

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Course Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)

LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 7

RUTH CHOOSES THE TRUE GOD.

LESSON TEXT—Ruth 1:6-18. (Read entire book.)
GOLDEN TEXT—Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.—Ruth 1:16

The book of Ruth is a great love story, full of deep spiritual suggestiveness. Amid the tales of war, deceit, success and failure, this story most beautifully illustrates another side of the life of the Israelites. The author of the book is supposed to have been the same as the writer of Judges, perhaps Samuel.

I. "There Was a Famine in the Land." This famine drove Elimelech, his wife Naomi and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, into the land of Moab, even as Abram before them "went down" into Egypt. The immigrant sons married in that land, one of them becoming the husband of Ruth. Through this Israelitish alliance Ruth learned of the true God and the record of this book reveals God to all who turn to him in sincerity and truth. This suggests the essential missionary character of the Old Testament. After the death of her husband and sons Naomi, hearing of returning prosperity in the homeland (1:16), elected to return to her own people.

II. "Entreat Me Not to Leave Thee." This story puts to silence all of the mother-in-law jokes. When Naomi thought they had gone far enough she sought to dismiss the younger women and expressed to them the tender affection which existed between them. A woman in an eastern land can find rest only in the house of her husband and these young widows stood but poor chance of securing husbands among those who hated their race. Moreover we must remember that they were penniless. There seemed to be nothing for them to gain if they proceeded any farther (v. 13). Orpah reluctantly and tearfully turned back but Ruth clung to Naomi (v. 14). This illustrates our experience when we have to decide whether to leave friends, home and everything that we may follow Christ or, on the other hand, have to choose the things which are good and refuse to follow the best, (Matt. 10:37; Luke 14:33).

III. "Whither Thou Goest I Will Go." Naomi gave Ruth another opportunity to go back to her people and this time bases her appeal upon the love of Ruth for Orpah (v. 15). The word Ruth means "friendship," and one of the strongest motives for a loving nature to forsake the Lord is the love for those that are of the world. Many young men and young women have had such loves but they usually result in making shipwreck of faith. Read II Cor. 5:14, 15; Rom. 10:37. This text caused Ruth to count fully the cost (Luke 14:25-33). No more beautiful nor immortal words can be found in all literature than Ruth's reply (vv. 16, 17). Ruth's words are still sung as best expressing our song of life devotion. They have furnished inspiration for countless lives, sermons and stories, and for some of the earth's greatest musicians as well. They most wonderfully illustrate our attitude towards him "whom not having seen ye love" (I Peter 1:8).

IV. The Sequel. At Bethlehem Ruth had no other thought than to cling to her mother-in-law, even in poverty and a life of lowly service. She did her menial duties faithfully, and displayed more of the real heroism of faith than that shown in the daring exploits recorded in the other history (Judges) of her day. The truest hero is not the reckless participant in Europe's battlefields, nor is he found in the mad struggle for commercial supremacy, but more often in the self-sacrificing acts of tender women and in the common round of life's duties. Ruth in a humble hut with Naomi was better off and better satisfied than to have lived in the finest palace in Moab (Phil. 1:23). Through all of this love and devotion Ruth was being fitted for a larger sphere of influence in which she was enabled to give to Naomi the happiest life possible to her. Not once is Ruth's beauty suggested but she had the more attractive attributes of goodness, kindness and courtesy. She may have had personal beauty but her character far outshone the physical.

This lesson is a suggestive one for Decision day in our Sunday schools. Give all an opportunity to choose and to follow even as Ruth did. For the little folks tell the story simply "as to a little child."

Emphasize the beauty and value of lovingly serving our elders. Naomi is no less a heroine. Her name means "pleasant, winsome." True, she suggested a new name Mara, "bitterness," but her sorrow was not for herself but for others,—"It grieveth me much for your sakes" (1:13). Naomi made the religion and worship of Jehovah so attractive as to win a most notable convert. It is our privilege to make religion attractive. This gift cannot be bought nor commanded, but by the power of the holy spirit and through the fellowship of Christ may be the experience of all.

Song and Story.....

VIGIL.

I have waited with my mother down the dim, uncertain ages;
I have waited in the cave and hut and tower;
From the first dawn's nameless fear To the death list posted here
I have slain my soul in waiting, hour by hour.

