

News of the Week as Caught by the Camera for Readers of The Journal

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Courses)

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 13

THE GREAT COMMISSION.

LESSON TEXT—Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:36-49.
GOLDEN TEXT—Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.—Matt. 28:20.

This lesson consists of two paragraphs which constitute what might be termed two commissions or two parts of the Great Commission. There are four distinct accounts of the final commands of our Lord to his disciples, each presenting a different phase of the work he committed to his followers. In this lesson we have for our consideration two of these aspects which ought not to be confused. We will consider them in their chronological order.

I. The Appearance in Jerusalem, Thomas Being Absent. Luke 24:36-49.

(1) The Resurrected Lord, vv. 36-49. The Emmaus disciples reported to the disciples, and those gathered with them in Jerusalem, the things they had experienced, especially in the breaking of bread. This occurred late in the evening (see Luke 24:29, 33). While they, and the others, were rehearsing the many things that had taken place on that first eventful day, Jesus himself suddenly appears in their midst without the opening of a door and asks them of their thoughts. Once before he had thus searched them (Luke 9:46, 47), but now the occasion is quite different. Fear of the Jews had crowded them into this room but no closed door except that of the human heart can keep out the risen Lord. Simon's report (ch. 24:34) and that of the Emmaus disciples were not sufficient to allay their fear. Fear at this visible evidence of the supernatural is true of us all, but when Jesus truly is present there is peace no matter what may be the turmoil without, or the fear within.

Man of Flesh and Bone.

This appearance was a demonstration that it was he himself, and to add proof upon proof he first showed them his pierced hands and feet, and then called for fish and ate it before, and doubtless with, them. Jesus is today a man of flesh and bone as much as when he walked Galilee's hills. His blood he poured out upon Calvary. The evidence of the literal, physical resurrection of Christ is so overwhelming that the unbeliever does violence to his reason not to accept it.

(2) The Ascended Lord, vv. 44-49. This coming of Jesus and his message of peace and assurance brought also a commission that this great fact be told to others. The event recorded in these verses did not occur in Jerusalem but upon Mount Olivet and constitutes the final appearance of Jesus. As he had done often before, so now he sets his seal upon the Old Testament, expressly speaking of its books under their accepted three-fold division (v. 44). In these there are between three and four hundred direct, not to speak of the indirect, prophecies concerning him. What we need is to have the Holy Spirit that we may "understand" (v. 45), the purpose of his life and death. Jesus taught his disciples what that purpose is (v. 47), viz., the "remission of sins," based on the sure ground of his finished work. This, and this alone, is the gospel and it is to be preached in his name to all nations—a missionary suggestion—but beginning at home, in Jerusalem. Verse 49 tells us of that other needed preparation to make us effective witnesses, the endowment of the Holy Spirit.

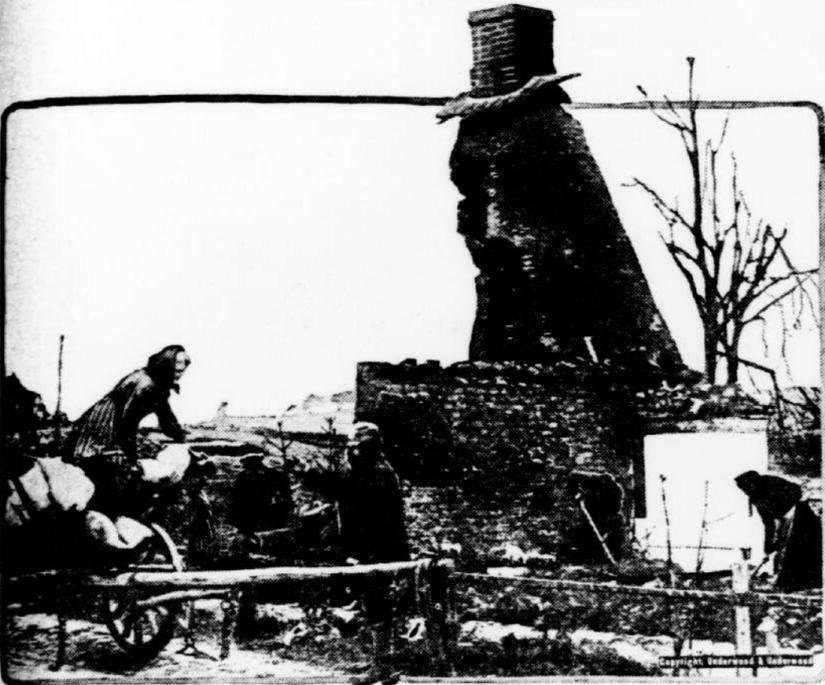
Some Disciples Doubted.

