

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

Sunday School Lesson

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LESSON FOR AUGUST 28

FROM ASIA TO EUROPE.

LESSON TEXT—Acts 13:4-15.
GOLDEN TEXT—And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.—Acts 13:31.
REFERENCE MATERIAL—Rom. 15:25-31.
PRIMARY TOPIC—A Wonderful Dream.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Paul Crosses Over Into Europe.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Beginning Work on a New Continent.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Paul Carries the Gospel to Europe.

I. Forbidden by the Holy Spirit to Preach the Word (vv. 6-8).

We have here a lesson on divine guidance. The inclination of Paul and his companions was to tarry in the provinces of Asia preaching the word, but contrary to their inclination they were hurried along. They might have reasoned "What difference would it make as to where we preach, just so the Gospel is preached?" Though seemingly small, the question as to whether the Gospel should be preached among the people in the East or in the West has determined the entire history of the church. Had they preached among the people in the East, Christianity would never have become worldwide. On the other hand, by laying hold upon the Grecian intellect and combining with it the push and energy of the Romans, it became worldwide. In the guidance of the Spirit we find Him just as active and as faithful in closing doors as in opening them. "The steps as well as the steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord." We ought to as truly recognize God's hand in the "shut-ins" as well as in the "open-outs."

II. Called to Macedonia (vv. 9-12).

A vision was given to Paul of a man from Macedonia pleading for help. This was the solution of the mystery of closed doors about them. There is a negative and a positive side to the Spirit's guidance. If we will note both we shall be able to determine with a surety the proper course of action. In order to be led aright we must be sure that we are willing to be led, pray definitely for leading, and then render willing obedience as fast as the light comes. As soon as the divine way was known they rendered immediate obedience.

III. The First Convert in Europe (vv. 13-15).

The missionaries went to Philippi. The Jewish element in this city was very insignificant; so much so that they could not afford a synagogue; therefore the devout people were accustomed to worship at the river side. To this humble gathering Paul came and preached to the women gathered there. A certain woman from Thyatira believed his message, and was baptized. Lydia was a woman of wealth, culture, and wide experience, and yet she had need of Christ. The steps in Lydia's conversion are worthy of note:

1. Attendance at the place of prayer (v. 13). This is the case with most people who are saved.

2. Listened to the preaching of the word of God (vv. 12-14). The instrument used by the Holy Spirit in the conversion of sinners is the word of God. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

3. Her heart was opened by the Lord (v. 14). Regeneration is a supernatural work. When the Gospel is preached the Spirit of God makes it living and active, opening the sinner's heart for the reception of Christ.

4. She was baptized (v. 15). It is natural for the one who believes in Christ to desire to be baptized.

5. Her household also believed (v. 15). Thus we see that her's was a typical conversion.

IV. A Spirit of Divination Cast Out (vv. 16-18).

As the missionaries went out from day to day to the place of prayer they were accosted by a young woman possessed by a spirit of divination. She was owned by a syndicate of men who derived large gains from her soothsaying. This act of the woman became a great annoyance to Paul who, in the name of Jesus Christ, commanded the evil spirit to come out. Here is a case of a spiritual medium, a fortune-teller, being freed from demoniacal possession. Many men today are making money by the degradation of womanhood, and they resent all efforts to destroy their infernal business, even try to destroy those who interfere with their business. Here as everywhere Satan blocks the way as the Gospel of Christ is carried into new fields, but the Lord is again triumphant.

"Leaflets Three, Let It Be!"



MOTHER NATURE, "Leaflets three, let it be!" Which being interpreted is, "Ware poison ivy!" This same Mother Nature may be a general old dame, as the poets are always singing, but the botanist and the naturalist and the woodsman bask in her smiles with their eyes open. Really, in some ways Nature is as "cruel as the grave," as the saying goes. She has no patience with ignorance and inefficiency. She works along the line of the "survival of the fittest." Let a competent woodsman go into the wilderness and she will give him bountifully of her plenty. Let a tenderfoot in the wilderness throw himself on her mercy and he will perish miserably.

