

"Missionary Aspects"

Lesson I 1889; Jan. 6; The Mission of John the Baptist, Mark i, 1-11.

This lesson teaches how the way had to be prepared for the coming of Christ. The "mountain" of unbelief must be "brought low," & the "valley" of lack of desire for the truth must be "exalted"; i.e., men must put away their false principles & know what it is to want the Gospel. God sent John Baptist to do this before our Savior should begin to make known the Gospel to the world. In like manner, God's providence always prepares the way for the Gospel.

No more remarkable instance of this could be devised than the providential preparation for the Gospel in the Sandwich Islands. American merchants had brought home accounts of their gross idolatry, & Christians were moved

with the missionary spirit toward them. But when Hiram Bingham + Asa Thurston, with 8 others, set out Oct. 23, 1819, they expected to encounter a long + dangerous opposition from the powerful priests of Paganism, before idolatry could be overthrown + Christianity established. Their first information, however, upon arriving March 30, 1820, was that the king had, early in November (just as they were starting) renounced the national religion, forbidding human sacrifices + destroying the idols; + had suppressed a rebellion which had followed. Thus the nation was waiting for a religion (Isa. xlii, 4) + the way of the Lord was prepared.

So whenever we are willing to tell men of our Savior's love, we may trust that God has prepared the way for us to do so.

W. H. Belden.

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Lesson II 1889; Jan. 13: "A Sabbath in the Life
of Jesus", Mark I, 21-34.

~~not used~~
~~superadded~~

Verse 22. - In a city (pop. 18000) of Hyderabad Kingdom, India, Rev. D. Jacob Chamberlain, missionary from American Reformed Dutch Church, has told me this experience of his: "We tried to preach Christ in the market-place, but the mob refused to hear; they tore up paving stones to kill us. But by an artifice I got permission to tell them one story saying then they might stone me. So I told them the story of all stones; I pictured in the graphic words the Master gave me that day our Savior nailed to the cross, for them, for me, for all the world when he died in agony: 'My God... why hast Thou forsaken Me?' When I told them that, I saw the men go + throw their stones away, + down their cheeks I saw the tears running; + when I told them how He rose again + ever lives to intercede for them, they didn't want to stone me. They

bought the Scriptures eagerly." [Not literally quoted; see - The Bible Tested, Am. Tract Soc^y, 15 cts.] Yes, "the doctrine" of our Savior "astonishes" when men hear it who have only heard heathenism.

V. 23-26; Rev. Dr. Hunter Corbett (China) has told me that belief in demoniac possession is common in China, & that our converted native preachers seem to cast out devils. Dr. C. - does not attempt to explain the fact, nor to deny it.

V. 28. - From "American Notes on Mission Fields: Titus Coan"; Am. Tract Soc^y, 10 cts. or so. - Gospel preaching is commonly attended with wondrous fame, where it faces the superstitions of heathendom: - In 1837 in the Sandwich-islands, whole villages gathered & made their homes around the mission-house. Two-thirds of the entire population came. Within the radius of a mile the little cabins clustered thick as
never completed

Bridgeton, Feb. 1, 1889.

Dear Brother,

I called the General Committee together at the hour which the Ministers present on Wednesday last thought most available for us all; but of our 9, only 4 were present. Pardon my urgency in saying that we cannot get this enterprise organized without a full attendance of the Pastors. After the General & the Sub-Committee^s have been selected, then, I imagine, we ministers may have less responsibility; but surely we have clearly agreed with Mr. Mills & one another to lay aside for the time, when necessary, conflicting engagements. It seems reasonable to ask that those who do attend, shall not give up their time, in vain. Please do attend the Gen. Com. mtg. this Saturday evg., 8 o'clk., 1st Presb. Chapel.

W. H. B.

The meeting tonight appointed pas-
tors Cass, Payson, Stultz, & Beadle,
with Ch'm'n Belden, to bring in a
list of candidates for the various sub-
committees. Please attend for this
purpose, at 7 p.m. Sat. Evg., i.e., one
hour before general meeting; 1st Pres-
byterian chapel.

Bridgeton, New-Jersey.

FEB. 1 '1889

W. H. Belden

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