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The Sunday School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON
APRIL 13.

Lesson II. Christ Our Saviour—Matt. 20: 27, 28; John 1: 35-51: 16; Matt. 20: 27, 28; John 1: 35-51: 3: 16;

Matt. 20: 27, 28. Greatness Through Service. "Even as the Son of man." Jesus showed His disciples the way of true greatness. Not as the Gentiles, who "lord it" over those who are subject or dependent, but by ministry and as servants, shall they attain greatness in His kingdom. And this was said to men who were eagerly looking and hoping for a kingdom of material wealth and power, an empire greater than that of Babylon or of Rome. He Himself was showing by His own example this true way. For He came to serve. His work from beginning to end was service, and His death was His crowning act of ministry. He died because He refused to turn aside from the way of service upon which He had entered, because He persevered in spite of the opposition and hatred of evil men everywhere who were in places of power, and because He would do the will of God at whatever cost. And so for all men everywhere He has shown the way of the true life, the life that is and shall be, the life eternal. The world will be saved by those who serve, and he that would rule must be like Christ, servant of all.

We see kings and princes in these days falling from their places of privilege and power because they sought lordship rather than service. We have seen, too, great masses of toilers, men who work with their hands, seizing in some countries the reins of power and making themselves masters by violence. Their power will be short lived, because they are no longer willing to serve. The future of humanity is not in the hands of those who seek place and authority and power, but with those who follow Christ in seeking to do good to all. Character is developed by service, and the best character is that which is like Christ. "Only a democracy built upon the highest form of character," says a great modern social and religious leader, "will prove to be that instrument by which the world is to be saved."

John 1: 35-51. The Winning of Men. John, ... and two of His disciples." John believed that the kingdom of the Saviour, so long foretold, was near at hand. But he believed it would be a kingdom of the righteous. Its coming would be preceded by judgment and a sifting of the hearts of men. John, therefore, preached repentance and preparation of heart, and looked for the coming of the promised King and Saviour. He recognized Him in Jesus. "Behold," he said, "the Lamb of God." For as the paschal lamb whose blood upon lintel and doorpost symbolized salvation to the Jew, so would Jesus, he believed, be the Saviour of Israel. The disciples of John were thus introduced by him to Jesus and some of them followed Him. Jesus was not unwilling to receive them, and those who are here mentioned became afterward His most attached and devoted followers.

"One of the two" was Andrew, the brother of Peter. Who was the other? There is no doubt that John, the writer of this Gospel, was one of the earliest disciples, and it is thought by many that he was the other disciple, and that he found and brought his brother James, but that through modesty he refrains from mentioning his own name. He says of Andrew, "He findeth first," as though there were a second, and it is at least probable that he himself was the second, in finding his brother and bringing him to Jesus.

"Simon." Jesus gave him the name "Cephas," which is the Aramaic equivalent of "Peter," and means a rock. Jesus recognized from the beginning the sturdy strength and steadfastness and capacity for leadership of this man, one of the greatest men of history, and one of the chief apostles of the Christian faith. Andrew, himself comparatively unknown, did the greatest work of his life when he brought his brother to Jesus.

"Follow me." Philip followed and induced his friend Nathaniel to follow. There must have been something in Jesus that attracted men almost irresistibly to Him. Those who yielded to that attraction became His disciples and His followers. The twelve formed an inner circle, but there were many others. Their association with Jesus Christ and their following Him brought them within the saving influence of His life and death and resurrection. The Spirit of Christ is in the world to-day, a mighty and saving reality, and those who yielded to Him, who seek to follow Him, to learn of Him, and to be like Him, are likewise saved. It is a great thing indeed to bring one soul thus into vital relationship to Jesus Christ.

Surely, says St. Paul, God who gave us Jesus Christ will give us all that is good. In giving us Christ He has given us all that makes for life here and hereafter. "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not also with Him freely give us all things?" (Rom. 8: 31, 32.)

Cement Tile for Drainage.

Cement tile are as good as clay tile if well made. Cement tile should be made of one part of cement and three parts of coarse, well-graded sand screened through a sieve with meshes measuring one-half the thickness of the wall of the tile. They should be cured slowly and thoroughly. Cement tile made poorly or from poor materials tend to go to pieces in acid or strong alkali soils.

Good tile give a clear metallic ring when lightly tapped with a hammer. They should be dense, hard and non-porous. Buy your tile of a reliable firm.

In An April Shower.

Little Violet had a bonnet
All of velvet, softly blue;
There were dainty ribbons on it,
And a diadem of dew.
"I'm afraid the rain will spoil it!"
Cried Miss Violet, always neat.
Splashing drops are sure to soil it;
April is so indiscreet."

"I will lend you my umbrella,"
Quick a gallant fairy said,
And he raised a mushroom yellow
Over pretty Violet's head.

