Sunday School Lesson

LESSON VIII
SERVING THROUGH CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP
Mar 12:13-15, 28-34

Golden Text.—Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Mark 12:31.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time.—Tuesday of Passion Week, April 4, A.D. 30.

Place.—Jerusalem.

13. And they send unto certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, that they might catch him in talk. Behind this malicious purpose of these supposedly honorable men was a hatred of the Lord Jesus Christ, which had already prejudiced his case, and had closed the minds of these men to the truthfulness of his teaching and the reality of his Messiahship. These emissaries were chosen, because they occupied different sides of the question proposed to Jesus. On the question of the paying of tribute, with all the corollaries, they would be divided, and Jesus must offend one or the other by his answer. The Herodians favored the Roman tax, while the Pharisees opposed it continually, demanding for the Jewish people complete independence of Rome.

A Conversational Trap

14. And when they were come, they say unto him, Teacher, we know that thou art true. An unconscious witness to the impression which Christ's life and teaching had left, even upon enemies. And carest not for any one. had shown little consideration for men of learning and hierarchical rank, doubtless he would be equally indifferent to the procurator and the emperor himself. For thou regardest not the person of men. That is a person's outward appearance or position. But of a truth teachest the way of God. The preamble is skillfully arranged with the view of disarming suspicion, and at the same time preventing escape. They are luring Jesus to work his own destruction by means of an unguarded statement he might make. Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? 15. Shall we give or shall we not give? The great rebellion against Rome, headed by Judas of Galilee (Acts 5:37), had for its war-cry, "It is not lawful to pay tribute to Caesar." Jewish patriots denounced the payment of tribute. If Christ said "Yes," his accusers would denounce him to the people as an oppressor. If "No," they could accuse him to the Romans as a rebel. But he, knowing their hypocrisy. The word "hypocrisy" means, literally, "acting." Said unto them, Why make ye trial of me? bring me a denarius, that I may see it. The denarius is the name of the most simple Roman coin which circulated through the empire, and in terms of which all public accounts were made up. A denarius was, in the time of our Lord, the daily wage of a laborer (Matt. 20:2ff.).

16. And they brought it. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? The image, of course, was the head of Caesar stamped on the coin, while the superscription consisted of the Latin words surrounding the image on the edge of the coin. And they said unto him, Caesar's. All Roman emperors were called Caesar. The reigning emperor was Tiberius. Christ's answer was peculiarly complete. The Pharisees had a maxim, "He whose coin is current is king of the land."

The Things That Are Caesar's

17. And Jesus said unto them, Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's. When Jesus replied to their question, he made it a matter of payment, saying, if one would interpret strictly, "Pay to the Roman government Roman coin." They themselves were tacitly recognizing the government and availing themselves of their privileges under it by using its coin, and that left them no pretext for denying its rights. Jesus went far beyond what the Pharisees and Herodians ever expected in answering this question. One's entire duty of life is not defined by his relationship to government. "The things of God" are all that our relationship to him involves, contrition, faith, love, worship, obedience.

And if most of all he demands the love, the heart of man, here also he can ask, "Whose image and superscription is this?" For in the image of God made he man. And they marvelled greatly at him. They wondered, perhaps, not so much at the profound truth of the words, which they could scarcely have realized, as at the absence in them of anything on which they could lay hold.

Two Greatest Commandments

28. And one of the scribes came, and heard them questioning together, and knowing that he had answered them well, asked him. The scribe fully recognized the supreme qualities of Jesus' teaching and the remarkable finality of his answer to the preceding question that had been asked. What commandment is the first of all. To understand the question and the answer we must recall that the rabbis counted no less than 613 commandments, 248 positive, 365 negative. Some magnified the commandments about the sacrifices, others the Sabbath laws, others the law and regulations about circumcision.

29. Jesus answered, The first is, Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God, the Lord is one. This verse sums up the manded in any religion. The love of God is the distinctive mark of his true worshippers. Love of God must be the outcome of knowledge of God."

