

From Where We Stand . . .

I've Heard That Song Before

There was a popular song several years ago that went, "It seems to me I've heard that song before."

Some farmers adopt this as a theme song every season about this time of year when the seed salesman begin to put in an appearance on the farms. Every year they hear the same theme—to wit, "Order your seeds early to be sure you get the variety you want."

And most years a lot of it is just sales talk. Most years there are seeds aplenty, and the old song is just another of the tricks of the trade. We are not saying that the philosophy is wrong. We believe it is a good idea to plan ahead and order early to fill your needs.

But this year, it appears that the song has more basis in fact than it has had for a long time. It seems that there is less sales pitch, less fantasy, less crowding in the corridors of the sales rooms, and more sincere concern for shortages of some lines, among the seedsmen.

The shortages appear to be most critical in the popular lines of alfalfa and in Pennscoff red clover, but if these shortages do become severe, and farmers are forced to use other grasses and legumes as substitutes, these varieties may become scarce too.

Poor seed producing conditions in the Western seed growing areas during the past season, along with the short supplies of forages in the Northwestern part of the United States may exhaust the current supply of the most popular varieties.

But the current season's crop will be only one phase of the problem. The farmer who has to substitute a less desirable alfalfa for the variety which does best on his farm will be making hay from that variety for several years.

Even if you have heard the old song before, and even though you are fed up to the eyes with it, this is a good year to do what the seed salesman have been urging you to do all along. Order early to be sure you get the varieties you want.

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

● Seedsmen

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age developed. We knew last fall we were having good movement on Vernal Alfalfa and we ordered extra to take care of any shortage.

We have already increased our orders for sorghum supplies to meet the demand for emergency forage crops. Hybrid sorghum-sudan crosses look very good for emergency pasture, green chop or hay.

Soybeans appear to be in short supply everywhere.

TONY BIESIOT, Manager
Pister Associated Growers,
Lancaster

Farmers are always told to book early to be sure that they get the varieties they want, but, "this year we are not kidding." That is the true picture.

We have bought long in anticipation of the shortage. Perhaps other seed suppliers have done the same. Come spring, there may not be as serious a shortage as we expect. It may be partly scare tactics on the part of suppliers, but there are some definite shortages.

Good quality legume material is practically non-existent at present. I suppose second quality material of lower purity and lower germination will probably be available.

I talked with our West Coast supplier, Taylor-Wescott (San Francisco), on Monday (January 21) and he said all the major lines of alfalfa are sold out.

Buffalo alfalfa is non-existent. The F.D. — 100 (a Flemish type exclusive with P.A.G. in the United States) is sold out.

Pennscoff red clover is definitely unavailable. Alsike clover is still available, mammoth

and medium red clover are still available and appear to be in fair supply.

Western production facilities went all to pieces the past few years. More acres were planted last year but less seed was harvested. Frost in Nebraska and extremely hot weather during

pollination in some areas cut the production. Most corn hybrids are in



TONY BIESIOT

good supply. Single cross material, which has received good acceptance with the farmers will probably sell out. Bookings of single cross lines in major corn belt areas have doubled each year for five consecutive years to a point where in some areas the sale of single crosses is over 50 per cent of the total sales.

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Income Tax

More pencils will be worn out on farms, more midnight oil will be burned and more frantic figuring will be done in the next few weeks than at any other time during the year.

The annual accounting to Uncle Sam for the profits you made or didn't make during the past year is fast approaching.

One change this year, we believe more than passing interest for many of the farmers in the county.

The "investment credit" allowance was revised under the revenue act of 1962. The changes are explained in the Farmer's Tax Guide now available, but we believe some points bear stressing.

First, the changes allow farmers and businessmen that purchased certain types of depreciable property to take a tax deduction equal to seven per cent of the purchase price.

To qualify for the deduction, the property must have a useful life of at least four years, and to get the seven per cent allowance, the property must have a useful life of eight years.

But we believe that the most important part of the provision is that the investment credit is deducted from the farmer's tax liability—the amount owed after the tax is figured.

The tax guide also contains the new rates for determining depreciation of farm machinery. The tables replace the old charts which were compiled before the era of "high speed" farming.

Another feature of the tax law includes farmers in the section for partial tax deductible pension plans for self-employed persons.

Every farmer, whether he figures his own tax return or pays someone else to do it for him, should become thoroughly familiar with the new tax rulings. Study of the Farmer's Tax Guide could be the most profitable time you spent all winter.

