

## FROM WHERE WE STAND - Let's Just Let It Rain

Not long ago a neighbor mowed his hay one evening when the weather was threatening. When we asked if he weren't afraid it would get wet, he answered, "You can't get it up till you get it down."

This was so reminiscent of some of the observations Dad used to make on the weather that we had to reflect on some of his sayings. Dad used to say, "Many a day's work has been lost by people waiting for it to rain." Our neighbor knew this. He didn't deliberately mow his hay so that it would get a soaking, but he knew he would never cut it if he waited until he were absolutely certain it would not get wet.

When we were boys on the farm, we thought it would be a wonderful thing if we could turn the weather on or off at will, and we expressed these sentiments to Dad. When he said, "It is a blessing that we can't control the weather," we could not understand why he thought so.

At a meeting of farmers a few weeks ago the discussion got around to the weather, as it usually does at a gathering of rural people. One farmer said it looked like rain but he thought he didn't need any more for awhile. (He was in the midst of hay making). Another farmer in the group opined, "I figured we need it whenever we get it."

By and large, we believe most rural people have this philosophy. They know their livelihood—in fact, their very lives—depend on the weather, and are willing to accept whatever comes.

We were rejoicing, with the fields and gardens, in the midst of a day-long sod soaker earlier in the summer. The soil had begun to dry out and plants had that melancholy look they get when they need a good long drink.

We were enjoying the revival of the plants and thinking what a wonderful rain this was and how many farmers would be able to pay off a few more of their debts because of this rain, when we met one of our friends who had planned a day at the ballgame. "Ain't this a lousy day?" was his summary of the weather.

Now he is not usually a grumpy

sort, and he does not normally complain any more about the weather than most of us, but the weather of the day just didn't fit in with his plans. That is what Dad meant. The rain that made one farmer's corn crop and spoiled another's hay crop caused him to miss out on an expected day of entertainment at the ball park.

One farmer told us recently he had lost all confidence in the weather forecast carried by this newspaper and had decided henceforth to put all his confidence in a certain television personality. On the following day he made a special effort to get the barn chores done in time to catch the television weather forecast.

Clear skies and high temperatures were predicted for several days. The farmer put his boys to mowing and crimping hay because he expected to get it made before bad weather caught him.

Can you guess? It began raining before noon and didn't clear off for two days.

And this brings us back to where we started and to another saying of Dad's. He would pique the curiosity of his young sons by saying when they commiserated about the rain "I'll tell you what let's do if it is going to rain! Let's just let it rain."

And isn't that the best thing to do after all?

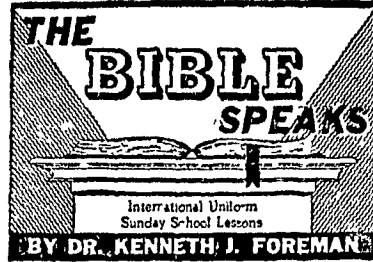
At least that's how it looks from where we stand.

Secretary of Agriculture Freeman said recently, "We must seek to meet human needs, rather than dispose of surplus stocks, in our special programs for sending food to countries in need."

"The great opportunity in Food for Peace lies in the role it can play in giving free societies the victory. American agricultural abundance can be of invaluable influence if effectively used. For to those who are hungry—food is more meaningful than a man in space."

Feeding the hungry peoples of the world is a noble project, but to be effective it must be done with "no strings attached".

At least that's how it looks from where we stand.



Bible Material: Matthew 9:9-13, 10:1-4; Luke 5:27-32  
Devotional Reading: Psalm 116:12-19

### Turnaround

Lesson for July 16, 1961

THE names of Christ's Twelve Apostles are given several times in the New Testament, but never twice quite the same list. There is one name, among others, which turns up on all the lists, namely Matthew.



The first time we hear of this man is in an incident which is told by Luke just as it is in the gospel by Matthew, with one interesting difference; Luke says the man's name Dr. Foreman was Levi. This curious difference of name has been explained in different ways, but the simplest explanation is the traditional one: Levi was the man's name in his earlier days, but Matthew was his name after he became a member of Jesus' inner circle, the "Twelve." If this is the case (as we shall assume it is) then the change of name may suggest a total change in the man himself. Knowing Jesus made such a difference in his life that his old name no longer would do; he had to have a new name to go with the new man.

#### The Man Nobody Loved

Nobody loves a bureaucrat, though the civilized world has never been able to get along without them. They are the people who run the machinery and do the paper-work of government. If you sometimes think your state or national capital is in a mess, take out all the bureaucrats and then see how much worse the mess is. Back in Levi-Matthew's day, in the Roman Empire, one class of bureaucrats were universally hated: the tax-collectors. Remember Palestine was a conquered country, Rome held it down with an army of occupation. The tax-collectors were working for Rome, and so were hated even more than native Romans were, if possible. They

were not only unpatriotic, they were usually dishonest. There were no fixed tax rates; whatever the collector could take over and above a certain amount, he could keep for himself. Only the chief collectors got rich; and Levi-Matthew was not a chief collector. His office was probably just a table on the road, perhaps by the city gate. Wherever it was anybody carrying anything, leading a mule or camel carrying a load, had to stop and pay up before going on his way.

