

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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

LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 28

SAMUEL, THE VICTORIOUS LEADER.

LESSON TEXT—1 Samuel 7:3-17. GOLDEN TEXT—Hitherto hath Jehovah helped me.—1 Samuel 7:12, R. V.

Having prepared a "guilt offering," 6:4-9, the Philistines started the ark back towards Shiloh. As a punishment for their sacrilege and perhaps for their boastful pride, God punishes the men of Beth-Shemesh and finally the ark finds rest in the house of Abinadab, 6:10-21, 7:1, 2. For 20 years Israel was under discipline in bondage, v. 2.

1. "And Samuel spake . . . saying," v. 3-8. It is possible that at times Samuel was a fugitive, but that he was praying, teaching and preaching "the word of Jehovah" we are assured. At last Israel was "drawn together," v. 2 R. V. margin. Undoubtedly Samuel's pure life and his faithful witnessing had as much to do with this assembling as did the oppression of the Philistines. Samuel told the people plainly that in order to be delivered from the Philistines Israel must "return unto Jehovah with all your heart." The putting away (judging) of sin and all idols is the first step of any real, genuine repentance towards God, Isa. 55:7. When Israel adopted Ashtaroth and the "strange gods" they possibly did so with no thought of forsaking Jehovah, but rather with the idea of "enriching" their worship. Such liberality, such a federation of religions is weakening to the cause of faith, Matt. 6:24, 1 John 2:15, James, 4:4. Samuel might be called "narrow," but his exhortation to Israel that they return to the love and worship of Jehovah, to the obedience of his laws with whole-souled devotion, was the first, and the most essential requisite to their freedom. Israel's response (v. 4) meant not alone self-denial, but a revolt against the Philistines. This meant also the giving up of amusements and profits which might accompany such worship. The word "heart" includes the will, affections, motives and powers of soul. Not merely a surface emotion, but a deep change of heart and character. It is said to recall that this was a reformation, not a regeneration (ch. 8:8); but such is the history of an emotional reformation. One day, however, we shall see that one will last last, Rom. 11:26. Samuel is a type of Christ as a prophet and also as an intercessor, Heb. 7:25. Gathering the people at Mizpah ("a lookout") he caused the people to look to God. Such a gathering was an evidence of that unity of the people of God which must ever precede prevailing prayer, Ps. 95:6, Heb. 10:25. The meeting began by a prayer by Samuel who was nearest to God. They then poured out water upon the ground, a symbol of their utter helplessness, also of the pouring out of their hearts before God, II Sam. 14:14; Ps. 62:8. Israel also "fasted"—an expression of sorrow for sin which was so deep that they could not eat, and a sign of the humiliation of self and an earnest desire to find God, Dan. 9:3, Acts 13:2, 3.

II. "And Samuel offered . . . a burnt offering," vv. 9-12. Twenty years of bondage bred a spirit of fear in the hearts of the Israelites and in their extremity they turned to Samuel to intercede for them. Christians have a better one as their intercessor, I John 2:1; Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34. Israel no longer places its trust in an outward symbol as when formerly they sent for the ark, ch. 4:3. All real prayer is preceded by sacrifice, and the only ground we have upon which to approach a holy God is to shed blood, Heb. 10:19, John 14:6. This is also a type of entire consecration. The lamb of Samuel's sacrifice is a type of our Christ who entered into God's presence for us by his own blood," Heb. 9:11, 12. Having thus properly approached God, Samuel cried for Israel, and "the Lord heard him," John 17:9. In the midst of this the Philistines gave battle (v. 10) even as Satan often makes his fiercest assaults upon us in the midst of our holiest exercises. God "thundered with a great voice," v. 11, marg., bringing discomfiture and fear to the enemy, I John 5:14.

The Heart of the Lesson. This lesson is a great revelation of the power and effectiveness of intercessory prayer. "Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among them that call upon his name," Ps. 99:6, seems to place Samuel at the head of Israel's intercessors even as Moses and Aaron led the prophet priests.

Prayer for others is not only a duty, but a privilege and joy as well.

Too few Christians are interceding for others. The sincere prayer for others is inevitably followed up by service for others, even as Samuel's prayer was followed by his service judging Israel.