PRACTICAL FARMING

Feeding and Caring for a Flock of Pure Bred Sheep.

If the greatest profit is to be realized from a flock of pure bred sheep they must receive the very best feed and care the shepherd can give them. Not that they of necessity require greater care and feed than the grade, but the fact that the breeder of a pure bred flock expects to put the most of his surplus stock on the market as breeders means that he must feed the best and give the best care possible, that his stock may reach its best development.

At the Experimental Farm, Nappan, this has been well brought out in the feeding and caring of the pure bred flock. It was found that even during the summer season the pure bred flock could not be neglected, otherwise the results would be bound to show in the following season's increase and development of the young.

The flock must have a good pasture with not too rank a growth; preferably a short, thick bottom growth with an abundance of clover and plenty of good running water to which the sheep can easily get. Sheep take much more water than the average farmer would think. This holds true especially in winter.

Just before the breeding season the ewes should be culled; all undesirables taken out; and a certain period given between weaning and breeding time for the ewes to get into condition again. Best results are obtained where the ewes are turned in a nice clover field and flushed just before mating season. It is found that where ewes and rams are in the best of health and condition a greater percentage of twins and triplets is dropped. All ewes should be tagged before the mating season. The best time to breed is in the fall. If you have warm quarters for the ewes and lambs it will pay to have the lambs dropped early; otherwise it is not advisable to do so. It is also found that a small flock of twenty to twenty-five per pen is better than a large one. When ewes go into winter quarters they should be supplied with good, well-cured clover hay. The next best is a mixture of clover and timothy. Pulped turnips at the rate of from 2½ to 3 pounds per head per day should be given up to within a month of lambing, with the addition of ½ to 1 pound of a meal mixture (100 oats, 100 bran and 50 oilcake). This will keep the ewes in a good, thriving condition. For the best results, ewes should not be too fat, especially at lambing time. We have had our heaviest losses from over-fat ewes. Just previous to lambing (say about a month) the turnips are gradually cut down to nothing. The percentage of bran, if it is good, is increased slightly until after the lambs are dropped. Then the oats are increased, as there is nothing like good oats to stimulate the milk flow. Salt should be supplied at all seasons of the year. A careful watch over the flock at lambing time will often save the lives of many lambs that will, at the end of six or seven months, be worth $25 to $30 each.—Experimental Farms Note.

Better Plowing Maens More Dollars.

If there ever was a time in the history of the world when the farmer should give close attention to plowing, it is from now on. Strange as it may seem, this most important of all farming operations, this thing from which all cultivation starts, is given the least intelligent thought. The success or failure in the raising of a crop depends more upon the plowing than any other operation connected with crop-growing.

We have not learned, as a nation of farmers, that with the proper use of the plow the weed and insect nuisance of Canada and the United States, a loss which man attempts to estimate at $700,000,000 annually, can be eradicated. I say as a nation. There are many individuals who realize the importance of good plowing, and the result they get is proof enough; but the vast majority are still at fault. Think what it would mean in 1919, not only to the farmers of Canada, but to every industry, if that seven hundred million dollars could be turned into commercial channels rather than be fed to weeds and insects, both of which the proper use of the plow could exterminate, and which have no earthly use except to keep the farmer on his mettle.

A few years ago Mr. F. Bowman of the State of Iowa, won first prize in a corn-growing contest, with 109 bushels and 40 pounds of corn to a measured acre. Mr. Bowman says his field was blue-grass sod, fall plowed seven inches deep. His neighbors did not grow any such crop of corn, and the fertility of the land was all the same. It was discovered that wireworms and grubs in a number of instances made replanting necessary. Assuming that the average crop was 60 bushels an acre—and this is a high average—the difference between 60 and 109 bushels, or 49 bushels, represents the additional wealth of Mr. Bowman for having fall-plowed that blue-grass sod.

The secret of Mr. Bowman's success was the freezing of the grubs and wireworms, and also the opportunity to get on his field earlier in the year with his disk harrow, and make the kind of a seed bed that nature demands for the corn crop. If fall plowing is impossible, spring plowing should start at the earliest possible moment. It is not to be supposed that a farmer can control the weather, but he can place himself in the position to remedy the evil effects of bad weather conditions. He can do this with a plow if he understands how and when.

On account of the different types of soil and different weather conditions in different sections of Canada it is impossible to give a certain set of rules or formulas by which a farmer can plow his ground. We farmers cannot plow, harrow, and cultivate our ground in the same manner any two successive years with the expectation of being able to grow a maximum crop. Nature never gives us the same soil and weather conditions in any two years. We have a new problem every year. The working-out of that problem successfully is determined by our knowledge of the crops we wish to raise, what is necessary for their growth, and how to put our ground in such condition that these things can take place.