Under pelt of beast, trap-taken, or the leaves by chang winds blown,
Under tonic, peasant hemp or cloth of gold,
By the fire in low flame burning,
I have crouched in silence, yearning
And, as now, my helpless heart has waited cold.

Ancient is the part I play—like a cloak of heavy mourning
I take it, bending from a million women's hands
They have worn it, they have torn it
Agonizing they have borne it,
And its folds are dark with heartbreak of all lands.

Oh, the woman figure, standing with the face towards the horizon;
Oh, the hand above the eyes to ease the strain!
Gaunt and barren, stricken, lonely,
With empty memories only,
We have stood, the dry-eyed sentries of our pain.

Nothing can we do to stop them, nothing can we say to hold them;
Taking sunlight, laughter, youth, they swing away,
And the things they leave grow strange,
House and street and voices change,
But the women and the burdened hours stay.

I have waited with my mother down the dim uncertain ages;
While my children die, I pray the centuries through,
And I wonder in my fear
At the death list posted here
If God has left the women waiting too!
—Hortense Flexner.

In honor of a visit paid to his plant by the governor of the state an automobile manufacturer once had a complete car assembled in something like seven minutes.

Some weeks after this feat was heralded in the daily papers, the 'phone at the factory rang vigorously.

"Is it true that you assembled a car in seven minutes at your factory?" the voice asked.

"Yes," came the reply. "Why?"

"Oh, nothing," said the calm inquirer, "only I've got the car."

His Own Press Agent.

The small boy was dressed in football costume, and, with a jaunty air, he walked into the local newspaper office and handed the editor a scrap of dirty paper. On it was a brief account of a juvenile football match which had taken place that afternoon.

Glancing at the report, the editorial eye caught the words: "Jones kicked a magnificent goal, the finest ever seen on the ground."

"Wos is Jones?" asked the editor.

The youngster turned the thumb of his right hand proudly to his breast.

"I'm Jones," he said calmly.

During the flood of 1913, Lima received her share of the overflowing waters of the Ohio. The streets turned into rivers.

A dripping man, who apparently was suffering from an oversupply of wet goods inside as well as out, staggered into a blacksmith shop. With a thick voice he asked for a monkey wrench, and getting one, waded back into the street.

As he did not return immediately the blacksmith went to the door to look for him. He was standing in three feet of water, working over a hydrant.

"Say, what are you doing there?" called the owner of the wrench.

The drunk paused, braced himself against the current, and called back with true civic pride: "Somebody's got to shut this water off. We can't waste it like this."

Why he Kept Boarders.

The man from the city was inspecting the country boarding house with the idea of spending the summer there with his family. "Of course," he began, "you have plenty of pure milk and the best of butter in the state on your table."

"No."

"Fresh beef and lamb every day, killed on the premises?"

"I haint"

"Allkinds of vegetables in abundance, large orchard of choice fruits; cultivated berries picked every morning?"

"Say, mister! If I had all of them things on this farm I wouldn't have to take boarders."

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

SOMERSET COUNTY COURT RECORDS.

Conveyances of real estate by trustees, executors and administrators, in the Orphans' court of Somerset county:

Joseph Penrod and John Henry Penrod, executors of the estate of Josiah sold a house and lot in Boswell borough to Frank C. Elden for \$1,000.

Irvin G. Walker and Wm. G. Berkeley administrators of the estate of Samuel A. Berkeley, Stonycreek township, sold a 131-acre farm in Stonycreek township to Irvin G. Meyers for \$1,505.

Louis C. Colburn, trustee of the estate of Ezra J. Weigley, Somerset borough, sold a 50-acre farm in Somerset township to Chas. W. Walker for \$2675.

Henry L. Brant, executor of the estate of Jacob L. Brant, of Brothers-valley twp., sold a 99-acre farm in that township to Harry W. Brant for \$5800.

J. Wesley Barkley, administrator of the estate of Wm. Bearl, Jefferson twp., sold a ten-acre farm in Jefferson twp. to Edith Baker for \$600.

Harvey Custer and Samuel Custer, administrators of the estate of Mary A. Saylor, Allegheny township, sold an 80-acre farm in that township to Lewis J. Eskin for \$1800.

