Sunday School Lesson

LESSON VII

CONSERVING THE SABBATH FOR MAN

Mark 2:23—3:6.

Godlen Text

And he said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man. Mark 2: 27.

The Lesson In Its Setting

Time.—Early summer, A.D. 28.

Place.—The incident of the plucking of the corn took place near Capernaum; the healing of the man with the withered hand occurred in Galilee, in which province Capernaum was located.

23. "And it came to pass, that he." Was going on the Sabbath through the grainfields." Mark graphically shows us Jesus walking through the wide stretches of waving corn which covered the plain of Gennesaret and neighboring valleys. The roads were only narrow foot-paths, and travellers had all the appearance of wading through the grain. The word "corn" in our Bible is a general term for cereal grains, and those cultivated in Bible lands were wheat, barley, vetch, millet, beans, lentils, and pulse. Here the grain is probably wheat and not barley, for barley cannot be treated by rubbing in the hands as wheat can. The Sabbath was, of course, our Saturday, and not our Sunday. It was the seventh day of the week, a day which God set apart far back at the creation to be a holy day, free from unnecessary labor, the most sanctified of all the days of the week. After the close of the Old Testament the scribes and Pharisees multiplied with vast and complicated details laws pertaining to the observance of the Sabbath day, especially in regard to avoidance of labor. If a person were in one place, and his hand filled with fruit stretched into another, and the Sabbath overtook him in this attitude, he would have to drop the fruit, since if he withdrew his full hand from one locality to another, he would be carrying a burden on the Sabbath. If a hen laid on a Sabbath day, the egg was forbidden.

Hunger on the Sabbath

"And his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears." The disciples were hungry and had been long fasting; and, as they went, they plucked and ate those ears of corn which grew on the old pathway. This was allowed by custom and by the law (Deut. 23: 25), but by rabbinical tradition to pluck ears was to reap, an act forbidden on the Sabbath (Exod. 34: 21), and to rub ears in the hand was to thresh, and these actions were therefore forbidden on the Sabbath. A cry for food is holy, it is sacred! Were it not so, in the economy of God he would provide that men never become hungry on the Sabbath day.

24. "And the Pharisees said unto him, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful?" The Pharisees were always the enemies of Jesus. It was their deliberate purpose, by the questions which they continually asked him, to weaken his great influence among the Jewish people of that day, and to find ultimately sufficient cause whereby they could condemn him as a breaker of the law.

25. "And he said unto them, Did ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was hungry, he, and they that were with him?" 26. "How he entered into the house of God when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the showbread, which it is not lawful to eat save for the priests, and gave also to them that were with him" The incident to which our Lord here refers in the life of David is found recorded in I Sam. 21: 1-6. The point the Pharisees were making was that plucking ears on the Sabbath day was unlawful. Jesus comes back at them by reminding them, for their own sacred records, that David had done something which was normally unlawful (Lev. 24. 5-9), but to which exceptions could be made when the exigency of circumstances demanded, as, e.g., great hunger on the part of one not a priest. By all of this the Lord means that circumstances can sometimes arise in which minute details of a law are to be ignored.

Sabbath Made For Man

27. "And he said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath." The Sabbath, the day of rest; was made, was brought into existence, was created; for, because of, on account of, for the sake of, man, mankind, not for the Jews, but for the race. Man is the end, and the Sabbath the means, not man the means and the Sabbath the end. Men are not brought into existence because of institutions, but institutions because of men. What matters first is man; but that does not mean that the Sabbath does not matter at all. What our Lord says lends no sanction to either Pharisaic Sabbatarianism or Parisian latitudinarianism. If man would be sound, physically, mentally, and spiritually, he must have periodical rest, and for this purpose the Sabbath has been given.

"So that the Son of man is lord even of the Sabbath." The Sabbath, being made for man's benefit, is subject to the control of the ideal and representative man to whom it belongs. The scribes maintained that the regulations about the Sabbath were the most important part of the whole law, and that their observance formed the essential contents of religion. Thus Jesus sets himself above Mosaism, and announces his right to interpret, to fulfill, to set aside.

A Time For Doing Good

1. "And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there who had his hand withered." His disease, which probably extended through the arm, had its origin in a deficient absorption of nutriment by the limb; was a partial atrophy, showing itself in a gradual wasting of the size of the limb, with a loss of its powers of motion. Many people who go to church have a withered hand, i.e., they do only half the work they should; they work with one hand only, they are working on only half their possible power. It is that sort of thing which accounts largely for the church's ineffectiveness. Only fullness of life in sacrificial service will convince a critical world.