II. The Appearance to the Eleven in Galilee, Matt. 28:16-20. This event took place much later than that mentioned in the first part of the previous section. As we carefully read this section it suggests that Jesus was somewhat removed from the disciples, yet their vision was so clear that they worshiped him, though some doubted. Drawing near to the disciples he first of all emphasizes his supreme authority, "all power is given unto me," and on that authority he commissioned them to their work of discipling "all nations." Mark's rendering of this commission (16:15, 16) is more inclusive, "to the whole creation," including all of man's welfare, social as well as spiritual. For Jesus thus to claim authority and to send forth his ambassadors and still not be "the very God of the very God" is to stamp him either as an impostor or a lunatic. Because all power is his, therefore the obligation and the accompanying Holy Spirit who will enable us to teach the things he has commanded. There is back of the commission "all power" and accompanying it a blessed fellowship, "Lo, I am with you all the days."

The chief value of these two sections lies, first, in the fact suggested as to the perpetual nearness of the risen Lord in the midst of our ordinary human experiences. Patiently he bears with us in our unbelief and fear and like as he spake peace to his disciples so he would calm our restless spirits. The second chief value is the immediate and persistent responsibility that rests upon his followers. He loved all and desires that all shall be saved and yet the proclamation of his plan of redemption, of his finished work, he confines to human agents. As each new disciple is made, he is to tell others, to witness of him to those not yet surrendered.

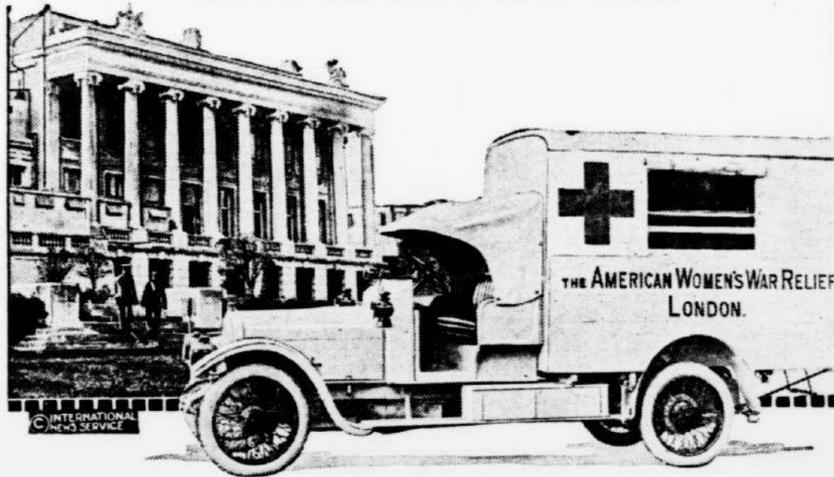
This is a constant and an endless process, his heralds discipling all nations, baptizing and teaching them to observe the things he has commanded. The sad thing is that after nearly two thousand years we have carried out so poorly the great commission.

RETURNING TO THEIR RUINED HOMES



Peasants of East Prussia, who fled before the advance of the Russian armies, when the czar's troops were repulsed returned to their homes to find only the charred ruins of their houses.

AMERICAN HELP FOR WOUNDED BRITISH



Six motor ambulances like the one in this photograph have been given to the British war office by the American Women's War Relief fund. With their fittings they cost about \$29,000. At the left is Oldway house, the residence of Paris E. Singer in Devonshire, transformed into the American Red Cross hospital.

SEARCHING FOR HIDDEN GERMANS



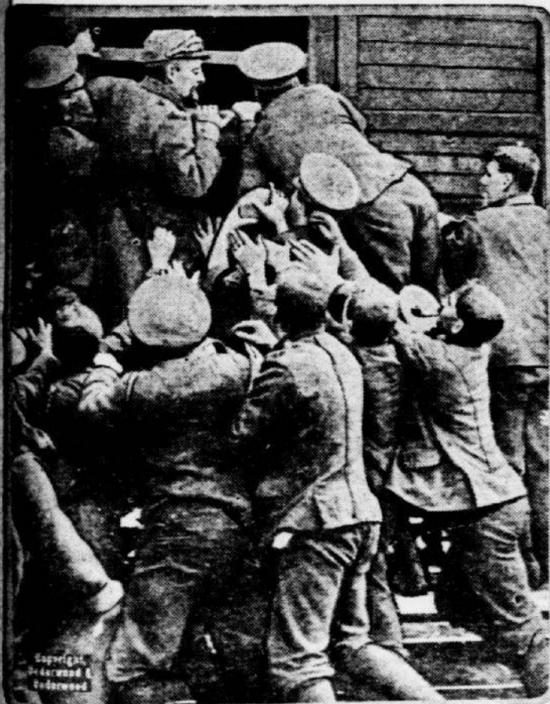
British troops searching a farmhouse between Nieuport and Dixmude for German stragglers.

