

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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

LESSON FOR APRIL 4

SAUL REJECTED BY THE LORD.

LESSON TEXT—1 Samuel 15:10-23.
GOLDEN TEXT—Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice.—1 Samuel 15:22.

Jonathan's victory (ch. 14) brought with it a sinning of the part of the hungry, harassed Israelites in that they ate of the spoils "with the blood" (14:31, 32; Lev. 17:17, 18). In the emergency Saul erected "the first altar that he built unto the Lord" (ch. 14:35), a rather dilatory act on the part of a God-anointed king. Saul had resorted to the subterfuge of commanding the people "to roll a great stone," i. e., cut the throats of the animals of which they had eaten that they might bleed, and thus be an evidence that the animals had died before being eaten. This the people did, fearing Saul, but having no scruples in transgressing God's commands. These same people rescued Jonathan from the foolish vow of Saul, for it was his faith and valor that had chiefly brought about the victory.

I. God's Sorrow, vv. 10-12. Samuel had first revealed God's purpose in making Saul king, and likewise first declared God's purpose to dispose of Saul (v. 10). Saul's actions (vv. 1-9) had stamped him as being no longer worthy of God's confidence. The word "repenteth," meaning "to sigh" (v. 11), denotes a change of feeling due to Saul's actions and not to any change in the character, purpose or desires of God. God was sorry that Saul had proved himself unworthy. A half-way obedience of God's command only heightened his guilt. "Whatever moral difficulties seem to lie, for a later age, in Saul's commission against Amalek, there were none such for him" (Vaughan). Man's repentance involves a change of mind and purpose. In Saul's case God repented, changed the instrument of his execution, because of the change of circumstances and relation. God is ever the same; it is man alone who changes. Saul had given Samuel cause for anger (v. 11 R. V.), but he did the wise thing in taking it to God in prayer. Arising early the next morning Samuel hastened to acquaint Saul with Jehovah's message. It is remarkable how many of the great men of the Bible it is said that they rose early. Abraham, Gideon, Joshua, Jacob, Moses, etc., not to forget our Lord Jesus.

II. Samuel's Rebuke, vv. 13-19. It must have been a striking scene when the aged Nazirite prophet faced the proud but repentant king. A guilty conscience is often covered by a great show of piety (v. 13), but such acts cannot suffice the conviction of the heart nor deceive the righteous Judge. Sin proclaims itself even as Samuel's sharp question brought conviction from the lips of Saul (v. 14; Prov. 28:13). Saul thought to deceive Samuel by using a falsehood (v. 15). The only safe course is to confess our sins (Ps. 32:15; 1 John 1:9). There is an interesting suggestion in the way Saul uses the impersonal "they" and "we" in verse 15, as if to lay the guilt of his acts upon others. It is easy for the sinner to blame others and seek to minimize his own guilt (Rom. 14:12). Verse 9 clearly indicates why Saul and the people had spared the best of the cattle. To use a part only for God and the rest for self in direct disobedience to God's rights or the rights of others is to incur his righteous wrath (vv. 22, 23).

III. Saul's Self-Rejection, vv. 20-23. God set Saul aside because he had rejected the right and chose the wrong. Face to face with his sin Saul could not dodge the issue. Samuel's "wherefore" (v. 19) must have aroused Saul's guilty conscience. It is a question which should reach every tempted soul. Samuel characterized Saul's sin as being due to stubbornness, rebellion, disobedience and a rejection of God (v. 19). Again Saul seeks to evade his responsibility (vv. 20, 21). Then Samuel speaks plainly (v. 22) comparing his sin of disobedience with witchcraft, stubbornness, iniquity and idolatry. Plainly he tells Saul, "Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king" (v. 23).

Driven thus to a corner Saul made a confession of his guilt (v. 24) but spoiled it all by acknowledging that he had greater fear of the people than of God.

This is Easter Sunday, our reproach has been removed, not at Gilegal but on Calvary. The unchanging God hates sin, which is unchangeable, has condemned it on the Cross that the guilty sinner may live.

The persistence of sin, the unchangeableness of God and his unyielding hatred of sin are met by the culmination of Easter for, "By the obedience of one shall many be made righteous" (Rom. 5:19).

The whole root of Saul's trouble was his attitude towards the word of God. Every man's destiny hinges upon what he does with the Living Incarnate Word.