2. "And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him." According to the rabbinical rule, relief might be given to a sufferer on the Sabbath day only when life was in danger.

3. "And he saith unto the man that had his hand withered, Stand forth." The word rendered "hand" is comprehensive and includes the entire arm. God makes no unjust exaction. He ever gives power with the effort to obey him. Let us say that God could deliver us without any effort of our own. He does not deliver us in that way. No truth of Scripture is clearer than that he has affixed the condition of personal faith to the gift of eternal life. We must stretch forth our hand to accept the gift, else we shall not receive it.

4. "And he saith unto them, Is it lawful on the sabbath day to do good, or to do harm? to save a life, or to kill? But they held their peace." This is not a question of doing or not doing, but of what one does; and it is made plain that all negatives are positives; that not to do good when one can, is to do evil; that not to save life when one can, is to kill.

Anger of Love

5. "And when he had looked round about on them with anger." Because Jesus so yearned over them and so longed for the victory of truth and sincerity in their souls, therefore as he gazed upon them in their suicidal obduracy, his eyes flashed with the instinctive wrath of love. He was angry as one might be angry at a sick man who, in sheer perversity, refuses the remedy in which lies his only hope. "Being grieved at the hardening of their heart." The anger was tempered by grief. The word here used implies sorrow arising from sympathy with another's unconscious plight. The word here translated "hardening" means to grow callous. "He saith unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he stretched it forth; and his hand was restored." Jesus never began anything that he could not accomplish. He knew when he told this man to stretch forth his hand that he would be able to heal it and did heal it.

6. "And the Pharisees went out, and straightway with the Herodians took counsel against him, how they might destroy him." The Herodians appear again in the same company (12: 13), and some understanding between the two parties is implied also in Mark 8: 15. The kingdom of lies is no longer a kingdom divided against itself when the kingdom of the truth is to be opposed. Herod and Pilate can be friends together, if it be for the destroying of the Christ (Luke 23: 12).

A—C

Wood Is Important As Canadian Fuel

Canada's forests continue to be an important source of fuel, supplying about 15 to 20 per cent of the domestic requirements of the country. During the five-year period 1931-35 the average annual cut of fuel wood in Canada was approximately 9,000,000 cords valued at about $33,000,000.

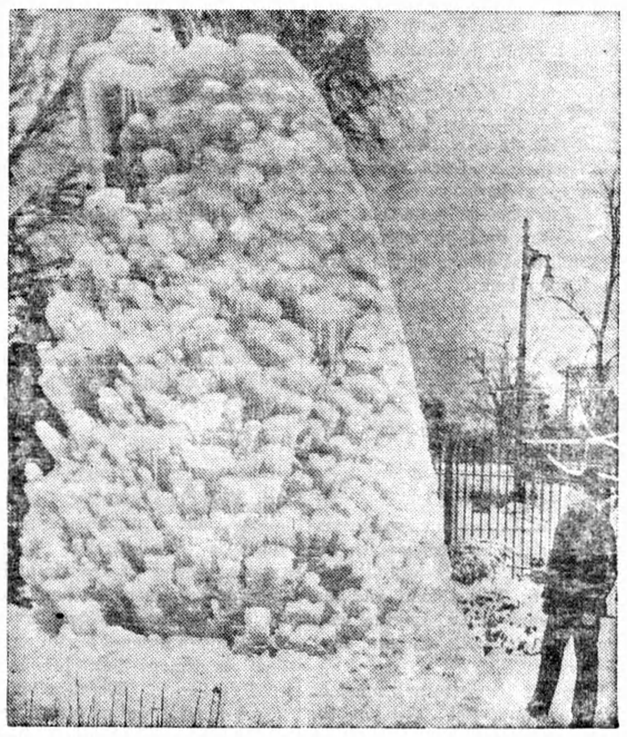
Wood as a fuel has a very definite field. It is the mainstay of our rural regions and is much used for heating purposes in villages and towns in those parts of Canada where lack of local deposits prevents the population from securing cheap coal for domestic use. If methods of selling, measuring and burning firewood were improved the value of this fuel undoubtedly would be more appreciated. To this end the Forests Products Laboratories and the Testing and Research Laboratories of the Department of the Department of Mines and Resources, in co-operation with other organizations, are investigating ways and means of extending the use of wood for fuel.

It has been found that as a rule the fuel value of seasoned wood depends generally on the weight per cubic foot, the heaviest woods naturally giving the most heat.