This lesson also emphasizes the need of appreciation of God's mercies. Abraham erected his altars; Jacob and Joshua erected memorial stones to recall signal blessings; Samuel calls the one he erected "Ebenezer," for "Hitherto hath Jehovah helped us."

Song and Story

Our Own.

If I had known in the morning
How wearily all the day
The words unkind
Would trouble my mind,
I said when you went away,
I had been more careful, darling,
Nor given you needless pain;
But we vex "our own"
With look and tone,
We might never take back again.

For though in the quiet evening
You may give me the kiss of peace,
Yet it might be
That never for me
The pain of the heart should cease,
How many go forth in the morning
That never come home at night,
And hearts have broken
For harsh words spoken,
That sorrow can ne'er set right.

We have careful thought for the stranger
And smiles for the sometime guest;
But oft for our own
The bitter tone,
Though we love our own the best,
Ah! lips with the curve impatient,
Ah, brow with that look of scorn!
'Twere a cruel fate
Were the night too late,
To undo the work of the morn.

—Margaret E. Sangster

Little Bobby, aged seven, was sent by his mamma to his auntie, with goods to make him a pair of new trousers. After Bobby had started mamma called auntie by telephone and told her that the trousers were to be made short with no pockets. When Bobby arrived he told auntie to make them long and to make pockets, plenty of them. "But," said auntie "does mamma want them that way?" Bobby was thoughtful for a moment then he said, "Now see here, auntie mamma don't have to wear these trousers."

The Coming Spirit.

"This war will go on and on," said Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney, on the Lusitania. She has given a \$250,000 field hospital to the belligerents.

"This war will go on and on," she repeated sadly, "and the side that is getting the worst of it will display the spirit of little Willie."

Little Willie's father as he laid on the slipper, said:

Willie, this hurts me more, far more than it does you.
"Then keep it up," said little Willie grinding his teeth. "Keep it up, dad, I can stand it."

John Phillips, the magazine editor, has a suspicion that form letters are sometimes dangerous. Not long ago he wrote a letter of complaint to a Western railroad explaining in detail why he had preferred to sit up all night in a smoking compartment rather than share his berth with a fine line of bugs that are not called by their first name in polite society. The letter of apology that he received was so much of an apology and so reasonable explanation that Mr. Phillips felt perhaps he had been unreasonable in filing his complaint, when he happened to notice that his original letter, through error, had been returned with the letter of apology. Looking at it, he saw scrawled across the top this blue-pencil indorsement: "Send this guy the bedbug letter."

Advantage in Good Looks.

"What did you learn at the school?" the boss asked the fair young applicant for the stenographer's job.

"I learned," she replied, "that spelling is essential to a stenographer."

The boss chuckled.

"Good. Now let me hear you spell essential."

The fair girl hesitated for the fraction of a second.

There are three ways," she replied. "Which do you prefer?"

And she got the job.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

GARRETT.

Mrs. R. F. Moore and two little children, of Brunswick, Md., have been visiting Mrs. Moore's sister, Mrs. Charles Colbert, here for several weeks. A few days ago the children were taken ill with pneumonia and have been very sick. Mr. Moore arrived on a late train Tuesday night and as soon as his children's condition permits it, will remove his family back to their home at Brunswick.

The concert rendered by the Garrett Concert Band was a great success. A large and appreciative audience was present. The proceeds from these concerts will go towards buying new instruments, uniforms, etc.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Beal on Thursday evening, a bouncing baby girl. They have named the little girl Fern Elaine. The family now has two daughters.

NEWS IN GENERAL.

Preparations were begun on Friday by the Morton Truck & Tractor Company of Harrisburg, to fill a Russian war order, calling for 300 armored trucks at \$5,000 each. The cars will be of the four-wheel drive type, with 120 horse power. Additional employment will be given to 250 men.

The Connellsville coke region is maintaining its upward trend and the weekly production of 250,000 tons already established will be further increased as the result of orders issued a few days ago by the H. C. Frick Co. for the firing of 418 additional ovens. This will make a total of 3773 ovens fired by the Frick Co. since the beginning of February. This company is working five days in the week.

Fire which swept through the business section of the town of Ebensburg destroyed 13 buildings with an estimated loss of \$200,000. A fire company hurriedly sent from Johnstown and the use of dynamite checked the flames. Among the buildings destroyed was the Mountain House. The authorities have been unable to determine the origin of the fire.