With all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. The first phrase means that there is to be no part of our heart which does not love God. In the psychology of the ancient Hebrews the "soul" was the organ of the desires and affections. The "mind" here would seem to refer to the faculty of thought itself. When we are told to love the Lord with all of our strength, it means that we are to yield to him all the force and power which resides in our being, especially in our bodies. The keeping of all laws should be motived by love; if it is not, then the moral value of obedience is lost. Every sin is a violation of the law of love, and every grace and virtue is an expression of love in one or other of its many aspects.

31. The second is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. The scribe did not ask for the second commandment, but the statement is incomplete without it. This second commandment does not stand in the Old Testament in the commanding position of the first, but is brought in only incidentally, in Lev. 19:18, where, moreover, "neighbour" is evidently restricted to a brother Jew. Jesus puts it in a commanding position and widens the meaning of "neighbour" to "fellow men."

32. And the scribe said unto him, Of a truth, Teacher, thou hast well said that he is one; and there is none other but he. 33. And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. The scribe's answer is made of quotations from the prophets which exalt the moral over the ceremonial law (Ps. 51:16; Hos. 6:6; Mic. 6:6-8). His words seem to imply that some of the scribes were beginning to understand not merely our Lord's teaching about the spiritual meaning of the law, but also that there was a distinct sympathy between the idea of Jesus and those of the greater prophets. He seems almost the first-fruits of those of the sect of the Pharisees who afterward believed.

34. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.

The scribe was near the Kingdom because he was deeply stirred by the answer. There is more than intellectual assent here. There is the stirring of a man's nature to its depths. And no man after that durst ask him any question. There are whole classes and levels of questioning which disappear or are chased away as clouds are chased away the moment you bring Jesus Christ upon the scene. And this because of his goodness, because of his moral greatness, because of the quality of him.

TORONTO.—A. S. Fulcher, Bank of Montreal accountant, who has been in the bank business for 25 years, says Toronto banks lost $25,000 a year in ink "filched" by persons entering the bank buildings and filling their fountain pens.

"I figure just about every tenth person entering a bank either walks away with a penholder or fills his fountain pen," Fulcher said.

Nobel Prizeman Dies

Carl von Ossietzky, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize shortly after his release from a German detention camp in 1937, passed away in a Berlin sanatorium. After his award, Germany forbade acceptance of Nobel prizes by any German citizen.

Young Canadian Musicians Receive Prizes for Best Compositions

Vice Regal recognition was given to a group of young Canadian musicians in Ottawa last week when the Governor General officiated at the presentation of awards for the best musical compositions submitted in the contest recently conducted by the Canadian Performing Right Society. The Governor General showed particular interest in the winner of the special juvenile prize, 11-year-old Clermont Pepin, St. George, County Beauce, Que. The group includes: (FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT) Miss Georgette Dionne, St. George, Que.; Eldon Rathburn, Saint John, N.B.; winner of the scholarship at the Toronto Conservatory of Music; Clermont Pepin, St. George, Que.; Miss Francean Campbell, Toronto; Godfrey Hewitt, F. R. C. O., Ottawa; (BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT) Louis Applebaum, Toronto; Hector Charlesworth, Toronto; Lord Tweedsmuir; Henry T. Jamieson, president of the Canadian Performing Right Society, Toronto.

Officer Warns Paralysis Increasing In Ontario

Dr. J. T. Phair, Chief Medical Officer for Ontario, Suggests Relationship of Disease to Summer Flu in Report to Medical Association—Number of cases Up Even in Non-Epidemic Years

Dr. J. T. Phair, chief medical officer for Ontario, warned the Ontario Medical Association at Toronto last week, of a steady increase in infantile paralysis in the province during non-epidemic as well as epidemic years.

Dr. Phair, mobilizing medical forces for an expected outbreak this summer of the disease, said "it is not possible to predict with certainty a season of increased incidence."

His suggestion of a possible relationship between infantile paralysis and the seasonal complaint affecting children, called "summer flu" was a highlight of his report, one of a symposium presented by five Toronto doctors on infantile paralysis, correctly known as poliomyelitis.

