.

Mrs. C. C. Brown spent a few hours in Marshall, N. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Bailey Reece and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Fowler and children all spent Sunday with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mac Conner. The children all being home and all their grandchildren except one, they gave their mother a surprise birthday dinner, it being served by the children as a picnic lunch in the yard. Everyone enjoyed the day and left for their homes Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Roy Plemmons of Franklin is spending the week here with heretofore folks.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Buquo and baby of Black Mountain spent Sunday here with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Buquo. Mr. Buquo, who has been on the sick list, is somewhat better this week.

Mr. W. R. Ellerson of Hayesville, N. C., spent the week-end here with Mrs. Ellerson. Mrs. Ellerson will remain here about a week.

Mr. Kenneth Burgin and four boys attended the races in Newport, Tenn.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Galbreath also attended the races in Newport, Tenn.

Mr. and Mrs. Kimberly and Miss Dorthy of Asheville, N. C., spent the week-end here with Dr. and Mrs. Kimberly.

Tom Davis of the University of North Carolina spent the week-end with his parents and had as his guests Duncan Brown of Baltimore.

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Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lefler motored to Asheville, N. C., Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Farmer had as their week-end guests her uncle and aunt, from Charlotte, N. C.

Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Caudill and

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