The Panama-Pacific International Exposition—San Francisco's \$50,000,000 fair—is ready. Down to the last minutest detail of construction and color it is ready and on February 20, 1915, it was thrown open to the world completed and on time. On the stroke of 8 o'clock the gates were flung open. Forty-one nations of the world will be epitomized and the best that there is in the states of this country will be brought to a focus. Two hundred thousand people joined in a triumphal march through the gates of the exposition at the opening. The exposition is to be continued for a period of forty-one weeks and one day.

Ten thousand employees of the Pennsylvania Railroad marched to Billy Sunday's tabernacle with bands and transparencies one night last week. More than 15,000 persons were turned away from the service. The Pennsylvania Railroad had the right of way. Choir Leader Rodeheaver sang a new song for the occasion, "Can You Trust in Your Engineer?" The railroad men liked it and cheered to the echo while their four bands blared away. Sunday delivered his "Booze" sermon and gained 235 converts while 229 women who heard the same sermon in the afternoon were converted. "No man can say the Lord's prayer and vote for booze," Sunday yelled. "No man can booze and get along in the railroad world; you fellows know that. Safety, first boys. Get right with God and get your white lights set, be sure all the signals are with you and then steam ahead."

British prime minister has informed the House of Commons that the allied governments are still considering methods of reprisals against Germany for its naval policy with regard to merchant ships and that he hoped to be able to announce the scope of the measures at an early date. "Only 15 men from the American steamer, Evelyn, which was sunk at Borkum island by a mine have been definitely accounted for. These are the captain and 14 seamen, one of whom died from exposure. They are in Bremerhaven, their boat having been picked up by a Dutch pilot ship. Another boat believed to contain 13 members of the crew has not been heard from.—Much anxiety is said to exist at Cuxhaven over the absence of two large submarines, which are two days overdue at their base.—The Scandinavian government's representatives are holding a conference on Germany's sea war zone proclamation.—The Prussian diet has appropriated \$25,000,000 to be used in alleviating the sufferings of persons affected by the war.

The poles for the new electric light and power company are being distributed between Meyersdale and Garrett, by the P. & M. Street Railway Company. The new powerline will run parallel with the P. & M. trolley wires.

A landslide just west of Riverside Park on the P. & M. trolley line, held traffic up between Meyersdale and Garrett all day Wednesday. A force of men were put to work early Wednesday morning to remove the slide and it took them all day to clear it up. Dozens of passengers coming down on the morning car were obliged to walk from the slide to Garrett, which is about one mile.

Luther Walters, who has been confined to his home several weeks, suffering from a nervous breakdown, is able to be out again.

S. M. Gardner, of Connellsville, signal supervisor of the Connellsville Division of the B. & O. Railroad, was here recently.

S. P. Zimmerman resumed his duties as engineer on the Berlin Branch passenger train after being laid up for two weeks with a severe case of grip.

Watered Stock.

"Pa, what do they put water in stocks for?" "To soak investors with my son."—Boston Transcript.

BIG GAIN IN LIVE STOCK.

Beef Cattle, Milk Cows, Swine and Horses All Show Increase.

Washington.—For the first time in many years information collected by the United States department of agriculture shows that all classes of live stock in the United States are increasing in numbers. Thus the real facts, it is pointed out, contradict reports that prices of meat and shoes would rise to unprecedented figures in the immediate future. It has been said that a government statistician predicted meat at 50 cents a pound and shoes at \$10 a pair within the next two years. Such a prediction, the real government statisticians say, is unwarranted.

Jan. 1 the number of beef cattle showed an increase of 3.4 per cent over the number a year ago and an actual increase of 1,212,000 head. Hitherto the number of beef cattle in the United States has declined steadily since 1910. There are also more milk cows in the country than last year, the increase being 2.5 per cent, or 525,000. Swine showed the greatest increase of all classes—9.6 per cent. Jan. 1, 1914, there were 58,933,000 swine in the country; Jan. 1, 1915, 64,018,000.