Identical Groups Attacked

The age group attacked by the two diseases were in the main the same; the time of onset of the diseases in terms of seasonal distribution was almost identical; the districts of the city in which the bulk of paralysis cases occurred were the same as for summer flu.

Many Ontario doctors believe as a result of their clinical experiences of last year the convalescent serum, derived from a person who suffered an attack of the disease, has unquestioned merit as a treatment, Dr. Phair said, but added logical arguments have been advanced in rebuttal.

Believe Entry Through Nose

Attempts to produce an immune horse serum, while successful in experimental animals, has not been established as a useful agent in humans he noted. While there is a difference of opinion on the portal of entry, most doctors favor the theory the germs invade the body through the nasal mucosa, although some evidence would indicate the theory of a gastro-intestinal invasion.

"It is not possible to predict a season of increased incidence of this disease," Dr. Phair said. "The inference based on previous epidemics that outbreaks in Canada begin in the west and travel east was exploded last year when epidemics occurred in Saskatchewan, Ontario and the Maritimes."

Certain Areas More Prone

"In Ontario last summer there were 2,650 cases with 2,544 reported which gives a ratio of about 80 to 100,000 people. No satisfactory explanation of its marked seasonal character has as yet been offered. The theory advanced by Dr. H. B. Anderson of Toronto is of more than academic interest.

"It is of interest to note counties with 1937 rates (of paralysis incidence) were adjacent to those showing a higher than average rate for the past eight years. Certain areas of the province appear particularly prone to greater than average incidence, while other districts remain year after year comparatively free of the disease in any form."

With flames raging in a Philadelphia piano store, it was a case of "business as usual." Five pianos were sold while firemen were fighting the outbreak.

Radio Can Locate Gold Below Ground

Prospecting Is Done By Wireless Equipment — Presence of Ore Causes Buzzing

The end has come for the romantic, adventurous days of gold-prospecting. It's good-bye to weather-beaten oldtimers and their horses. Science has sounded their death-knell. Nowadays, the prospector goes forth by car and finds gold by radio.

A portable one-man wireless apparatus has been devised which can locate gold deposits within 25 feet of the earth's surface. This equipment is already being used by some 1,2000 institutions and individuals throughout America.

Hears 25 Feet Down

The prospector fits on earphones, attached to the apparatus, and walks over a spot he judges may provide an ore pocket. The presence of such a pocket is indicated by a loud buzzing note in the earphones, which is also recorded on a meter.

An operator of one of these "electric prospectors" has unearthed $1,000 in gold and silver coins buried in an old jug, and in Southern Arizona another prospector found the site of an old, buried smelter which yielded more gold and silver bullion than a horse could carry.

Expect The Best Crop Since 1933

Forecast Western Yield 70 to 80 Per Cent. of Normal

So far as Canada is concerned, prospects are improving almost daily this spring for better crops and therefore for more money and more business next fall, writes Wellington Jeffers, financial editor of the Toronto Globe and Mail. One authority, whose sources of information and whose opinion has proved invaluable in past years, stated that in his opinion the conditions in Western Canada justify expectation of the best crops since 1933, and that he considers it would be good betting odds to say that the Western crop this year will at the minimum be 75 to 80 per cent. of normal.

Yet Allows For Deficiencies

This opinion makes allowance for rather low crops in the very large section embraced in Central and Southwestern Saskatchewan and Southeastern Alberta, which are still deficient in moisture and which could not be expected to stand up under any prolonged dry period in the growing season. Even making their deduction, he thinks that the minimum expectation can be 75 per cent. of normal.

"What do you mean by normal?" he was asked.

"The general average for wheat for the Prairies is from 350 to 360 million bushels of wheat, 200 million bushels of oats, 70 to 75 million bushels of barley and 10 to 12 million bushels of flax and rye.