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RICHARD GODSHALK
Hoffman Seeds, Landisville
Basically, I think it boils down to this. A farmer will be
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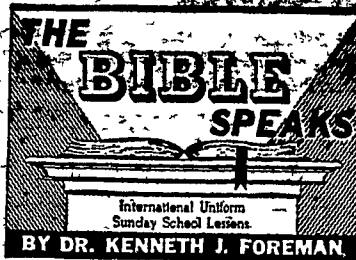
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Bible Material: Mark 3:7 through 4:34
Devotional Reading: John 16:12-13, 25-28.

Truth In Stories

Lesson for January 27, 1963



Dr. Foreman

fact, says with exaggeration we can easily understand, that Jesus said nothing in public that was not a parable. The reader will find even in Jesus' simplest statements something of parable and of poetry.

What strikes many a person as odd is not that Jesus told stories as His favorite way of making a point. Many others have used the same method. The odd feature is the reason that Jesus gave, why He used parables so much. Most people would think that putting truth into stories would make it easier to take.

"—at lowly doors"

Now there is some truth in that. There is a patented device for administering medicine, called by the drug company manufacturing it, a "spansule." Everybody has taken capsules; that's a fairly large dose at once. If a patient is allergic to capsules, if a strong medicine makes him sick, or if he has to take several kinds of medicine, then the spansule may be just the thing, for it is filled with various kinds of medicine, and some take much longer to melt than others, so the "spansule" is a neat way of giving medicine half the day or longer, in many doses, but all at once.

Parables are a little like that. The parable is a spansule: it is easily swallowed, and the patient doesn't realize how long it will stick with him. He keeps remembering the parable, and thinking about it, and while it may need some time before the man can absorb the new truth into his sys-

tem, the parable stays there, in his memory, it keeps talking to him, and finally he accepts the truth—indeed it may seem as if he had always known it—which he would have rejected if it had been presented to him (as it were) raw. The poet Tennyson long ago remarked that

"Truth embodied in a tale
Shall enter in at lowly doors."

Truth unpersuasive

Oh, it doesn't always act like that. Some men resist truth no matter how it comes to them. Put the truth bluntly, and they will say NO. Put the truth in a tale, a poem, a parable, and they will say, Nonsense!

But what has all this got to do with Jesus? Simply that He gave an unexpected answer to the question why He used parables; in fact, He gave the answer before any one got around to asking Him why. He told stories, He seems to have said, to keep people from understanding what He meant. He "seems to have said," but probably was sarcastic in saying it, that if He did not speak in parables somebody might believe Him! Now we know that Jesus wanted of all things to be taken seriously, to be believed; and we cannot think it like Him to keep people deliberately from knowing the truth that might save them.

And why not?

We must recall the conditions under which Jesus taught. There were the immense crowds, always there; and there the few true disciples. Jesus had to interest the disciples, and interest others in becoming disciples, and at the same time wear down the curiosity-seeking crowds. The parable would do both. Some would find the stories just silly or childish, and they would lose interest. Some would find those simple tales amazingly fascinating, and would stay around to learn just what Jesus meant.

The question still remains, why do some people listen well, some badly and some not at all? Jesus said it was like a man sowing seed on different kinds of soil. The seed may be always the same; but some sprouts and dies, some never sprouts at all, and some brings forth a great harvest. Truth is a seed, and the harvest can be great . . . or it can be nothing; it depends on the kind of person the listener is. God never makes a person believe. Thought-control is an ambition of dictators and tyrants. God offers truth to all; but only "he that hath an ear" will pay much attention.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

To Operate Milking Machines Properly

Many dairymen attempt to operate too many milking machines at one time and therefore allow the milkers on too long. Most men cannot operate more than two units along with properly preparing the next cow and then need help in carrying the milk to the milkhouse. The machine tugging on a dry udder will cause irritation and bring on udder trouble.

To Open Field Drainage Lines

Land owners with tile drain installations should be sure that the outlets are open and not under silt or water. If the outlet to the



MAX M. SMITH

drainage system is not open and free-flowing, then the tile will silt shut and the system will be worthless. A few minutes with a shovel to permit the water to get away easily will lengthen the life of the system.

To Install Large Septic Tanks

All disposal systems should be designed to handle larger amounts of water and waste; the trend in every home and on most farm is toward the greater use of water for many purposes. A 1000-gallon septic tank should be the minimum size for the average home and even larger tanks for the dairy farm. Drain fields in several directions should be dug to handle the liquid overflow. Special-Cut-culr is available.

To Shovel Snow Slowly

Snow shoveling has been fat to many people in the past; this can be attributed to excess effort when not accustomed to it, by shoveling too fast, or by shoveling after eating. If snow must be moved by hand labor, take it easy by shoveling slow, and rest often. Most of us are just not used to this kind of strenuous work.