Here's A Thrill For Skating Fans

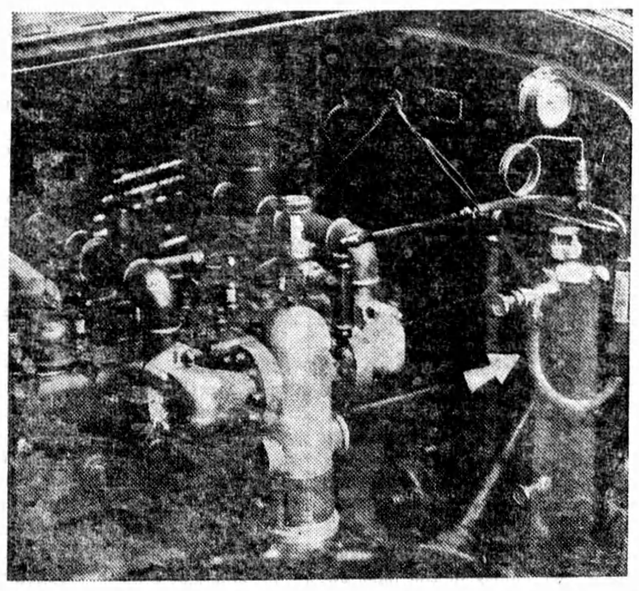
Maxi Herber and Ernst Baier, German figure skating champions, thrill the crowds at St. Moritz, Skitzerland, with their exhibitions.

Cold Wave Turns Fountain Into Monument



The cold spell has turned this Detroit, Mich.. fountain into a veritable statue of ice, towering over the man at right.

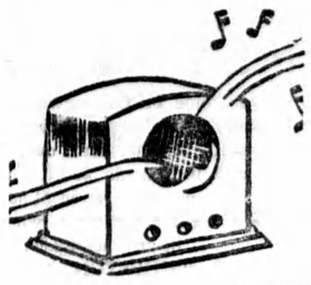
This New Engine Uses Acetylene Gas



Two Italian engineers have finally perfected this automobile engine, which runs on acetylene gas. Arrow indicates the fuel intake, which feeds the gas to a special carburetor, from a tank in the rear. The gauge is so located that gas pressure can be easily verified.

Refuelling Device Controlled From Cabin

...s attach the newest refuelling device to a feeder plane at Croydon ...drome. Invented by Sir Alam Cobham, the device consists of a long ... on a spool located under the fuselage, and controlled from the cabin of the plane.



Around The Dial

RADIO HEADLINERS OF THE WEEK

By FRANK DENNIS

Eddie Duchin's music is heard locally on the program "Styled Music," at 5:15, Sundays, over CKCL. The program is well planned, and if any of our readers would like this famous band to play request numbers, just drop a note or a card to "Styled Music," care of CKCL, Toronto. The program also features a guest star, and if you have any favourite orchestra, anyone from Benny Goodman to the Philharmonic Symphony — just mention that in your letter, and the boys will do their best to make you happy.

* * *

Disappointment

The Canadian amateur show, heard Sunday noons, ran their final contest recently. We weren't particularly surprised at the quality of the program. As a matter of fact, we can't see how some of the talent got as far as the finals. One thing certain, in our opinion, is that the kiddies should have been eliminated altogether. Even where the children are concerned, we have heard much superior talent on past programs than were presented on this final program. Perhaps it's not entirely the fault of the producer, as these people were selected by votes received. However, we do think that some arrangement could have been made whereby judges, who have some idea of what radio talent should be like, should have a say in the matter.

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The Chasers—a novelty program featuring Bert Pearl, Bob Farnon, Rai Purdy, is heard over CFRB Sundays, at 6:15 p.m. The idea of the program is that listeners submit the title of a tune, and if Bert Pearl and Bob Farnon can't play it or sing it by the time Rai counts seven, the two Tune Chasers are given the bird, and the submitter of that title receives a case of O'Keefes Ginger Ale, and Rai gives a commercial announcement. If you think you have a title which would stop the boys, just send it in to Tune Chasers, care of CFRB, and who knows, the drinks might be on the sponsors.

* * *

Pick the "Boners"

"Boners," heard Sundays, 7:45 to 8 p.m., over CBL, is another new air feature. Music is supplied by Wally Armour at the piano, the quartet, consisting of Wishart Campbell, Jack Reid, Jack Dale, and Katherine Young, and Albert Pratz on his violin. Herbie May is Master of Ceremonies. The highlight of the program is Professor Boner's speech, said speech being a hundred per cent. nonsense. The professor is in the habit of making countless boners during his speech, and it's up to the listeners to write these boners down as the professor makes them, and send the list to "Bonagrams", in care of CBL, Toronto. We understand there is a handsome gift that goes to the top scores.

