

OUR COMIC SECTION

Ether Waves



Improved Uniform International Sunday School Lesson

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Lesson for January 23

PRAYER IN CHRISTIAN LIFE

LESSON TEXT—Mark 1:35; 14:32-42; Matt. 6:9-13.
GOLDEN TEXT—Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Talking to God.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Jesus Teaches Us How to Pray.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Learning From Jesus How to Pray.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—What Jesus Taught by Prayer.

I. Jesus Praying in a Solitary Place (Mark 1:35).

After a series of most strenuous efforts Jesus retired to a lonely place to pray. He who the day before had shown His mighty power in casting out devils and banishing disease now needed to be alone with God. In order to do this He arose a long time before daylight. The very best time to pray is in the morning when our physical powers have been renewed. If the Son of God needed this time for prayer, this renewal of spiritual strength in communion with the Heavenly Father, how much more should we seek help by retiring to the solitary place.

II. Jesus Praying in Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-42)

In this time of crisis He took with him Peter, James and John.

1. The first prayer (vv. 35-38).

(1) His posture (v. 35).
He fell on his face prostrate on the ground. In the hour of great need we naturally prostrate ourselves before God.

(2) His petition (v. 36).

"Take away this cup from me." By the cup is meant His death on the cross. No doubt it was most grievous for Him to face this shame, but He pressed on, knowing that for this cause He had come into the world (John 12:27, 28, cf. Heb. 2:14).

(3) His resignation (v. 38).

His will was in subjection to the Father. He knew that His death on the cross was the will of God, the Father, for He was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

(4) The disciples rebuked (v. 37).

He singled out Peter since he had been the most conspicuous in proclaiming his loyalty (John 13:38).

(5) Extortion to the disciples (v. 38).

"Watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation." The only way to be able to stand in the time of trial is to be watching and praying.

2. The second prayer (vv. 39, 40).

He withdrew the second time from the disciples and uttered the same words in prayer. This was not vain repetition. It is proper to repeat our requests. He found the disciples asleep again. Their shame and confusion were more marked than at first.

3. The third prayer (vv. 41, 42).

He uttered the same words in the third prayer (Matt. 26:44).

He tells the disciples to sleep on and take their rest as the hour had now come for His betrayal. There is such a thing as being asleep when wanted and awakening when it is too late. If the disciples had been praying they would not have fallen asleep.

III. Jesus Giving a Model Prayer (Matt. 6:9-13).

This model was given in response to the disciples' request that the Lord would teach them how to pray (Luke 11:10). It is not therefore the Lord's prayer, but the model prayer for the disciples. It involves:

1. A right relationship (v. 9).

"Our Father." Only those who become children of God by faith in Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:26) can pray aright. One must be a child of God before he can be in communion with God.

2. A right attitude (vv. 9, 10).

"Hallowed be Thy name." When one realizes that he has been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of His Son (Col. 1:13) by being made a child of God, he cannot help pouring out his soul in gratitude and praise, intensely longing for the kingdom, the righteous rule of Christ to come on the earth.

3. A right spirit (vv. 11-13).

(1) That of trust which looks to God for the supply of daily bread. We are dependent upon Him for our daily food. With all man's boasted progress he cannot make a harvest. The marvels of modern chemistry are insufficient for this.

(2) That of love which results in forgiveness of others. God will not listen to the prayer of one who has an unforgiving spirit.

(3) That of holiness which moves one to pray not to be led into temptation and longs to be delivered from the evil one.

"Soiled" Language

The language of some men is so "soiled" that it seems a proof that they were formed of the soil.—King's Business.