Stephen McClintock, administrator of the estate of Levi McClintock, Addison twp., sold three tracts of land aggregating 226 acres, in Addison township to James McClintock for \$1,925.

Matilda Burow, administrator of the estate of Christopher Burow, Addison township, sold a house in Listonburg to Annie Show for \$1,170.

Cyrus W. Truxal, administrator of the estate of Mary A. Beachley, Meyersdale, sold a house and lot in Meyersdale to Urias William Beachley for \$3,050.

Ella M. Trimpey, executrix of the estate of W. H. Trimpey, Upper Turkeyfoot township, sold a 135-acre farm in Upper Turkeyfoot twp to Peter A. Kreger for \$8,500.

Robert M. Luther, trustee of the estate of John A. Luther, Scalp Level, sold a ten-acre farm in Paint twp. to Robt. L. Wissinger for \$1,200.

Samuel G. Walker, administrator of the estate of Albert Hillegas, Allegheny township sold a 409 acre farm to Geo. E. and C. A. Schiller for \$5200 and another form of 122 acres in Allegheny twp to Robt. McLuckie for \$950.

PROTECT SHEEP BY KILLING WORTHLESS DOGS.

Dog laws that will impose such heavy taxes that worthless dogs will be disposed of, is the salvation of the sheep industry, according to W. C. Coffey, of the University of Illinois, a sheep raising expert, who addressed livestock breeders during Farmers' Week at The Pennsylvania State College. He sounded a note of warning, saying that if the business of sheep raising is ever to attain the prominence it deserves, the wool bearing animals will have to be better protected. He advocates police supervision of dogs.

Mr. Coffey urged the organization of sheep and wool clubs to augment the interest in the industry, saying that instead of there being 34 sheep to each farm, there should be fifty to seventy-five. He could see no reason why at least 75 per cent of Pennsylvania farms should not have sheep.

"Flocks," he said, "should become the rule rather than the exception and the farm flocks should be larger than at present." He urged co-operation among the sheep owners, advising that flocks be similar in breeding and that methods of caring for sheep and marketing be the same throughout each community.

CASES FOR FEBRUARY COURT.

Among the cases recently docketed for trial at the February term of court are the following:

Charles Saylor and Andrew Saylor larceny of two cans of lard on information of John Houpt.

William Day, larceny of pork and shoulders, which he is alleged to have hidden in a woodpile near Acosta, on information of Mary Warnick.

Ray Madden, desertion of his wife and four children on information of Mrs. Jennie Madden.

Frank G. Larnie, slander and abuse, on information of his wife. The couple reside in Elk Lick. The prosecutrix avers that her husband is jealous of her, and while in those fits he calls her vile names and charges her with infidelity.

News From the Front.

He had waited thirty minutes for a slow waiter to bring his dinner.

"Now," he said to the waiter, "can you bring some cheese and some coffee?"

"Yes, sir, in a minute, sir."

"And," continued the diner, "while you are away you might send me a postal every now and then."

Iron Ore.
Next to the United States, Germany and France are the largest producers of iron in the world.

HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.

Items of Interest Culled from Our Exchanges.

A civil service examination will be conducted in the Windber postoffice for a clerk carrier Feb. 13th, with a view of filling a need of an additional carrier for the local service.

M. J. Bartol of Beaverdale has been granted a patent telephone attachment for speeding trains. Mr. Bartol's device makes it possible to have telephone service on coaches of fast trains.

In a year of slump in the mining industry, the Lochrie interests in this county made the tremendous record of an increase of 183 per cent in coal output. It is doubtful if any other mining concern of its size in the country has made a record anything like this.

Jesse Crist, a wealthy Jenner township farmer, has instituted partition proceedings against Daniel B. Zimmerman, the well known coal operator, concerning a tract of eight acres of land lying in Jenner and Quemahoning townships. Crist claims a three-fourths interest in the land.

John Skibo, a miner employed by the Scalp Level Coal Mining Company and boarding at the Somerset House in Paint borough, has returned to his hotel from Philadelphia, where he had his right eye taken out at the Willis Eye and Ear hospital. The eye was pierced about a month ago by a splinter of rock following a blast.