The resurrection of Jesus is the seal of his authority, the evidence of his power and our eternal salvation depends upon what we do with him, John 3:16: 18:36.

Easter In Various Lands

In nearly all Christian countries the recurrence of Easter has been celebrated with various ceremonies and popular sports and observances.

In the Netherlands, or Holland, a country famed for its flowers, especially tulips, blossoms play a large part in the day's celebration. For days before the holiday the Dutch canals bear on their placid surfaces many barges laden high with fragrant and showy masses of bloom.

Some of the Easter customs in the various countries are curious indeed. In the north of England you may still hear the old time:

Tid, mid and misers.
Carling, palm and Pasch egg day.
The first line refers to Christmas, the Epiphany and Lent. Carlings are



BOY WITH WHITE HYACINTHS FOR EASTER.

steeped peas fried in butter, with pepper and salt, and eaten on midlent or mothering Sunday, as the fourth Sunday in Lent is sometimes called. Palm Sunday immediately precedes Passion week and is so called from the branches of palm trees strewn in our Saviour's path at the time of his triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Pasch eggs are Easter eggs boiled so hard that you can play at ball with them, dyed with various colors and often having inscriptions or landscapes traced upon them.

Easter eggs symbolize the resurrection. As one old writer says, "As the bird imprisoned within the shell comes to life and liberty at the appointed time, so did our Saviour on Easter morning burst the gates of the grave." The eggs were at first dyed scarlet, in memory of the blood of Christ shed upon the cross.

A LEGEND OF EASTER.

The story runs that when Adam felt death approach he called his son Seth to his side and bade him ask the archangel, the keeper of the garden, for a balsam that should save him from death.

"The time of pardon is not yet come," said the archangel. "Four thousand years must pass. But as a token that his future pardon is assured the wood whereon redemption shall be won shall grow from Adam's tomb."

He then gave three seeds to Seth and bade him place them in his father's mouth when he died. Adam died three days later. Seth obeyed the directions of the archangel, and the place of his father's sepulcher was Golgotha, where in course of time three trees grew from the seeds. One was a cedar, another a cypress and the third a pine. It was with a bough from one of these trees that Moses performed his miracles in Egypt, brought water out of the rock and healed those whom the serpents had bitten in the wilderness.

After a time the three trees incorporated themselves with each other and became a single tree, beneath which David sat when he bewailed his sins. In the days of Solomon the tree had become the finest of all trees, so was cut down to assist in the building of the temple. But magic seemed to have taken possession of the wood, for nothing which it was wanted to serve for would answer until at last Solomon cast the tree over Cedron so that all might trample on it as they crossed the brook.

There it was discovered by the queen of Sheba, and she, recognizing its virtue, had it raised. It was then buried, but the spot where it lay became the pool of Bethesda and healed all the sick who flocked to it. When the time of the crucifixion drew near the beam of wood rose to the surface and was brought out of the water, and when the executioners sought for a beam for the cross they discovered this and found that it fitted their purpose. So the prophecy was fulfilled.

FRAGMENTS OF GENERAL NEWS

A financial report issued at London by the American commission for relief in Belgium, shows that foodstuffs to a total of \$20,000,000 have been delivered in Belgium since the inception of the commission's work. Nineteen million dollars worth of food is now on the way to the stricken country or is stored for future shipment. Of the grand total, \$8,500,000 was provided by benevolent contributions either of food or cash, and the balance of \$11,500,000 was provided by banking arrangements set up by the commission.

The Methodist Ministers' Association of Cincinnati, has formed a secret body of 100 men who will report to employers and parents, the names of all of the young persons attending dances, theatres etc. thought to be improper. The investigators are volunteers. They will report also other violations they discover.

Six years ago, Mrs. Ellen A. Heim, of Seattle, Washington, grubstaked Jeremiah Wilson, a prospector and sent him to Alaska. Wilson struck it rich and a court ruling has just ordered an Alaska mining corporation to turn over to Mrs. Heim and her 16 year old daughter, Marie, their share in Wilson's discoveries. Their share is \$6,000,000.

Libraries of United States and Canada received \$3,555,001.61 in gifts and bequests during 1914, according to an announcement in Chicago a few days ago, by Geo. B. Utley, secretary of the Library Association. The Carnegie Corporation contributed \$1,718,195 of this sum. The largest single gift of the year was \$450,000 to the New York Public Library by the will of Mrs. Henry Draper. The same institution received \$100,000 by the will of Jno. L. Cadwalader. Groton, N. Y. received a bequest of \$100,000 for the foundation and maintenance of a public library from Dr. Miles D. Good-year.

