

OUR COMIC SECTION

Famous Last Words



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Sunday School Lesson

By REV. F. B. FITZGERALD, D.D., Dean, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, (© 1927, Western Newspaper Union.)

Lesson for April 10

PETER'S LESSON IN TRUST

LESSON TEXT—Matt. 14:22-33.
GOLDEN TEXT—Be of good cheer. It is I, be not afraid.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Peter Trusts Jesus.

JUNIOR TOPIC—A Helping Savior.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Why Peter Failed.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Christ, the Ever-Present Helper.

The storm-tossed disciples on the sea at night are an example of the struggling followers of the Lord in the darkness of the present age, as they are tossed by the tempests of the evil one.

1. The Disciples on the Storm-Tossed Sea (vv. 22-24).
1. They are sent across the sea by Christ (v. 22).

"Jesus constrained His disciples to get into a ship." Doubtless His reason for this was to keep them from entanglement in the movement of the people to make Him King, for in John 6:14, 15, it is shown that the people were so excited by the feeding of the 5,000 that they were about to make Him King by force.

2. Christ dismisses the multitudes (v. 23).

This may be taken as typical of His rejection by the nation whose rulers had already rejected Him.

3. Christ praying alone in the mountain (v. 23).

Temptation to earthly honor and power had come to Him, therefore He went to the Father in prayer for relief and strength. The need of prayer is greatest at such times. According to Mark 6:48 He saw from the mountain the disciples toiling on the storm-tossed sea.

II. Jesus Walking on the Sea (vv. 25-27).

1. It was in the fourth watch of the night (v. 25).
He did not come to them immediately, but waited till almost dawn. However, it was the darkest part of the night. Their physical danger was great, but no doubt their mental perplexity was greater. They knew that the Lord had sent them, but why should they be in such straits if He sent them? The stormy sea is no evidence that the disciple is not in the Lord's appointed way.

2. The disciples alarmed at His coming (v. 26).
At the sight of Him they cried out for fear. They said: "It is a spirit." It was the coming of their best friend to deliver them from danger.

3. Jesus' words of comfort and good cheer (v. 27).

In the midst of their distress they heard the Master's words, "Be of good cheer, it is I, be not afraid." This changed their fear to joy.

III. Peter Walking on the Sea (v. 28, 29).

1. Peter's request.
As soon as Peter recognized the voice of Jesus he cried: "Bid me come to thee on the water" (v. 28).

2. Jesus' response (v. 29).

At the Lord's "come," Peter left the ship and walked on the water. While he kept his eyes on the Lord he walked on the waves, his faith linked him with the divine power and was thus upheld. Vital faith in Jesus Christ will enable the disciple to outride the storms of life.

IV. Peter Sinking (v. 30).

He took his eyes off the Lord and placed them upon the raging sea. This separated him from the divine power. We should learn to fix our eyes upon the Lord instead of upon our circumstances. Failure will surely follow if we give consideration to our circumstances and our own ability to master them.

V. Christ Rescuing Peter (v. 31).

When Peter began to sink he did the sensible thing. He cried out: "Lord, save me." Immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught him. His salvation from death at the bottom of the sea was the result of the Lord taking hold of him. Jesus Christ in the incarnation was the divine hand reaching forth to rescue a sinking world. The significance of the expression "caught him" is made clear in Hebrews 2:13. It is there declared that Jesus took not upon Himself the nature of angels but took upon Himself the seed of Abraham. The same Greek word occurs in verse 31 of this lesson. We should understand from this that the eternal Son of God did not come in the form of a man in order to show man the way to God, but identified Himself with man through incorporation with Him. He came, not as an example, but as a Savior.

Battle and Victory

The battle with the powers of darkness may be long and hard but the victory is possible.—Echols.

The Comeliest Ornament

The gentleness of Christ is the comeliest ornament that a Christian can wear.—William Arnot.

Be Not Discouraged

Let us not be discouraged when the hand of God layeth heavy woes upon us.—Echols.

Writer Claims Vanity

Is Spoiling Language

Vanity is corrupting the French language, says Abel Bonnard, a writer of note.

It is vanity, he says, that leads people to prefer a new word, coined or from another language, to the old one they really know and understand.

"The public likes to be fooled," he remarks, agreeing with Mr. Barnum. He cites many words used currently to describe things long used and with names of their own, but which, for commercial purposes, like the hard-working rabbit skin in the fur business, have to be baptized anew to create that "desire to buy" in the customer.

This vanity to have the latest thing, even when only the name is new, Bonnard regards as one of the chief differences between the passing generation of conservative people and the "modernists." Many people who are "up to date," he observes, shy at expressing themselves clearly and need obscure words and phrases to portray the haziness of their own minds.