SHOOTING AT A GERMAN AEROPLANE



French marines under shelter of the ruined church of Dixmude, shooting at a German Taube aeroplane.

HUNGRY BRITISH STORM BREAD TRAIN



British soldiers in France besieging a supply train arriving in camp with a consignment of bread for the soldiers.

LOVE ROMANCE OF THE WAR

Amor Begun in Belgium Ends at the Altar in an English Church.

A romantic love story, constituting one of the pleasanter sidelights of the war, has culminated in a wedding at Redhill.

Early this year Achille Vidrequin, a lieutenant of a Belgian infantry regiment, met Miss Nella Eudora Wansort of Ixelles, the daughter of a minister of the Belgian Congo. They saw each other on several occasions, and then the war broke out. Lieutenant Vidrequin was called up and fought for his country, taking part in several engagements.

Miss Wansort, with other ladies, was among the first of the refugees to seek shelter in England, and Mr. and Mrs. F. Scrutton of the Woolpits, Nutfield, provided the young lady and her

friends with a home at Coniston lodge. She lost sight of Lieutenant Vidrequin and did not expect to see him again.

A month ago Lieutenant Vidrequin was given leave of absence owing to ill health, and went to England. He was ignorant of Miss Wansort's whereabouts. All he knew was that she was a refugee in England. He made an unsuccessful search for her until one day he met her accidentally on the Redhill railway station platform.

Then the lieutenant was recalled to the war, and there was a hasty wedding in the Redhill Roman Catholic church, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Francois de Suick, himself a refugee.

Louvre Paintings Secreted.

Paris—The big paintings in the Louvre, a Paris paper announces, have been bricked up in a secret place to protect them from aeroplane bombs.

Field of Waterloo Entrenched.

London.—A dispatch says the old field of Waterloo has been filled with concrete trenches by the Germans, who expect to make it again the scene of a great world battle.

KHEDIVE OF EGYPT



Abbas II, the khedive of Egypt, who joined with Turkey against Great Britain, and who has been kept out of the country by the English authorities. He has ruled Egypt for 22 years and is forty years old.

SWAP GIANT FOR DWARFS

Germany Wants to Exchange English Eight-Footer for Two German Midgets.

London.—Germany wants to exchange the long for the short of it. William Hempstead, an eight-foot giant, has just reached England from Germany, where he was interned at the beginning of the war, and the American consul general, Robert P. Skinner, is negotiating for the return to Germany of two German dwarfs, less than two feet tall, who till now have been held in England.

Field of Waterloo Entrenched.

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IN A SHATTERED CONVENT



Shrine and crucifix in the convent of the Sisters of the Poor at Nieuport, seen through the gaping wall of the convent, which was destroyed in the terrific fighting that took place there.

ARCHDUCHESS ZITA



New photograph of Archduchess Zita, wife of Archduke Carl, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne. Before her marriage in 1911 she was a princess of Parma.

To Develop New Industry.

London.—The British board of trade has issued a circular urging merchants and manufacturers to devote attention to the trade in wooden ware, which hitherto has remained almost entirely in the hands of Germans and Austrians.

BRAVE WOMEN OF EAST PRUSSIA



Undaunted by their misfortune in being driven from their homes in East Prussia by the czar's forces, these German peasant women, who are compelled to make their homes in temporary shelters thrown up in the fields, are busily engaged knitting woolen socks and mittens for their men folk, who are fighting with the kaiser's forces.

BAKING BREAD FOR INDIAN TROOPS



Baby Watched Surgeons Operate.

Wilmington, Del.—Displaying a fortitude which astonished the physicians at a hospital in this city, Adeline Hall, aged three years, permitted them to sew on the severed tip of a finger of her right hand without taking an anesthetic of any kind. She also permitted the doctors to put several stitches in another finger and never so much as whimpered during the operation.