Lying within a stone's throw of her own home for 18 hours, the corpse of Miss Margaret Mullan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Mullan, of Cumberland, Md., was discovered late Sunday afternoon, while a city wide search was being made for her. The girl's neck was broken and there was evidence of a terrific struggle. Several boards had been torn from the fence of the yard where the body lay. The police believe that the girl met her death elsewhere and the body was carried to where it was found. LeRoy Harden, an admirer of the girl is being held by the authorities.

All the men of Guispassa, a large village near Urumiah, Persia, have been shot by Kurds, the women attacked, an American missionary beaten and 65 refugees taken from the French and American missions have been hanged on gibbets erected in the mission yards, according to a cablegram received in New York, by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions.

Eleven thousand German dead have been taken from the trenches won by the French during twenty days of fighting in the Champagne county in France. German losses in killed in prisoners and in wounded are estimated by the French military authorities at 50,000. German wastage, they say, has been two to one compared with the French losses, because the Germans would try to regain lost ground by counter attacks, repeated again and again, with obstinate courage. It was in these counter assaults, supported by inadequate artillery that so many fell. The graves in which they are buried by fifties and by hundreds are thick upon a narrow front of some fifteen miles.

PETITION FOR DISCHARGE OF ADMINISTRATOR.

IN RE ESTATE OF Samuel K. Weimer, Late of Greenville Township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that an application was presented to the Orphans' Court of Somerset County by the undersigned administrator, c. t. a. of the estate of the said Samuel K. Weimer, deceased, for discharge as such administrator, and the Court has fixed Monday, 17th day of May, 1915, at 10 o'clock a. m. at the Court House at Somerset, Pennsylvania, as the time and the place for the hearing of such application when and where all parties interested may appear if they see fit.

OZIAS WEIMER,
Administrator c. t. a. of
SAMUEL K. WEIMER, Dec'd.

You will be pleased with our job work.

Try our job work.

Give your favorite paper a chance to try our job work.

POLEY FAMILY WORM CANDY
Always Successful - Children Like It

CONFLUENCE.

Mrs. J. W. Clouse is improving at the Markleton Sanatorium.

Mrs. Mary Minder, who resided for the last forty years on a farm near Ursina, moved into Confluence last week.

Walter Hackney, of Homestead is visiting Mr. and Mrs. E. C. McDonald. He will likely spend the summer in this vicinity.

Rolla Case, of Ursina, left Saturday for Macon, Ga., where he will be band leader for Sun Bros.' shows. Earl Critchfield, manager of the Confluence Planing mill co. has bought a five passenger Maxwell automobile. He and Mr. Holliday went to Meyersdale recently and drove the car home.

The special services in progress last week closed on Sunday with communion on Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. John Weaver, who went to Connellsville several weeks ago to do light housekeeping, where Mr. Weaver was then working, have returned here as Mr. Weaver will now be able to be at home.

L. S. Lincoln, of Uniontown and a former resident of this place, was in town a few days ago on his way up the C. & O. branch on business.

Quite a number of Odd Fellows from here were in Rockwood attending the contest in degree team work in which several lodges of the town participated.

Mrs. Jno. Seibert is visiting friends in Ohio.

Mrs. Thos. Crowe, an aged lady of this place, met with a serious accident recently by falling through a haymow to the stable beneath.

J. T. Reynolds of the West Side, is having a bath and a heating system installed in her residence.

David Cronin who has been ill with grip continues poorly.

A pleasant social was held in the Christian church on Friday evening for the new members. A large number of the membership was present and the occasion was enjoyed by all.

W. W. Savage, of Friendsville, Md., was here a day or two ago on his way to Pittsburg.

Mrs. J. W. Clouse who has been very ill for several months, has been taken to the Markleton sanatorium for treatment.

Laura Biglar, of Salisbury was here on her way to Somerfield where the sale of the personal property of her late father and mother took place on Saturday.

Quite a number of people were in town one day last week to attend the sale of Joe Turney, the livery man, who is retiring from the business.

Rev. J. B. McCorney, pastor of the Lutheran church at Friedens, preached in the Lutheran church here Sunday evening. His sermon was very inspiring.

