A MESSAGE TO YOU

Enthusiasm is the greatest business asset in the world. It beats Money, Power and Influence. The greatest mistake anyone ever made was to be afraid to make one. It costs a lot to live these days, more than it did in yore. But when you stop to think of it, it's worth a whole lot more. It don't cost as much to dress if you buy your

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Hats, Caps, Shoes, etc

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Buena Vista - - Virginia

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson XI.—First Quarter, For March 17, 1912.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Mark ii, 1-12. Memory Verses, 9-11—Golden Text. Ps. ciii, 2, 3—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

After the healing of the leper great multitudes came together to hear Him and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. We can hardly imagine the innumerable happy homes, because where once sickness and suffering ruled now all is health and peace because of Him who, being anointed with the Holy Ghost and with power, went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, God being with Him (Acts x, 38). See in this verse, as in so many others, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, all for us, and compare Rom. viii, 26, 31-34. In Luke v, 16, we read that He withdrew Himself into the wilderness and prayed. There was always a conscious oneness with the Father which we do not experience, because He always in all things pleased the Father (John viii, 29; Matt. xvii, 5). The healing of today's lesson is recorded in Matt. ix and Luke v, as well as in Mark. Having returned to Capernaum, the people soon found it out, and such crowds gathered as to prevent all access to the house in any ordinary way. Pharisees and doctors of the law from Galilee, Judea and Jerusalem had gathered to hear Him, and He preached the word unto them, and the power of the Lord was present to heal them (verse 2; Luke v, 17). But in their own estimation they needed no healing, for they did not know that with all their learning they were wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked (Rev. iii, 17). The religious god of this world, the devil, had blinded their minds lest the light should shine unto them (II Cor. iv, 4). What a contrast to their proud self sufficiency and indifference to the welfare of others is seen in these four men who brought their palsied friend to Jesus, no doubt fully persuaded that if they could only reach Him with the sick one they would not need to carry him away, for he would certainly be healed. I have met people who were afraid that they had not come to Jesus in the right way, but did ever any one come to Him in so strange a way as this? I have often wondered what the Pharisees and doctors thought of having the roof broken up over their heads, yet we cannot help laughing within us, no matter how they might scowl, for the friends succeeded in getting him "into the midst before Jesus" (Luke v, 19). In each of the three accounts it is written that Jesus saw their faith, the faith of the four who brought him. So in Matt. viii, 10; xv, 28; John iv, 50, it was the faith of another that brought health to the servant, the daughter and the son. May the words in Ps. xx, 4, 5, "Grant thee according to thine own heart and fulfill all thy counsel, * * * all thy petitions," strengthen some to lay hold upon God for others. In Matt. ix, 2, we have the first "Be of good cheer" from the lips of the Lord. See other four in Matt. ix, 22; xiv, 27; John xvi, 33; Acts xxiii 11. The four words are in the Greek just one word of six letters, but what a word, and from Him who alone is able really to cheer or comfort us. Then hear what follows, "Thy sins are forgiven thee." This is what the man needed more than health for his body. I heard it for my own soul in the summer of 18[illegible] from I John ii, 12, with John i, 12. Have you heard Him say it to you? If not, why? There can be no real comfort without it. The scribes and Pharisees began to reason in their hearts: "This man is a blasphemer. Who can forgive sins but God only?" If they had thought "This man be God come down to earth, for only God can forgive sins," they would have been correct, but to them He was only a man, a man of the common people and a blasphemer. Knowing their thoughts, He read them aloud to them, and we might suppose that this would have led them to see in Him more than a mere man, but they were thoroughly blinded by the god of this world. Then, announcing Himself as the Son of man having power on earth to forgive sins, He said to the sick man, "Arise and take up thy bed and go thy way into thine house." Immediately he did as he was bidden, and they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw it in this fashion," "We have seen strange things today" (verse 12; Luke v, 26). We may imagine the four friends rejoicing greatly and saying to others that is what we expected. Are we giving the Lord cause to say to us, "O ye of little faith," or, "Great is thy faith, be it unto thee even as thou wilt." His calling Himself "Son of Man" might have led them to think of Ps. viii and of one who was to have all things subdued unto Him, or of Dan. vii, 13, 14, and of one whose dominion would be an everlasting dominion never to be destroyed. If we have our sins forgiven we will in due time have perfect bodies like His resurrection body (Phil. iii, 20, 21), so that we can well afford to rejoice while in these mortal bodies, whether in health or sickness, waiting for the resurrection body. All miracles may be called acted parables, and in this palsied man we may see the utter helplessness of the sinner to do anything for himself, but Jesus is still the same compassionate one and ready to forgive sins by virtue of His great sacrifice for the sins of the world.

A WELL SET TRAP

Snared a Blackmailer Who Dared to Invade Wall Street.

TRIED TO WORK JAY GOULD.

But the Old Financier Was Not to Be Scared by a Black Hand Letter, and His Partner Fixed Up a Scheme That Cleverly Caught the Culprit.

The late Jay Gould arrived at his office one morning in a state of mind. "There!" he said to his favorite partner, flinging down a letter which had been addressed to Mrs. Jay Gould. "I don't mind their writing their scurrilous things to me, but when they begin to send them to my wife it's got to be stopped. What can you do?"