* * *

If you think that sound men, those who rattle chains, smash glass, creak doors, create wind storms, etc., have no musical talent, just listen to this. The members of Columbia's sound effect dept. are trying to organize an orchestra. Ordinarily, you would have an impression of glass bottles, tin cans, horns and gongs, but actually, it is planned to have Walter Pierson, the division head, play the bass viol he used as a member of an Ohio Symphony Orchestra. Cello, violin, and piano are assigned to Jimmy Rogan, who incidentally, is composer of such hits as "Star Dust On the Moon" and "When a Gypsy Makes His Violin Cry." Jerry Sullivan, formerly of the B. A. Rolfe and Paul Whiteman orchestras, will handle drums and xylophone. Sax and clarinet will be played by Ray Krammer, while Max Uhlig will sing and play the banjo. Who says sound effect men have no talent?

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"The Shadow"

In an interesting article, The New Yorker revealed that Orson Welles, the young actor whose Julius Caesar in modern dress is a current sensation on Broadway, also plays the part of "The Shadow" in the 'blue coal' radio serial thriller. That Mr. Welles and his associates do a good job on "The Shadow" series is attested by the fact that this program recently received The Annual Pilot Radio Award for outstanding merit—an honor which, in past years, went to such features as Jack Benny, the New York Philharmonic and other star air attractions. Head over Station CFRB every Wednesday evening at 9 and sponsored by the producers of 'blue coal', "The Shadow" has a huge and enthusiastic multitude of Ontario listeners.

Western Ontario Deer Increasing

Fox, Skunks and Rabbit Also Thrive

Efforts of the Ontario Government's department of fish and game appear to have had worth while results in Stratford district as far as deer are concerned.

Naturalists could not estimate the number of deer now roaming the North Easthope game preserve, but are satisfied there has been a substantial increase.

In Groups of Six

The deer are frequently observed in groups of six or seven and while the same groups may be observed over and over again, it is believed there is a good population in that area. The preserve has also caused an increase in the number of foxes and skunks in that district. Quite a number of foxes have been seen and skunks last year amounted to a nuisance.

The hare and cottontail are becoming quite scare in that district, however, and pheasants do not appear to be thriving. The supply of partridge has not reached very satisfactory proportions.

The Stars And You

By A. R. WEIR

WHAT THE STARS FORETELL FOR THOSE BORN ON FEBRUARY 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17

★★★

All the above dates come under the sign Aquarius. Aquarians often have inventive genius and are particularly interested in inventions of all kinds. Aquarians do well where concentration and application are necessary and make excellent musicians, secretaries, artists. Any kind of literary work usually appeals to those born under this sign.

YOUR OWN BIRTHDATE:

FEBRUARY 11—Some change may have a big influence over your life this year. You will be well advised to take stock of your assets and your capabilities and to put forth every effort to forge ahead. You should get more fresh air.

FEBRUARY 12—A very busy time is ahead for you which will result in financial progress if your efforts are not dissipated. Some new work may arise and social affairs will bring you pleasure. Do not be deceptive or moody—these are traits some Aquarians have to combat.

FEBRUARY 13—You may receive a considerable sum of money by loan or legacy this year. A long journey is indicated which may have beneficial results. Be careful when dealing with strangers and elderly people. You are a clear reasoner, intuitive and somewhat clairvoyant.

FEBRUARY 14—Some dispute may arise over a loan or debt and there may be a misunderstanding with your business associates. Your problem is to understand the other person's viewpoint—you yourself are clear-sighted and dependable. You have a brilliant year ahead for social affairs and much happiness is indicated.

FEBRUARY 15—You are approaching a prosperous and successful period. Domestic matters, social affairs and relations with relatives are all favourably defined. Your health also should be good and you are advised to take advantage of this bright period in your life and to enjoy it to the full.

FEBRUARY 16—Correspondence and documents figure in the working out of your destiny this year and their sane handling is necessary if you are to avoid pitfalls. A removal of residence is indicated. You are faithful and loyal to the opposite sex.

FEBRUARY 17—You are very easy to get along with, have high ideals and make it a rule to practice what you preach. You have a philosophical outlook on life which helps you to overcome difficulties when they do arise. An obstacle is indicated in business but all is bright for social affairs and love.

If you birth date is not listed above and you would like a horoscope for any birth date in the year, or if you would like a complete personal horoscope for any date listed above, send 10c to A. R. Weir, 73 Adelaide St. W., Toronto. Please print your name, address and birth date plainly.