The prediction of fifty cent meat and ten dollar shoes was accompanied by the declaration that France alone has taken from America nearly 300,000 horses within the last five months and that the other countries at war have drawn upon our resources in the same proportion. The facts are that more horses were on the farms of the United States Jan. 1, 1915, than there were a year before, the increase being 233,000 head, or 1.1 per cent. Instead of France having taken 300,000 horses from us the total exports since the war began have been much less than 100,000, and likely not over 75,000. Since there are approximately 25,000,000 horses in the United States, the drain on account of the war is not considered alarming.

ADMIRAL OUTLINES GERMAN NAVAL PLANS

Thinks England Means to Dictate Peace Terms With Fleet.

Berlin, Germany.—Grand Admiral von Koester, president of the German Navy league, in an address at Kiel university discussed the considerations governing the part that is to be played by the German navy in the war. He said that the relative strength of the German fleet compared to the Anglo-French-Russian fleet was perhaps 1 to 4.

The British, he added, perhaps estimated German lust for battle so highly that they had said to themselves, "Some day they will come, and we shall be able to assume battle in a situation favorable for us."

Another possibility, Admiral von Koester said, was that the British have a higher regard for the German fleet than Nelson had for the French or the Spanish. That the offensive spirit of the Germans is greater than that of the British, the admiral continued, can justly be assumed when one recalls that the Germans took an offensive against England's east coast, whereas the English had not dared to approach the German coast.

"We are full of the firmest confidence in our fleet," said Admiral von Koester. "but we know that a sea battle means death or victory and that a destroyed fleet cannot be replaced in the course of the war, even if it lasts for years. We must therefore under all conditions be cautious in our procedure and allow ourselves to be incited to no deed which might eventuate in our defeat."

"For what would be the situation if a sea battle took place tomorrow in which each one of our ships took a hostile ship to the bottom with it and perhaps some others? Then we should be without a fleet, and England could proceed gradually in its attacks against our coasts. And you can be sure after the conduct of England in our colonies that no city would be spared. Our coast from Emden to Memel would be most severely threatened. Landing attempts, if they were sufficiently well prepared, could succeed at places most uncomfortable for us."

"Our fleet must protect us under all conditions and may accept battle only when it can reckon on victory."

Admiral von Koester said that the course of the naval war up to the present had caused him great surprise. He added that a high British naval authority said seven years ago that Germany would wake up some morning and find her fleet gone. He also recalled the utterance of Winston Spencer Churchill, first lord of the British admiralty, in a speech at London last September, in which the German fleet was designated as a "luxury" and in which he said that if the warships did not come out and fight they would be "dug out like rats in a hole."

CARD TABLE IN 10,105 PIECES

Maker Labors Year on It—Irish Bog Oak Used.

Orange, N. J.—James Neill, who is in the wood turning business here, has finished a card table after a year of labor in which 10,105 pieces of wood are cleverly put together. He will give the table to his daughter-in-law, Mrs. J. Alexander Neill.

Bog oak from Ireland, his native country, and eight other kinds of wood were used.

MONEY TO BURN

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GLENCOE.

Messrs. Milton and Chas. Webreck, of Somerset, came home on Sunday for several square meals to try sister's cooking.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bittner, of Rockwood spent the week-end at W. H. Bittner's.

Miss Elsie Shaffer enjoyed the week end with her friend, Leah Webreck.

Another telephone meeting in the form of third spasm was held in Glencoe hall on Saturday. The company has learned thoroughly how to stand on its feet and think.

L. H. Broadwater, of Wilmington, Delaware, is here in the interest of his once Formosa stock farm.

Bert Raupach and family, of Cumberland, are visiting relatives here.

Samuel Tayman was a Connellsville visitor on Saturday and brought his granddaughter, Farellen, home with him.

Ralph Poorbaugh is making a sanatorium of his father's domicile, just now. That grip is ravishing our section now.

Mr. E. Kraushaar is improving slowly from a severe attack of acute indigestion.

The entertainment at Southampton brought out all the "laddies" and all their corresponding "lassies". It was surely well attended.

Chas. Poorbaugh just returned from a four days' business trip to our sister state. His countenance had success written across it. See!

Mrs. C. H. Snyder and Lois spent Thursday at the J. L. Snyder home.

S. R. Leydig is at Somerset this week as a juror.

Miss Emma Miller, of Windber spent the week-end with her parents.

Mrs. Calvin Sturtz, of Sand Patch, is home at present. Her mother, Mrs. W. H. Raupach is confined to her bed in a serious condition.

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