The partner first read the letter. The writer premised that he had lost a great deal of money speculating in Gould stocks, especially Missouri Pacific, and required that he be advised how to get back what he had lost and more besides. Unless Mr. Gould imparted to him straight, bona fide money making information he would destroy Mrs. Gould. The manner in which he desired the information to be imparted was this: Every morning an advertisement should be inserted in the personal column of a certain New York newspaper advising him when to buy and when to sell Missouri Pacific. The advertisement should be written in a code which he had devised, so that he alone would receive and understand the tip.

"I think I can catch him," said Mr. Gould's partner. "Just leave it to me."

Mr. Gould was for calling in Inspector Byrnes at once, but his partner thought they had better wait until they had laid a mine for the offender.

The partner, who had a shrewd understanding of human nature, proceeded in an unexpected manner. It happened that Mr. Gould's firm was very active in Missouri Pacific and controlled the stock's fluctuations. On the next day an advertisement was inserted, as the blackmailer had requested, informing him agreeably to his code to buy Missouri Pacific and to watch for further instructions. Missouri Pacific stock went up. A few days later another advertisement was inserted telling him to sell Missouri Pacific. And Missouri Pacific declined. Again he was told when to buy it and again when to sell it, and when this had been repeated a number of times the partner was ready to spring the trap. He inserted an advertisement which took the blackmailer off his guard. It read somewhat like this:

"Missouri Pacific.—The person who has been receiving information to his own profit about the movements of this stock has not kept faith with us. He has been imparting it to others. For that reason it is discontinued."

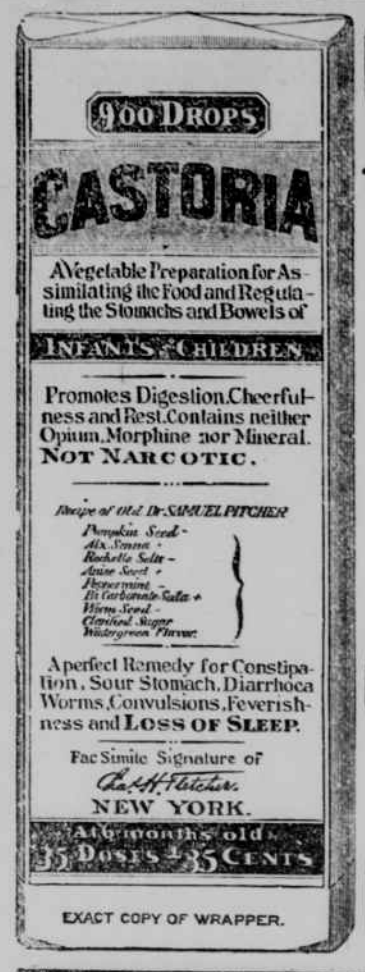
That was not true. There was not the slightest reason to believe that the blackmailer had imparted his information to others; there had been even no conclusive evidence of his acting on it for himself, as he would not be likely to speculate on so large a scale as to be recognized in the stock market. But even in a few hundred shares at a time a man could make a great deal of money in a short time if he knew beforehand infallibly when the price would rise and when it would fall. Mr. Gould's partner counted upon the man's natural impulse when accused of having, by his own lack of discretion, slain his goose. The impulse would be to deny that he had broken faith. The chances were that he would deny it by letter. The trick was to nail him as he mailed the letter.

Inspector Byrnes was now called into the case. The accusing advertisement was printed on Sunday morning, so that if the blackmailer posted a letter during the day it would be all the easier to catch him. Inspector Byrnes stationed a man at every mail box in the postal district from which the original letter of threat had been posted to Mrs. Gould. Every man who posted a letter anywhere in that district that Sunday was under suspicion. Before he was out of sight a detective, under pretense of posting one of his own, had opened the box with his pass key and had inspected the letter last deposited.

And just before dark a letter addressed to Jay Gould was posted by a well dressed young man, who ten minutes later was in the office of Inspector Byrnes protesting indignantly and declaring his family connections. He did not know on what evidence he had been taken. Mr. Gould's partner was summoned, and he opened the letter, which was exactly the one expected. The writer warmly and truthfully denied that he had imparted the Missouri Pacific information to any one and said that therefore he should expect to continue receiving it as before.

But the blackmailer was no more surprised when confronted by the letter than Mr. Gould's partner was when he saw the blackmailer, for it turned out that he was socially well connected. He was, in fact, the son of a man for whom one member of the Gould firm entertained feelings of friendship. He had done badly with everything and had at last resorted to blackmail. His threat to do violence to Mrs. Gould was empty, though there was no knowing beforehand that such was the case. Mr. Gould was not easily mollified. He thought an example should be made of one of the few threatening letter writers Wall street had ever caught red-handed. The pleading of the young man's family at length prevailed, and he was let off.—New York Post.

A tree that gives thee shade, do not order it to be cut down.—Arabian.



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See adv. of Desirable Properties for Sale in Town and County on Page 7 of this issue

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I used it about one week, before I saw much change. Now, the severe pain, that had been in my side for years, has gone, and I don't suffer at all. I am feeling better than in a long time, and cannot speak too highly of Cardui."

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