"Canadians have lost in purchasing power an amount of $60,000,000 since last autumn, due to external depressions and the consequent drop in demand for some of our products. If the West comes through with even 75 per cent. of normal crops we will more than overcome that loss. If Saskatchewan alone gets three-quarters of an average crop, that alone should give somewhere around $75,000,000 more crop money than a year ago."

Dont's For Farm, Field and Barn

Don't start the cows to grass before there is grass to be eaten.

Don't forget to provide sun shelter for the hogs on pasture.

Don't neglect dipping the ewes and lambs just as soon as the shearing is done.

Don't overlook testing the seed corn. Looks are sometimes deceiving.

Don't give the colt too heavy a load for a few days, or until his shoulders become hardened.

Don't keep a tubercular hen on the farm.

Don't try to raise the pig crop in a yard where pigs were kept the past season.

Don't plant any but standard varieties of potatoes.

Don't neglect spraying the orchard.

Don't neglect to dock the lambs.

Don't fail to trim the horses' feet before they start field work.

Don't try to do field work before every field machine has been overhauled.

Don't forget the garden. Early vegetables are a treat.

Don't overlook testing the drill to see that it is sowing the right amount per acre.

Don't fail to plant some flowers and shrubs; brighten up the farm surroundings.

Go To School In Wire Cage

We all know the familiar motor van that collects and delivers the kiddies to and from school. It's a staid, reliable-looking affair. But way out in Lemhi, U.S.A., the scholars get more of a thrill. Some cross the great Salmon River in a wire pulley cage. Others travel six miles in a genuine covered wagon. The school driver covers 552 miles each week.

Those Sticky Coats

Thanks to a new chemical discovery, macintoshes and rubber coats need no longer suffer from that damp stickiness which often characterises them. They will feel like leather, instead.

A coating of latex—the "milk" from the rubber tree—is smeared over the garment, which is then dipped into a solution of sulphur chloride and benzine.

Two hours soaking in water follows, and the garment is free from stickiness.

Another Difficult Problem Solved By Handwriting Analysis

By LAWRENCE HIBBERT
(Psychologist and Handwriting Analyst)

A lady reader writes as follows: "Some time ago I met a man who had been very unhappily married. After innumerable squabbles his wife left him, leaving a two-year old baby with her husband. After we had seen quite a lot of each other we realised that we were in love . . . . We have been living together for over a year and the kiddie is very fond of me. No-one could be happier than we have been. The wife has consistently refused to divorce her husband, and now she is pleading with him to go back to her. This he refuses to do although he makes her an ample allowance. . . .

Now, although I love him desperately, if I thought it was for his good and that of the child that they be reunited, I would not hesitate to give him up, much as it would hurt me. Do you think they could live happily together? Or would my sacrifice simply mean that the woman would complete the ruin of his life that she started when they lived together previously?"

The wife's writing shows her up as a selfish, inconsiderate and heartless woman. Her sole interest in life is herself. I do not believe she has any love for her husband, nor for their child. Her desire to have her husband back is inspired by selfishness as well as a "dog-in-the-manger" reluctance to see him happy with another woman.

My correspondent's writing, on the other hand, shows clearly what a wealth of sympathy and love she has. No wonder that the man has fallen in love with her and that the kiddie is so fond of her.

My sympathies in this case are with the second woman. The key to the solution is money. I have little doubt that the man can use the matter of an allowance as a lever to gain permanent happiness.

I know there are people who will say the husband's place is with his wife, no matter how ill-suited they are. I cannot subscribe to it in this case because the wife felt no qualms about deserting her husband and the kiddie.

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Have YOU any problems you'd like to disclose to this writer? Have you any handwriting you want analysed? Your own, or a sweetheart's, or perhaps you wish to know more about friends or relatives? Send specimens of the writings you want analysed, enclosing 10c, for EACH specimen. Send with stamped addressed envelope to: L. Hibbert, Room 421, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto, Ont. All letters are confidential.

This Machine Flashes Colors By Air

Jean A. Lombard, left, explains the mechanics of the colorcode machine to Carmel Snow, in New York, as the apparatus checks off colors radioed from Paris. The device permits accurate selection of color choice.