

# INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By T. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of the International Sunday School Course of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)  
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LESSON FOR SEPTEMBER 17

## PRISONER IN THE CASTLE.

LESSON TEXT—Acts 22.  
GOLDEN TEXT—He is my refuge and my fortress—Ps. 91:2.

Paul was rescued from the mob by the prompt action of Lydas, and was saved from scourging by revealing his Roman citizenship. Every true life, real social service, patriotism and national righteousness rest upon the value of conversion to Christ. The fundamental message of the Christian church must always be regeneration. With this message Billy Sunday is gripping the large cities, and Dr. John R. Mott is reaching the student life of the world.

**I. Paul's Account of His Early Life (v. 1-5).** By his use of the Greek tongue he obtained permission to deliver his address, and by his wise use of the Jewish language he gained the attention of the excited crowd. Paul asserted his Jewish origin. (Acts 21:39). Tarsus, where he was born, had a university which rivaled those of Athens and Alexandria, and Paul had probably heard its great philosophers. Paul was an educated man; he was brought up in Jerusalem from his early boyhood at the feet of Gamaliel its greatest teacher. Thus his religious training was according to the law of the fathers, and as "teaching the righteousness which is of the law," he was blameless (Phil. 3:6). He was zealous for God, doing what he thought he would have him do even when "persecuted this way," the way of forgiveness, salvation and righteousness. Jesus said, "I am the way." Paul was at this time an instrument in the hands of the rulers, carrying out their plot to put to death the man who was the "tradition of our fathers" (Gal. 1:14). He was not at all like those Pharisees whom Christ condemned as "white sepulchers." He was not a "bad man," we would term today, "a bad man."

**II. Paul's Turning Point (v. 6-21).** Paul seems to pick out three different crises in this rehearsal. (1) His interview with Christ, when he saw Jesus risen Savior (Cor. 9:1; 15:8). He had positive proof of the resurrection from the dead. This proof convicted him of sin. He had heard Jesus call. He had asked Jesus what he would have him do. He was ready to obey, and something was given him to do. The light which he met on that journey rested him in his mind and course. It gave him his directions. In obedience to the command, "Arise and go," he gained knowledge and skill. (2) He lights upon his interview with Ananias (v. 13) where he received personal help from an experienced Christian. In the darkness and conflict of those three days of loneliness the questions must have been: Could he leave rank, honor, position, and the service of his friends? Could he enter the service of a despised one and suffer reproach, danger and death? During this conflict he must have had before him the vision of what God would have him do and the work for which he chose him (v. 16-18). His vision and commission constituted a strong motive for right decision. During the vision he came into the light, and confessed his faith by his baptism. As a result of these three days and his interview with Ananias he came to know God's will more fully. The next step was of course (3) his public avowal (See Acts 2:38; Heb. 10:22; Rom. 10:13; 1 Cor. 6:11). The purpose of Paul's whole life and mission was changed.

**III. Paul's Dangerous Position (v. 20-30).** The mob gave him audience and his words about the Gentiles, his declaration that God had commanded him to go upon a mission to the Gentiles was an offense to the Jews, and his words fell like a "spark upon an inflammable mass of fanaticism." They broke out into a frenzy of excitement, and made preparations to stone him. An Oriental mob is hideous beyond degree, howling, yelling, cursing, gnashing their teeth, flinging their arms, casting off their garments (v. 23), throwing dust into the air to relieve their excitement and to express their execration. It was a manifestation of their uncontrollable rage. The opposition of a mob is no proof that the person it curses is wrong.

Immediately preparations stopped. The commander was called, and, learning that Paul was a free-born Roman citizen, he had cause to be afraid that he had gone too far.

To assert Roman citizenship falsely was punishable with death. Paul, with a great sum he had obtained his Roman citizenship, but Paul's reply was, "But I am Roman born."

Paul was well cared for after this, and, in order to find out why the Jews were so opposed to him, the captain summoned the Sanhedrin to meet the following day, thus unconsciously giving Paul another opportunity to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul appeared ready to be bound, and also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

He knew how his Lord had been bound (John 18:12), and he rejoiced in the fellowship of his sufferings (Phil. 3:10) yet he claims his right as a citizen for there is no need of morbidly seeking unnecessary disgrace or pain.

### Indian Tribes of Mexico.

The Yaquis take their name from the Rio Yaqui (Chief of river), which flows for 500 miles through the mountain gorges of Sonora and finally empties into the Gulf of California. Along this river the Indians make their homes of reed and adobe, with roofs of grass and mud. The Yaquis are a well-proportioned race, but they are prone to overindulgence in the native drink, mescal. Family ties are more or less negative among the men, the custom of exchanging wives being a popular practice of a not distant past. They are closely related to the Mayas, who from time to time have been forced into an unwillful alliance with their more bellicose kinsmen.

### Not Sufficient Inducement.

A well-known card player fell up against a well-developed face zone during an unusually fierce and sanguinary argument with the river, and quite a few other sixteen hundred dollars. As he rose to leave the gilded arena, the dealer remarked in a very cheerful manner: "Hold on a minute, we're going to have a little lunch of cold ham, etc., in a few minutes. Won't you join us?" "Join you be damned," roared the victim of the con game, as he turned on his heel with an air of disdain and quit the place: "do you think I can eat sixteen hundred dollars' worth of ham?"

### In One Way.

"I'd like to know one thing." "What is that?" "Isn't an ambulance charged the same thing as a settlement work?"

### New Flying Target.

To take the place of clay pigeons, glass balls and similar flying targets used by sportsmen in any practice, a small, popper-shaped device has been brought out in France, says the Popular Mechanics Magazine. It is made of steel and is shot into the air by the strong spring of an instrument which revolves it rapidly as it is released. The object can be made to ascend to a considerable height, and then planes for some distance before commencing to fall. As soon as it is struck by a shot, however, its rotary motion stops and it falls to the ground. Aside from the matter of cost, an advantage of the device is that it may be carried in the pocket.

### Triumph of Civilian Engineers.

Every fragment of modern warfare, from a battleship to an aeroplane and motor truck, is the creation of men who have devoted their lives to peaceful pursuits. It is, in truth, the inventors and engineers who have revolutionized industry, who have annihilated distance, who have made the world a neighborhood, and who will yet conquer our people from poverty and all fear of dependence upon charity, if we but prudently guard our free institutions—for man's hands are only beginning to awake to the infinite wealth-producing power of automatic machinery and mechanical power.—Engineering Magazine.

### Power Attributed to Gem.

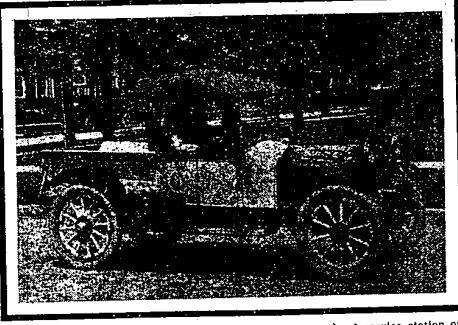
Five thousand years ago the Egyptians found in the lapis lazuli an amulet which healed the eyes and a significance has been attached to the gem because of that.

### Two Classes.

The college is divided into two classes—those who wear a stiff collar on Sundays and those who do not.—Tale Record.



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32x3 1/2	7.50	8.05	2.05	1.55	38x4 1/2	16.50	17.00	3.75	2.50
34x3 1/2	8.35	8.10	2.15	1.75	38x4 1/2	17.50	18.00	3.75	2.50
36x4	11.45	12.50	2.15	2.00	38x4 1/2	17.50	18.00	3.75	2.50
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