# Sunday School Lesson

**LESSON XI**
**Saul: Moral Failure**
1 Samuel 10: 17-25; 15: 10-23; 28: 3-25; 31: 1-10
**Printed Text**
1 Samuel 10: 21-25; 15: 20-23; 31: 3-6
**Golden Text—To obey is better than sacrifice**
1 Samuel 15: 22.

**THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING**

**Time.** — Variously from 1100-1056 B.C.

**Place.**—The location of Ramah has not yet been exactly identified; Mizpah was in Benjamin on the road from Jerusalem to Shechem; Endor was four miles south of Mount Tabor. Mount Gilboa, the top of which is seventeen hundred feet above sea-level, was on the great plain of Jezreel in the centre of Palestine.

Saul was Israel's first king. The same "Saul" is usually regarded as the passive participle of the verb "to ask," and so means simply "asked". Saul was the son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, the fighting tribe of Israel. Saul's home was at Gibeah, usually identified with Tell el-Ful, a town about midway between Ramah and Jerusalem. Excavations carried on by the American School of Oriental Research in 1922 show that the site was occupied in the Canaanite period and was strongly fortified at the time of Saul and David.

Sometime after Samuel's private anointing of Saul, the prophet called all of Israel together at Mizpah.

**Chosen King**

21. And he brought the tribe of Benjamin near by their families; and the family of the Matrites was taken; and Saul the son of Kish was taken; but when they sought him, he could not be found.

Of the family of the Matrites we know nothing, for it is never referred to in the Bible outside of this passage.

22. Therefore they asked of Jehovah further: Is there yet a man to come hither? And Jehovah answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the baggage. Saul shared the feeling that constrained Moses to shrink back when he was appointed to deliver Israel from Egypt.

23. And they ran and fetched him thence; and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward. 24. And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom Jehovah hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, Long live the king.

25. Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before Jehovah. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house. This was, as it were, a charter at the beginning of the Hebrew monarchy, probably defining the position of the king, both in his relation to God and in his relation to the people.

Israel demanded that the king should possess all the natural attractions which the Israelites would desire in a king. He would reflect their religious standpoint at its best, but also he would represent their national failings and the great defect of their religious life, namely, a combining of zeal for the religion of Jehovah and utter want of real heart submission to the Lord. The people obtained precisely what they wanted; and because he who was their king so corresponded to their ideal and so reflected the national state, he failed.

**Saul's Disobedience**

Considerable time elapses between the day of Saul's public anointing before Israel and the story which we are now to consider. Saul had completely reorganized the army, had inflicted a terrific defeat upon the Philistines at Michmash, and then had gone out against Israel's old enemies, the Amalekites. The time had now come for the execution of God's sentence of destruction declared many years before. God had told Saul through Samuel that he was to destroy utterly all the possessions and property of Amalek, and every member of the tribe, every man, every woman, every child. Saul carried out God's instruction to destroy all the people, but Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. The sparing of the prey was a matter of pure greed. The sin of Saul was deliberate. It was the sin of putting his will before God's will, and this was the great moral tragedy in Saul's life.

20. And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of Jehovah, and have gone the way which Jehovah sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21. But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the devoted things, to sacrifice unto Jehovah thy God in Gilgal. 22. And Samuel said, Hath Jehovah as great delight in burnt-offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of Jehovah? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. 23. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry and teraphim. Because thou hast rejected the word of Jehovah, he hath also rejected thee from being king. Saul still continues, as guilty people often will, to justify his conduct, though, down in his heart, he must have known that there was no real justification for what he had done. With a burst of prophetic inspiration Samuel rends asunder Saul's tissue of excuses, and lays bare his sin. Saul now confesses his sin, and Samuel had solemnly to tell him that he could no longer go with the king as he appeared before the people.

Many years have passed in Saul's life, and we find him now a man stripped of power, fearful, walking in the darkness of his own counsels, rushing headlong to the doom that is immediately before him. The episode recorded in chapter 28 is one of the most famous in all the Old Testament.

**Defeated And Slain**

3. And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers overtook him; and he was greatly distressed by reason of the archers. 4. Then said Saul to his armorbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armorbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took his sword, and fell upon it. 5. And when his armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he likewise fell upon his sword, and died with him. 6. So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armorbearer, and all his men, that same day together.

