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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON XI. MARCH 16.

THE TEST OF ABRAHAM'S FAITH

Gen 22: 1-19.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"I desire goodness and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings."—Hosea 6: 6.

POINTED GUGGESTIONS

By Rev. D. W. Snider

Even poor mortals that are prone to imagine, each for himself, that he has been tempted and tried beyond the measure of his fellows will be ready to gasp with sheer pity for Abraham as he stands fronted by the supreme test of his well tried faith, "after these things." What is God's limit, anyway? Has not Abraham been sufficiently proven? "After these things."

Well it has to be remembered that however sound the patriarch was at the core he had not come out "first best" from all his temptations. Some of them brought him experience which humbled him. He had to have his righteousness of character hammered into him by those who knew nothing of a righteous God. Alas, that Christians have to be taught sometimes by the godless and the pagan how to be true to their own faith! There are many men of the world, for example, who can teach many church members the lessons of fundamental and outworking honesty.

But the one who stands in Biblical history as a friend of God and the father of the faithful came to his fullness of character because of no cloistered virtues. He was tested, and tested yet again in the open, until his very heart lies, like his temptations, open to the ages. Look, therefore at Abraham, not as one who was faultless, but as one who organized his faults into strength.

How else could he have met the supreme test which was applied to him? Others can tell how in his days human sacrifices were not uncommon, and explain the difference between the pull on Abraham's affection and that which many a father yielded to appease the wrath of his gods— that is worth studying. This is enough just now; remember what Isaac is to Abraham in view of God's covenanted relation with Abraham. Will the Almighty abandon and repudiate it by commanding him to wipe it out with innocent blood, the blood of his son and the child of promise— of promise so long in the fulfilling?.

The true attitude of the soul to God, at all times and at all costs, is illustrated in the first verse of the lesson when Abraham with promptness met the call of God, and said: "Behold, here I am,.' and without equivocation or hesitancy went forward to obey.

The outcome of it all reveals the purpose of God —His loving purpose. He gave a death-blow to the idea of human sacrifice as being either welcome or necessary as a element of worship. He taught that he wanted not Isaac's blood, but Abraham's will.

And when the will of Abraham was thus, through the supremest kind of testing that could be applied, found to be unreservedly surrendered to God, he quickly saw and felt the joy that comes to those who go all the way with God. The example of his faith and obedience is for the ages. The New Testament refers to it again and again.

Moreover, something must be said about Isaac in all this. He was old enough to debate matters, to struggle to seek evasions, to resist. Why did he not do it? Without delaying to answer, pass rather to his question, What would happen today if fathers and sons so joined as Abraham and Isaac in mutual confidence to do the will of God to the uttermost? Isaac became a true heir to Abraham. The heir of many another father has been a perversion and a disgrace.

Most of us like to hear words of approval and of commendation. Perhaps no such words go closer to the spot whence the springs of joy flow than those which search out the honest intentions and pure motives of character-action of which we are conscious. God spake them to Abraham, "Now I know that thou fearest God." What smiles wreathed his heart and formed hallelujahs upon his lips!

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

March 23.

THE EMPTY TOMB.

Mark 16: 1-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Now hath Christ been raised from the dead, the first fruits of them that are asleep."—1 Cor. 15: 20.

POINTED SUGGESTIONS.

By Rev. D. W. Snider.

A choice of lessons is provided for today, being Easter Day. One is so attractive he does not wish to miss it, but the other tells a story so fundamental to the truth of Christianity and the happiness of mankind that he dare not let it pass.

So many young hearts revel in talk about matrimonial matters while their seniors, with varying experiences, are not disposed to check the chatter, that it would doubtless be interesting to study how the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah came to pass and to discuss what is essential to a happy marriage, e. g., purity, fidelity, supreme affection. Nevertheless, as the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the most stupendous fact in history and lets in the light upon the most transcendent teaching to which the human heart can listen; we turn to that lesson.

Difficulties are feared many times where such as were feared have been removed. It is found to be so when the march is made up to the suspected place of them. So had the stone been rolled away from the sepulchre.

What a word that was which greeted them! "He is risen." What a sight that was upon which they looked! The empty place; nevertheless, very significantly, not empty. There are those who speak to them there. The grave clothes of Jesus are there, the cerements of the head as though the head were in it. But Jesus is not there.

Those who speak are in the counsels of Jesus. They are His messengers—having a message.

Was ever anything recorded more naturally than the physical and mental actions of those who had stepped within full gazing distance of the place where the Lord lay? Look at verse 8. Truth looks at you from every line and shadow of it. Amazement, fearfulness, trembling, recoil, silence—the working in the soul of the unbelievable believable; fear chasing the joy of hope and the joy of hope holding fear in silence.

Plausible reasons are given for believing that Mary Magdalene was Mary of Bethany. Study them out. It does not make the reason less why she should be the one to whom Jesus first appeared.

Note Hebrews 11: 19-19. Link it as last Sunday's lesson with today's lesson and observe how the purpose of God for mankind has never failed from generation to generation.

One ought to have at his command a Harmony of the Gospels, such as Stevens and Burton's, while searching out the succession of facts that are recorded which go to establish beyond cavil this miracle of miracles. Do not be afraid if it is found hard to put each incident in its place in harmonious agreement. Perhaps that cannot be done. It will be a revelation of the littleness of your capacity for great things if you demand that it must be done.

The evidence is found in the Gospel narratives which has satisfied the mind and hearts of the good and great; the wise, the logical, the spiritual; the jurist and the philosopher; the scientist and the poet. Who are you if it will not satisfy? Turn will you, then, and see if your task is easier to disprove or prove false the evidence of the New Testament and of the Christian Church for the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Begin by tackling Paul's challenge—1 Cor. 15.

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3 Registered Clydesdale Stallions
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Caps regular 1.10 to 1 25, to clear 80c.; Men's Caps, 75c, to clear 40c; Boys' Caps, 25c to clear; 16c; Boys' Caps, 16c, to clear 10c.

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30 pairs Men's shoes, $3 75 now $2.40, and same discount for entire stock.

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Wooden Mantle Clock, $7.50, now $4.90; Wooden Mantle Clocks, $6 50, now 3.98; Marbelized Mantle Clock 3 50, now 2.25.

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From 20 p. c. to 50 p. c. off all Ladie's Wear such as Underwear, Waists, Children's Dresses, etc; also Scarfs, Muffs, Stoles, mitts, Gloves, Hoods, Laces, and Embroidery, and a splendid line of Dress Goods at a big discount.

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A. R. MacKAY of Lawndale Farm, Charlottetown, having gone to great expenses in purchasing two imported Percheron Mares from France has decided to lighten his stock by selling the following horses listed below. These may be bought at private sale or will be listed and sold at the Spring Horse Show sale in Charlottetown, March 19th. This is a rare opportunity to get first class, handsome and breedy brood mares and desirable youngsters. They are the get of such well known speed Sires as Parkside 2.23 1-4, Commodore Ledyard and George Crescens 2 24 1-2. All are in apple pie order.

1 Brood Mare 11 years old Dam of Nancy Mac 2.36 } by Parkside 2.23 1-4 Dam French all Right

This is a handsome mare weighs nearly 1200 is a splendid general purpose animal and has lots of natural speed, has worked miles better than 2.30. All her colts are handsome and sound.

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Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.

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