Mother Nature also evidently has a sense of humor, which is not always good-natured, by a jugful. Now, here's this poison ivy; it's a good example of her practical-joke methods. Nature has created the sumac (Rhus), a genus of small trees and shrubs of the natural order of Anacardiaceae. The species are numerous and are found all over the world except in the coldest regions and Australia. The sumac is a useful sort of thing. Various species furnish dyes, tanning material, edible seeds, varnish, oil for candles, medicines and condiments.

As a matter of fact all the species of sumac the world over are useful, except three. And these three make a lot of trouble. The three are the poison ivy (Rhus radicans) and poison sumac (Rhus venix) of North America and a Japanese sumac (Rhus pumila).

And how is anyone to know that this particular kind of ivy and this particular kind of sumac are poisonous? That's where Mother Nature's practical-joke humor comes in. Also it is a good object lesson of the fact that she has no patience with ignorance and inefficiency. For most certainly it is ignorance not to know poison ivy and most certainly it is inefficiency to become poisoned by it.

Incidentally, a big dose of poison ivy poisoning is no joke. Of course, it frequently happens that the poisoning is not serious. Then everyone laughs at the itching one and says, "Well, you'll know better next time." But a good many cases are serious enough to demand a doctor. And there have been cases that ended with the death of the poisoned.

Many interesting facts concerning poison ivy and poison sumac, how to recognize the plants, and how to treat the poisoning, are contained in Farmers' Bulletin 1193, now published by the Department of Agriculture. The bulletin is illustrated with pictures of the two plants, which are often confused. Copies of the bulletin may be had upon request of the department at Washington, D. C. This bulletin brings out the following facts, among others:

The homely saying "leaflets three, let it be" may cause unjust suspicion of some innocent and harmless plants, but it offers a deal of good advice to those who are unacquainted with poison ivy. Many persons each year suffer the smarts of ivy poisoning because they do not know how to recognize or avoid the plant in its various forms.

Poison ivy may appear in various forms, but the three telltale leaves identify it. Not all varieties of poison ivy bear fruit. Those that do have whitish or cream-colored berries resembling mistletoe. Poison sumac, under various aliases, grows only in swamps or in wet ground. Poison sumac has 7 to 13 leaflets arranged in pairs along each stalk, with a single leaflet at the tip. Poison sumac is often confused with elder, certain kinds of ash, and various other shrubs and trees bearing somewhat similar foliage. Its loose, drooping clusters of flowers, followed by smooth ivory-white fruits, are readily distinguished from the densely covered upright terminal spikes of the harmless sumac. First aid to poisoned: Wash skin clean with soap and hot water, being careful not to spread the poison. Application of cooking soda, two teaspoonsful to cup of water.

POISON IVY AND SUMAC.

The poison-ivy plant is also known as poison oak and by various local names, such as three-leaved ivy, poison creeper, climbing sumac, marked, piery, and mercury. It grows in the form of woody vines, trailing shrubs, or low, erect bushes and adapts itself to the greatest variety of conditions, flourishing in woods or in the open, in low, moist soil or in dry soil and on hillsides. It is especially abundant along fence rows and at the edges of paths and roadways, scrambling over rocks and walls, climbing posts or trees to considerable heights, often mixed with other shrubbery in such a way as to escape notice until its presence is made known by a case of poisoning. Poison ivy, or poison oak, is found in one or more forms in practically all sections of the country. In its various forms the plant is most readily recognized by its leaves, which are always divided into three leaflets, and by its whitish waxy fruits, which look somewhat like mistletoe berries. All varieties do not bear fruits, but when discovered the whitish or cream-colored berries make recognition positive. Poison sumac is also known as swamp sumac, poison elder, poison ash, poison dogwood, and thunderwood. It grows only in swamps or in wet ground, and is found from the New England states south as far as Florida and westward to Minnesota, Arkansas and Louisiana. It grows as

a shrub in clumps with tall, slender stems 6 to 10 feet or more in height; also frequently as a tree up to 20 or 30 feet high, with a trunk 5 to 10 inches in diameter.