The unfortunate part is that the principles back of plowing are not generally understood, and yet they are vitally necessary for the increased crop production to which we are all striving. The plow transforms latent power into kinetic energy. This commonplace instrument decides the destinies of nations; but, in spite of this, its proper use has been given the least thought and attention of any farming operation.

The best plan in this: Write to the Experimental Farm in your own home Province. Tell them exactly what part of the province you live in, and the kind of soil you have on your farm. Most provinces have made a very close analysis of the soil within their borders, and will be able to direct your plowing operations correctly.

Ashes as a Fertilizer.

With potash scarce and high-priced, it behooves every farmer to conserve every bit from every source. Unleached hardwood ashes contain from five to seven per cent. potash and are worth about $40 a ton for their potash content alone. Besides their potash, they contain from one to two per cent. of phosphoric acid, about fifty per cent. of lime and a small amount of magnesia. The potash in ashes is very soluble; therefore, ashes should be protected from the weather.

Besides their direct action as a fertilizer, the "alkali power" of ashes is great. This power is that which enables ashes to rot weeds and to ferment peat. The mechanical effect of ashes on the soil is also very beneficial—binding sandy soils and loosening clay soils.

The ashes from soft woods contain less potash and less phosphorus than those from hardwoods, but still they contain enough to make them a valuable fertilizer. The ashes of twigs and the younger growth of trees are worth more than the ashes of heart wood taken from the middle of an old tree.

Wood ashes make a profitable top-dressing for grass land and pasture, as they encourage the growth of clover and the better kinds of grasses, which crowd out weeds and inferior kinds of grasses. Ashes can be very profitably used for corn. For this they should be screened and applied with a fertilizer drill, 200 to 250 pounds to the acre. They are very excellent for strawberries, putting firmness into the berries—an absolute essential for shipping purposes.

It has been found possible by aviators to use magnetic compasses by mounting them on horsehair cushions which counteract the vibrations of airplanes.

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Horse Sense

There seems to be a prejudice in the minds of most farmers against using ensilage as a ration for horses. I say prejudice because I believe that in most cases they have never given it a trial.

About six years ago we decided to experiment with ensilage. We consulted our veterinary, who advised against it, saying that the stuff was not fit to feed a horse. We, however, spent the greater part of the winter experimenting with different rations with ensilage as the base. We tried at first feeding it once a day, at noon, and found that the horses not only ate it with a relish, but seemed to do well on t. We then began feeding the ration in the morning, and at noon, and were really surprised at the results.

With the ensilage we fed we cut wheat or oat straw, and used for the grain ration a mixture of ground corn, oats, and wheat bran, mixed in equal parts. Our method of preparing and feeding this ration was as follows:

In the first place we did not fill our silo until the corn was pretty well ripened, in order that the ensilage would be quite free from acid. We put an abundance of water in with the corn, which helped in packing, and made the ensilage quite moist when it was ready to fill.

After filling the silo we turned the discharge pipe over into that part of the hay mow directly over the feed room. We then put our straw through the ensilage cutter, leaving the knives set the same as for cutting the corn. It is surprising the amount of cut feed that can be stored in a small space.

We placed an iron tank at the bottom of the silo; at a point where the cut straw could be put into it with very little labor. We put the ensilage and cut straw into the tank in the proportion of two baskets of ensilage to one of straw, and sprinkled the corn, oats and bran mixture over the top of the mass, and mixed it thoroughly with a fork or scoop. It was now ready to feed.

We fed each horse what he would eat up clean, which we found to be from a bushel to a bushel and a half, depending on the size of the horse. We fed this ration in the morning, and at noon, then at night we fed a liberal amount of good clover or mixed hay, and ear corn.

We have been feeding this ration for five winters, and we could not ask for better results. The cost of feeding has been reduced at least one-third, and our horses have kept in a more healthy condition than before.

Poultry

The commercial poultryman must catch the birds occasionally for examination and such work requires careful handling and patience. It takes a man with a good temper to catch Leghorn hens during the day. It is not advisable to try to do it as at night the birds can be handled with less confusion. We believe that banding, treating for lice, observation of the laying condition, and culling of the flock should all be done at night. This saves confusion and time. Laying hens are injured by being frightened and the egg production will surely fall if they are chased around the laying house.

If it is necessary to catch birds during the day, take a piece of strong wire about four or five feet long and bend a crook in the end which will just slip over a hen's leg. Then scatter a little scratch grain where the birds can see it and catch the desired birds with the crook. It is easier than making a grab with the hand, which often results only in a scared bird minus a handful of feathers.

When crating birds for shipment they should be caught at night. Several crates of broilers can be gathered from the colony houses at night in a short time. During the day it will be necessary to frighten and chase many of the birds on the range and this is a waste of energy and injures the birds.

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