#### Man Of Decision

It has always been a puzzle. Why did this man leave his business all at once? He just showed up and walked off, leaving the table and the money-bag and the soldier right there by the road. He did not stop to balance his books, he did not write a letter of resignation, he did not take time to think. He just got up and went with Jesus, when Jesus said "Follow me." One explanation of this is that maybe the man Levi, or Matthew, hated his job and had hated it for a long time. But he couldn't see how he could leave it. "A man must live," he may have said to himself. One day the great moment came. He didn't have to live! When Jesus said, "He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it," Matthew didn't have to wonder what that meant. He lost his living, he found a life, when he went out with Jesus. That decision changed his life, changed his job, changed his name, changed his life.

#### Man Of No Distinction

Matthew is never mentioned in the "Acts of the Apostles." He was not, like Paul and Peter, a man of distinction. But when you look it up, you find that most of the Twelve were also men of distinction. Nothing is said in the Acts about more than a few of them. We can take heart from this. Jesus deliberately chose a man like Matthew, and this means a great deal to most of us. There are hundreds of people with no distinction to every man of distinction ("Men of distinction" in the ads, are generally pictures holding in their hands what we wipe out their distinction in a hurry.) Yet this man Matthew, obscure as he was and remained, had two distinctions that every Christian, even the humblest, may have. For one thing, he was numbered and treasured as a member of the Twelve. For another, he passed on the teachings of Jesus.

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## THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson

### Farewell

Editors Note: For the past several years we have printed THIS WEEK in Washington in this column. We will let Mr. Davidson tell you in his own words why the column is being discontinued. The following letter received this week speaks for itself. WATCH THIS SPACE FOR A NEW FEATURE IN COMING WEEKS.

Dear Editor:

It is with considerable regret that I have found it necessary to discontinue issuance of the THIS WEEK —In Washington column after more than five years of publication.

I still maintain the same interests in the growth, understanding and prosperity

of rural America which originally prompted me to offer the column to like-minded editors.

To those who have made the column available to their readers over the past few years I am grateful.

Now, because I am 73 years old and want to devote more time to my religious work, I deem it advisable to discontinue the column. In saying good-bye I should like to give you some background information which I have hesitated to do heretofore, because I wanted acceptance or rejection of the column solely on its merits.

I began the column in 1956 as what I conceived to be a contribution to the understanding of agricultural issues and problems.

At no time have I attempted to obtain personal gain from this column, nor have I used it for personal publicity.

During my 73 years, I served eight as an ordained minister of the gospel, published a 74-year-old nation-

al church magazine for four years and for more than half a century I have taught Sunday School classes continuously and still teach high school boys. I have about 500 young people in a religious summer camp on my farm each July and August.

I shall greatly miss the weekly column, though I hope that two or three times a year I may be permitted to visit with you and your readers through a column when I have something I regard as important to discuss.

In saying au revoir I want to "give credit where credit is due" and mention that Fred Bailey of Washington, whom I believe knows more about agriculture than any other writer in America, has been most helpful in preparing the agricultural columns of THIS WEEK—In Washington.

Finally, I want to say to you, the editors of rural papers serving agriculture, that I believe you are doing one of the best jobs in America in saving this country from Communism, Socialism and Atheism.

Cordially yours,  
Clinton Davidson

#### RID LAWN OF MOSS

John C. Harper II, Penn State extension agronomist, warns that moss on lawns is usually due to low fertility, poor drainage improper watering, too much shade, or a combination of these factors. Remove moss by hand or by spraying with copper sulfate. Apply at the rate of five ozs. of copper sulfate in four gallons of water per 1,000 sq. feet. After the moss is removed correct the cause.

## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX

TO IRRIGATE LAWNS DURING THE DAY—Home owners are urged to refrain from watering the lawn during the evening or night hours. Lawns should be watered during the daytime so the grass will have time to dry before night-fall. Watering at night keeps grass wet longer periods of time and turf diseases will have a better chance. When watering it is best to make the applications heavy so that the water soaks into the turf for several inches, rather than to water several times a week with only a light application.

TO PREPARE SOIL FOR SUMMER SEEDING — Farmers planning to make a mid-August seeding of alfalfa should start preparing the ground 4 to 6 weeks prior to the seeding operation. As soon as the small grain and straw is removed the ground should be either plowed or disced, or by discing or harrowing will kill the weeds and obtain a firm seedbed. Whether the ground is plowed or disced several times seems to make little difference in the results either method may be used to prepare the seed-bed.

TO PROVIDE FRESH WATER—During the hot summer months all livestock and poultry should have free access to fresh water at all times. During any month of the year fresh water is essential to top production, however, in hot weather the animals will consume larger amounts of water in an effort to keep comfortable. More efficient production during these periods will repay this special effort.

TO RECOGNIZE COMPLETE TESTS—This valuable service is available to all land owners at a very low charge. Land on which any type of late summer seeding is to be made should be tested for both phosphorus and other soil elements. Alfalfa and other seedings should be made only after the complete soil test requirement has been satisfied. Land that it to be seeded with winter grain and then to alfalfa or clover next spring should be tested and the lime applied and worked into the soil this fall before the grain is seeded. Get the soil tested soon and avoid last-minute delays.

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