The leaves of poison sumac are divided into 7 to 13 leaflets, arranged in pairs with a single leaflet at the end. The avoidance of shrubs growing in low land with leaves of this general character is a safe rule for persons not well acquainted with poison sumac. Poison sumac is often confused with elder, certain kinds of ash, and various other shrubs and trees bearing somewhat similar foliage; also with dogwood, to which it bears no resemblance. Its loose, drooping clusters of flowers, followed by smooth, ivory-white fruits, are readily distinguished from the densely covered upright terminal spikes of the harmless sumacs. Other differences are readily noticeable, such as the wing-like growth along the margins of the leaf stalks of the dwarf sumac and the hairy coverings of the leafstalks and twigs of the staghorn sumac. After exposure to poison ivy, measures to insure the removal of the poison are of primary importance. At first the poison is on the surface of the skin and may be removed by washing with ordinary kitchen or laundry soap and hot water. Care should be taken, however, not to spread the poison by careless washing. Mild cases of ivy poisoning generally subside within a few days and do not cause alarm. Fatal cases, however, have occurred, and where the inflammation is extensive or severe, a physician should be consulted. In the early stages of ivy poisoning, remedies having a fatty or oily base, such as ointments, should not be used, as the grease or oil tends to dissolve and spread the poison, say specialists of the Department of Agriculture. Instead they advise simple remedies, such as local application of solutions of cooking soda or of Epsom salt, one or two teaspoonfuls to a cupful of water. Fluid extract of grindelia, diluted with four to eight parts of water, is often used with success. Solutions of this kind may be applied with light bandages or clean cloths, which should be kept moist and should be changed and discarded frequently to avoid infection. During the night, or when moist applications cannot be used, the poisoned surfaces should be carefully cleaned and dried and left exposed to the air rather than tightly bandaged. In the later stage, after the toxic material has exhausted itself, zinc-oxide ointment and similar mild antiseptics and astringent applications hasten healing.

We Wonder.
A sufferer who lives close to a railroad in the suburbs wrote the following to the railroad company, complaining about the racket made by a switch engine: "Gentlemen—Why is it that your switch engine has to ding and goong and fizz and spit and bang and hiss and pant and grate and grind and puff and bump and chug and hoot and toot and whistle and wheeze and jar and howl and snarl and puff and growl and thump and boom and clash and jolt and screech and snort and snarl and slam and throb and roar and rattle and yell and smoke and smell and shriek like hell all night long?"—Boston Globe.

YOUNG GIRL FINDS RELIEF

Wants to Tell Other Girls All About It

Evansville, Ind.—"I am eighteen years old and have been bothered for several months with irregular periods. Every month my back would ache and I always had a cold and felt drowsy and sleepy. I work in a millinery shop and I went to work every day, but felt stupid and would have such cramps. I had seen Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound advertised and had heard several women talk of it, so mother got me some. This Vegetable Compound is wonderful and it helped me very much, so that during my periods I am not now sick or drowsy. I have told many girls about your medicine and would be glad to help anyone who is troubled with similar ailments. You may use my testimonial as you like."—STELLA LINXWILER, 6 Second St., Evansville, Indiana.

Some girls lead lives of luxury, while others toil for their livelihood, but all are subject to the same physical laws and suffer in proportion to their violation. When such symptoms develop as irregularities, headaches, backaches, bearing-down sensations and "the blues," girls should profit by Miss Linxwiler's experience and give Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a trial.

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Cholly—"He hung upon her every word." Gus—"Oh, I see; she kept him in suspense!"

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