

PRESIDENT WILSON ADDRESSING CONGRESS



When President Wilson addressed Congress he announced that he had completely broken off relations with Germany, but carefully avoided that war would follow the next torpedoing of a vessel with Americans on board. "Should American ships and American lives be sacrificed," the President said, he would "use any means that may be necessary for the protection of our seamen and our people." Loud and widespread applause greeted this announcement, and when the President closed his speech Congress rose and cheered, remaining standing until the President left the chamber.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Comments By  
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LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 18

Lesson Title: "Jesus Heals the nobleman's Son."

Lesson Text: John 4: 43-54. Memorize vs. 49-51.

Golden Text: "As thou hast believed so be it done unto thee."—Mat. 8:13.

I. The Test of Prophets.

The old proverb is familiar to all of us: "A prophet is not without honor save in his own country." Said Montaigne: "The farther off I am received from my own home, the better I am esteemed." The people of Ayrshire always thought of Burns as only a plowman. No city claimed Homer when he was alive. Seven cities claimed him after his death. Thomas Bailey Aldrich has a little verse which gives the reason why some prophets are not honored at home:

"Bonnet in hand, obsequious and discreet,  
The butcher esteemed him little, as a man  
Who knew not how the market-prices ran."

Calvin gives two other reasons for the truth of the proverb that a prophet has no honor in his own country: "The natural slowness to believe great things of one who has been familiar to us from childhood, and the jealousy that we feel because of the distinction of our acquaintances."

After all, what is the true test of prophets? Why should our intimacy with his riches have not saved him from trouble and from the questions of the public about his real character.

Rich parents have troubles which are greater than those which come to poor parents. It is easier to struggle along in poverty and to bring up and educate children under such conditions than it is to do similar things for them when one has plenty of money. I am glad my parents were poor. I hope my children will also have to struggle for most of the things they get. I think it was a wise man who said that the best thing a parent could do for his children was to do as the old hen did for her chickens, "let them scratch for themselves!"

111. Answered Prayer

When the nobleman met Jesus the latter told him that his child would live. When the nobleman was returning home his servants met him, saying that his son liveth. "So he enquired of them when he began to amend." Why did the nobleman ask the hour? Because it occurred to him that the change in his son's condition began at the time Jesus gave him his promise. There are countless other illustrations and evidences of answered prayer. I have met thousands of christians who reported such personal experiences in the answer to prayer as were a great stimulus to my faith. The following experience re-

lated by Dr. A. E. Dunning is worth a great deal: "I have watched the labored breathing of my little boy. I have heard the kind tone of the physician telling me that he believed my boy had only a few hours to live. I recall the dull anguish with which his words fell on my ears. I know what it is to cast one's self before God praying: 'Come down ere my child die, feeling that, if death should with them lessen the honor which we accord to them? Why should we not have the courage to test them upon their merits? Why should we not examine every teaching and see what ought to be done with it? It is only in this way that we can fairly face the problems and teaching of Jesus Christ. No matter what pre-judgments may be in or minds about him we ought to try to approach

him with open mind and willingness to learn and to hear.

11. The Sons of Noblemen.

It was "a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum." The rich and the noble are exempt from the troubles and sorrows of life. Sometimes these fall more heavily upon the wealthy than upon the others. Riches are not always able to secure health, nor do they insure the possession of character.

Recently Mr. Thaw has been before the public because of his alleged flogging of a young man and also because of his attempt to take his own life. Several years ago when he was in trouble we were told that he had a "brain storm." There were those who wondered at that time when he might have another "brain storm" and do some damage to himself or

to everybody else. The point is that come, I would still trust God, yet with the heart's cry, 'If it be possible, let this cup pass from me.'

I have seen my boy's quivering nostrils grow quiet, his painful breathing became easier, till the struggle with death passed into natural sleep, I have watched the surprised hope on the physician's face till its unspoken assurance showed me that the crisis had passed, and that my boy would come back to me. Therefore I believe that God, who revealed himself in Cana thru Jesus Christ, answers prayer. The sign of the healed boy in Capernaum helps me to believe on Christ, but the sign of the healed boy in Boston helps me more. I should not dare to pray for help from God and then refuse it when the doctor brought it to me. I should still believe in Jesus Christ if my boy had died. Those who know Christ are satisfied even in the depth of bereavement with his assurance, 'He that believeth on me, tho he die yet shall he live.'

Miss Tarbell relates the following incident: "A New York boy caused his parents great anxiety, for they had made up their minds that he was an idiot. He had frequent convulsions, and as he grew older showed fewer signs of average intelligence. But one day the father overheard the boy praying, and the pathetic prayer brought hope to his heart. 'Thou knowest, Lord, that my father and mother are disappointed in me,' the lad prayed. 'They can find nothing in me to be proud of. Thou knowest why, and thou knowest why thou hast given me the burden of these terrible convulsions. But I will trust thee; I will trust thee to the end.'

The father left his business and took his boy for a tour around the world. On their return the boy was sent to school again, and he made rapid progress in his studies, excelling all his classmates. 'When a University section of the Y. M. C. A. was started for the graduates of the medical and science and law colleges, of the four thousand me my son was chosen president,' said Dr. W. F. Bainbridge, the now proud father. 'When the World's Congress of Surgeons and Physicians met at Heidelberg and again at Brussels, my boy was chosen Vice-President—the idiot boy who told God that he could trust him, the boy who believed even tho

he could not understand.' That boy is now one of the leading specialists in appendicitis and is known the world over for his remarkable success as a surgeon."

State Briefs

Columbus.—"More quail can be placed on Ohio farms than the hunters will kill from year to year, by using hunters' license money for that purpose," said J. F. Atwood, of this city, secretary of the League of Ohio Sportsmen. The league wants a short open season for quail. A bill is pending in the legislature seeking to place quail on the song-bird list, prohibiting hunters from killing them.

Columbus.—(Special).—"Eat Ohio Apples Next Year" will be the cry used by the state horticulture society in the proposed fight for a state appropriation of \$8000 to promote Ohio's apple industry.

Lack of a standard grade and packing code in Ohio is said to be the cause for the state "trailing" fifth in apple production.

"Dealers have no assurance that Ohio apples are good," N. E. Shaw

president of the state horticulture society, said on Saturday. "It's simply a gamble."

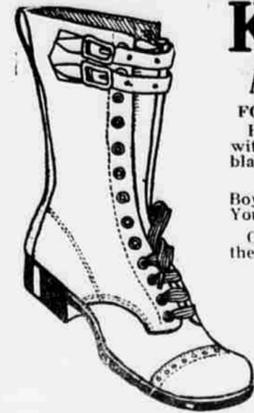
"If there was a grading and packing system in Ohio, with the state's stamp to back it up, Ohio apples would be in demand."

Figures cited by Shaw show that thousands of bushels of western apples are shipped into Ohio every year.

Columbus.—If a bill introduced in the senate by Senator White, of Erie county, becomes a law, hunting rabbits at night with the aid of searchlights, or any other kind of artificial light will be illegal.

Numerous complaints have been made by farmers who say traveling at night has been made dangerous by the shooting of hunters.

Tiffin.—To combat the living cost a company composed of 500 factory employes of the U. S. Glass and several other factories here have been formed to distribute to the stockholders groceries and other merchandise at the lowest possible cost. The company has incorporated for \$10,000 Joseph Fey, William Reed, J. J. Argenz, Louis Schaefer, and Edward Frissell, employes of the glass company are the incorporators.



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