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First Playhouse Located

According to a writer in the Pathfinder Magazine the first playhouse or theater in the United States was located in Williamsburg, Va. It was built in 1716 during the regime of the colonial governor, Alexander Spotswood. Charles Stagg and his wife, Mary, essentially dancers, contracted with William Leighton for the theater. Some years before, in 1695, the court in Virginia acted as play censor also, having passed judgment on a performance of "Ye Bare and Ye Cub" to satisfy a complaint that the costumes were objectionable. The court found nothing objectionable, however.

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Japan Develops Film Art

American motion pictures have always been popular in the Orient, and those about Indians, and the "Wild West" have been especially popular. Chaplin films also found a ready favor, but Japan is rapidly developing a film art of its own. The most popular film in Japan today is one called "Schoolmaster Matsumoto." It is an extremely simple story of the grammar grades, the climax being the rescue by the schoolmaster of one of his pupils who has fallen into the river. The film, though so simple in theme as to arouse wonder among American movie experts, ran for a full year continuously in Tokyo.

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Case of Example

Charles, age five, watches closely his twelve-year-old brother Morris.

As it happens Morris is fond of books, and each night he replies to father's call to go to bed: "Aw, dad, wait a minute till I finish this chapter!"

One day Charles was entertaining himself by reading a book, already known by heart, when mother called: "Charles, come here, dear, and pick up your blocks; they're scattered all over the floor."

"All right, mother," he replied in a preoccupied manner. "Wait till I finish this chapter."

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An Ideal Toy

Jones—I want a drum for the baby. And can you give me a pair of head phones with it?

Clerk—Head phones? What for? Jones—So the baby can hear it and the rest of us can't.

What makes life dreary is the want of motive.—George Eliot.

Says Dangerous Varicose Veins Can Be Reduced at Home

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Ingenious Swindle

Inferred with moles, the commune of Martignyburg, Switzerland, offered a bounty of ten sous for every creature destroyed. The tails were to be produced as proof. One man brought in a prodigious array of tails. Suspicion was aroused and a scientist was asked to investigate. Use of a magnifying glass disclosed a hoax on a large scale. The man would catch one mole, shave off its hair, cut a round shoe lace into short bits, soak them in glue, then roll them in the hair. Dozens of tails were produced in this way.

Dog Mothers Pigs

Mothered by a dog, four pigs are thriving on a farm at Kilmacnevin, Donegal, Ireland. A sow on the farm gave birth to a litter of 17 pigs. About the same time the dog had puppies. The farmer drowned the puppies, so the dog adopted the four pigs from the sow.

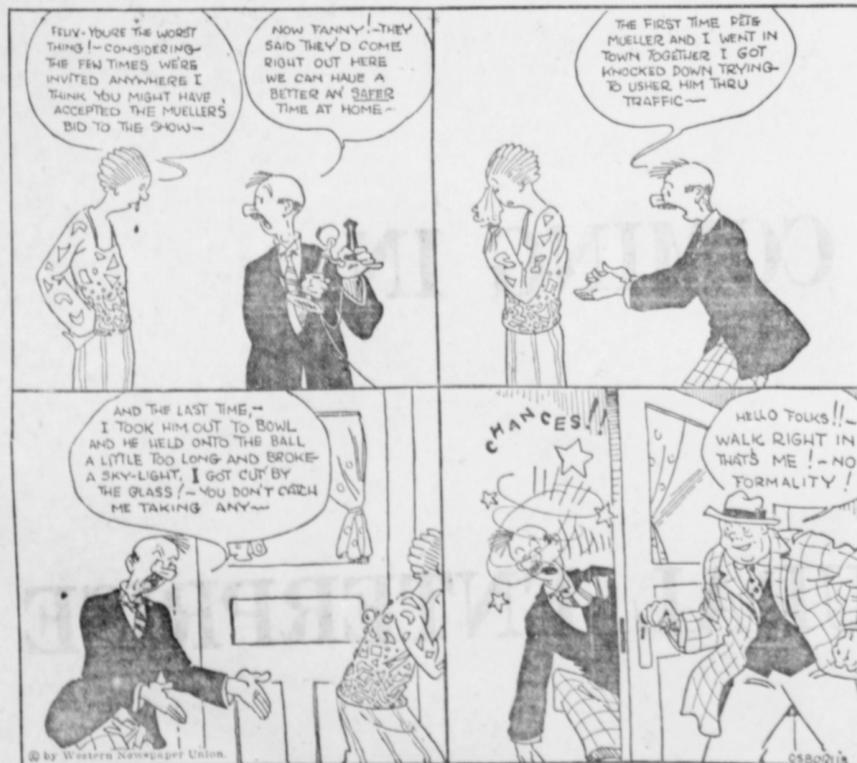
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