The estate of Annie E. Sterner in Black township, consisting of several lots and a two-story frame dwelling was sold by Administrator J. R. Haines last Saturday afternoon to Isaac Keller, of the same township for \$825. Mr. Keller and his family, it is understood, will shortly remove to their new residence in the suburban part of South Rockwood.

Samuel Holberson, an employe of the Quemahoning Creek Coal Company at Harrison, is greatly distressed over an accident to his four-year old son last week, which permanently crippled the boy. Young Holberson had been visiting his grandparents at Houtzdale and while at play about a corn cutter, his hand was severed.

William Coughenour whose death was mentioned in this paper, died at Confluence from the effects of a dose of arsenic taken in mistake for salts two years ago. He failed to find relief from the terrible effects of the poisoning although he had consulted doctors and specialists in many cities. At the time of taking the deadly stuff by mistake he was proprietor of a hotel.

Caroline Strizak, a daughter of John Strizak, formerly of Windber, was brutally assaulted in her father's jewelry store in Twin Rocks recently by Stanko Bowich, a Croatian. Bowich was captured after a posse had chased him five miles and was utterly exhausted. He had disposed of money and jewelry taken from the safe in the store, but two watches were found in his pockets which were identified by Mr. Strizak. Miss Strizak was felled to the floor and feigned death.

State Highway Commissioner Edward M. Bigelow has filed a bill in equity in the Somerset County Court asking for a mandatory injunction requiring the Quemahoning Branch R. R. Company, a subsidiary of the B. & O. to remove its tracks at a crossing over a state road near the new mining town of Bugecker, in the Jenners field. It is alleged that the railroad illegally constructed the crossing in that it neglected to get a permit from the Public Service Commission.

RULE ON CREDITORS ET AL

In re assigned estate of S. D. Livengood—

January 12, 1915, a petition was presented to the Court of Common Pleas of Somerset County, by Chas. H. Ealy, Assignee of the said S. D. Livengood, praying the court for leave to grant an option upon all the right, title, interest, claim and demand of the said S. D. Livengood, of, in and to the coal and freelay underlying certain tracts of land situate in Somerset and Stonycreek townships, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, containing in the aggregate eleven hundred (1100) acres, more or less, and known as the "Adams Mines" property. Said option being to purchase the interest of the said S. D. Livengood of, in and to the said described property at and for the sum of Twenty Thousand, (\$20,000) Dollars, less charges and expenses, as set forth in said petition in the sum of \$1,000 and to extend for a period of sixty (60) days. Whereupon the Court made the following order:

"January 12, 1915, presented and rule awarded to show cause why the option should not be given as prayed for,—the rule to be served by publication in two newspapers in the county. Returnable Jan. 25, 1915 at 10 a. m.

BY THE COURT,
W. H. Ruppel, P. J.
Extracts from the records,
SEAL Certified this 12th day of January, 1915.
A. J. Heiple, Prothonotary.

THE GOD OF GAIN.

We move by some strange impulse on our way;
Some secret motive rules the simple course,
The meagre compensation, meet for toil,
May be illusive when the life is spent,
Our native instinct feeds upon the vague
Uncertain future, that may seem so real;
With grim tenacity we cling to hope
And thus survive the ravages of years.
Enslaved in bondage to the gods of gain,
Ambition leads her servants ever on,
Forbidding rest or pacive thoughts to soothe
Their noble spirits in a sense of peace.
The glory of the conquest is the charm
Inspiring man to sacrifice and toil.
'T were just to strive and greater to succeed
But not destroy the priceless gift of God.
The cost of toil, the human sacrifice,
The fierce relentless grind of mortal man
Extort their toll at last and leave him prone
To frailties in the waning years of life.
What profits man to gain his end and leave
A gloomy record to the deathless past?
What gain is there acquired in wealth or fame
What compensation justifies the cost,
When lives are steeped in such incessant toil
And man creates the penalty of fate?
A royal freedom is his heritage,
Dominion over all the creatures here;
The soil submits to his controlling hand
And yields its fruitage for his recompense,
And man is master in the form of God.
His power and freedom should he maintain
Nor yield in bondage to the god of gain,
But live to feel the deepest sense of joy,
And, though ennobling, be the fruit of toil,
Toll on but pause to drink the sweets of life.

Howard Phillips.

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