Things to Give Away

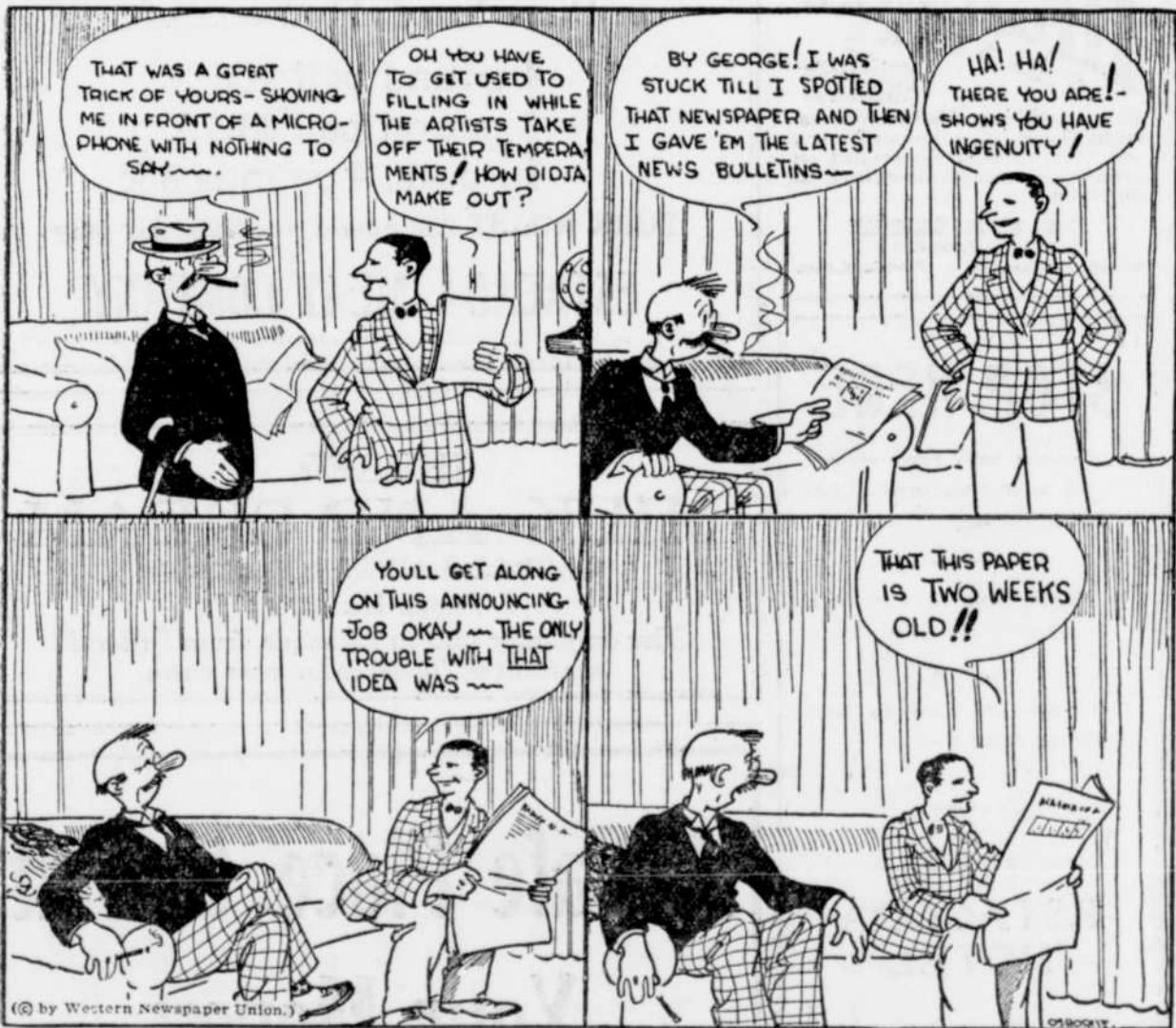
The Lord has a few things to give away if you can get where you can take them.—Echols.

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Carver	2:40	7:00	Barton	8:25	4:55
Barton	3:05	7:25	Carver	8:45	5:15
Eagle Creek	3:15	7:35	Clackamas	8:55	5:25
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