Asper Augustine, of Uniontown, has returned home after looking over his farm at Addison.

M. H. Dean, of Addison was in town on Friday on his way to Pittsburg on business.

GLENCOE.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hensel and daughter, of Friedens visited H. M. Bittner's over Sunday.

The Misses Marion, Leah and Elizabeth had a real feed at F. Webreck's on Sunday.

S. R. Leydig is the proud father of a new son born Thursday night. The mother and babe are doing well.

Mrs. Cal Sturtz is spending a few weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raupach.

Mrs. W. H. Miller was a Meyersdale caller on Saturday.

Mrs. J. T. Leydig went to Meyersdale on Saturday to attend the funeral of Mrs. Wilson Poorbaugh.

Bill Hasselrode made a sad mistake when he painted his wagon sky blue; the Dutch will pick him off first shot when they come across.

Pittsburg and New York have nothing on our town when it comes to "bean parlors." The inn is not advertised but it acted in this capacity on Sunday night.

C. B. Bittner was a business caller in Meyersdale and Hyndman on Saturday.

Dr. Beachy, of Cumberland spent Wednesday here locating a potato patch.

Mrs. J. L. Snyder and Mabel were to Berlin on Friday.

Mrs. Francis Smith, of Johnstown is visiting relatives here.

Mrs. W. H. Bittner spent the week-end with her son, Charles of Meyersdale.

The "ever faithful" Charles made his weekly journey across the Alleghenies to see the "Fair One" on Saturday.

The Misses Ruth and Mabel Bittner attended the Wellersburg school entertainment a few evenings ago.

CASTORIA
For Infants and Children
In Use For Over 30 Years
Always bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Altman*

FOR EASTER

We are having, for Easter, a lot of

Potted and Cut Flowers

at the right prices; leave your orders here—Also a fine line of

Loose and Box Candies.

F. B. THOMAS, Leading Druggist,

Both Phones

MEYERSDALE, PA.

Every Farmer with two or more cows needs a

A DeLAVAL,

THE BEST SEPARATOR MADE.

EE

Office 223 Levergood St

J. T. YODER, Johnstown, - Penn'a.

JOSEPH L. TRESSLER

Funeral Director and Embalmer

Meyersdale, Somerset Co., Penn'a

Residence: 309 North Street
Economy home

Office: 229 Center Street
Both Phones.

Baltimore & Ohio
SYSTEM
LOW FARES
OF THE
Pacific Coast
AND
California
EXPOSITIONS
VIA
CHICAGO or ST. LOUIS
FULL INFORMATION AT BALTIMORE & OHIO TICKET OFFICE

Baltimore & Ohio
RAILROAD
SPRING TOURS
WASHINGTON
OR
BALTIMORE
MARCH 29 and MAY 20
ROUND TRIP \$6.45
FROM MEYERSDALE
FULL INFORMATION AT TICKET OFFICE

Wm. C. Price

Successor to W. A. Clarke

Funeral Director

Business conducted at the same place
Prompt attention given to all calls
at all times. Both Phones.

For baby's croup, Willie's daily
cure and bruises, mamma's sore
throat, grandma's lameness—Dr
Thomas' Electric Oil—the household
remedy. 25c and 50c

RHEUMATIC SUFFERERS
GIVEN QUICK RELIEF

Pain leaves almost
as if by magic when
you begin using "5-
Drops," the famous old
remedy for Rheumatism,
Lumbago, Gout,
Sciatica, Neuralgia
and kindred troubles.
It goes right to the
spot, stops the aches
and pains and makes
life worth living. Get
a bottle of "5-Drops"
today. A booklet with
each bottle gives full
directions for use.
Don't delay. Demand
"5-Drops." Don't ac-
cept anything else in
place of it. Any drug-
gist can supply you. If you live too far
from a drug store send One Dollar to
Swanson Rheumatic Cure Co., Newark,
Ohio, and a bottle of "5-Drops" will be
sent prepaid.

**Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA**
FOLEY KIDNEY PILLS
FOR RHEUMATISM

THIS COUPON

Will entitle the person presenting it at

THE HARTLEY CLUTTON STORE,

MEYERSDALE, PA.

to 100 Votes in Piano Player Contest.

By THE COMMERCIAL.

Void After April 7th, 1915.

Note—A new or an old subscription to The Commercial
paid at this office entitles to 15,000 Votes.