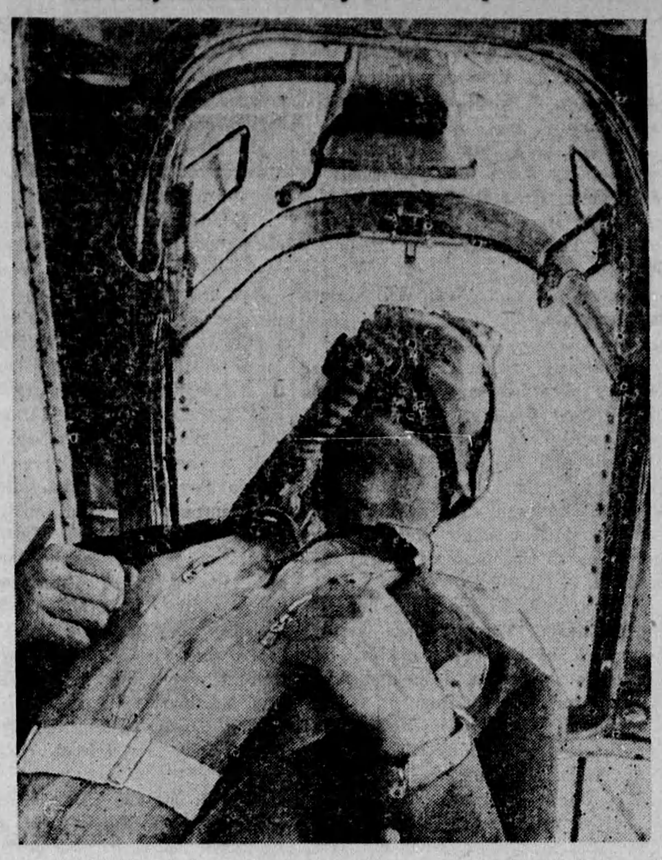
## Bell-Ringing Bird Killed

**Farm Hands Get Strange Creature After It Had Caught Crow**

WARDSVILLE, Ont. — With their attention attracted by a wild commotion of flapping wings and the sound of ringing bells high above their heads, harvest hands working on the farm belonging to J. A. King, second concession, Aldborough Township, were surprised on looking to see a large bird evidently of the raptorial order pursuing a crow which it finally pounced on in mid-air and bore to the earth clutched in its powerful claws a short distance away.

Frightened by the approach of the men the bird flew to a nearby tree where it sat perched watching every movement of the men. D. Lee, one of the workers, borrowed a neighbouring farmer's gun and later shot the winged killer while its attention was centred on the men. The bird with a wing spread measuring two and one half feet was bluish-gray in color and had a small bell securely strapped to each leg. Neither bell bore any identification marks.

**How Eyston Got Ready For His Speed Run**



Captain George E. T. Eyston dons his gas mask before taking his huge car for a speed run on the Bonneville, Utah, salt flats. He averaged the tremendous speed of 345 miles an hour in his "Thunderbolt".

# Are You Listening?

*By* FREDDIE TEE

**HE SWEETENS SWING**

Mark Warnow, dynamic young CBS conductor, who reverses the present day order of things by playing swing music in the manner of the old classics, is currently heard on the musical variety program he originated, "Blue Velvet Music," broadcast each Wednesday over a nationwide Columbia network (WABC-CBS, 9:30 to 10:00 P. M., EDST). "Swing Fugues", nursery rhymes set to music, and "Little Symphonies," original miniature symphonies composed under Warnow's direction, are among his innovations in the musical world. The famous stylist made his musical debut as a concert violinist at Town Hall in New York in 1924. He was director of the Massel Opera Company and led many hit musical comedy orchestras.

Mark Warnow

**NATIONAL FORUM**

In order to give full expression on the Canadian air to the main conflicting points of view on matters of national and world importance, the CBC will continue to sponsor a Sunday night "National Forum" on current Canadian affairs, in addition to the weekly presentation of an international round table discussion on affairs of the world today. The National Forum will continue the main features of the "Whither Democracy" series, broadcast last season.

**AIRLANES GOSSIP**

During the past few weeks the CBC has introduced a number of popular artists on its 15-minute features from Toronto. Gordon Calder, well known vocalist and master of ceremonies, has been placed on Mondays at 12.30 to 12.45 p.m. EDST.

The NBC Vox Pop program will continue to be broadcast as usual each Tuesday 9 to 9.30 p.m. EDST over WEAF and the NBC Red Network without any break until after the show of September 13, when Parks Johnson and Wally Butterworth will take a two-weeks vacation before transferring their sponsorship affiliation on Saturday, October 1, when they will broadcast the first program in their new Saturday night series over the NBC Red Network. This will be the first vacation Vox Pop has had in the nearly seven years the show has been on the air.

Frank Black is one of radio's greatest hobby-collectors. He collects antiques, rare music manuscripts, marine paintings and letters from great composers of long ago.

**"BIG TOWN" RETURNS SOON**

Edward G. Robinson, Radio's No. 1 Racketbuster, returns to the Columbia network with his "Big Town" series on Tuesday, September 20. (WABC-CBS, 8 to 8.30 p.m. EDST.—rebroadcast to the West at 11.30 p.m. EDST.) The dramatic sketches starring Robinson, supported by lovely Claire Trevor, will continue to be heard each Tuesday at the same time. Whether portraying a gangster as he did in the film "Little Caesar," or a reformer as he does in radio's "Big Town", Robinson carries a force and conviction that has made him one of the most admired actors in the entertainment world today. Opposite him in the broadcasts is Claire Trevor, blonde charmer who recently married the program's director—Clark Andrews. Robinson is cast as Steve Wilson, managing editor of a newspaper, The "Illustrated News".

## Cow Gives Birth To Three Calves

EDMONTON, Alta. — Giving birth to triplets may be something to be proud of, but Daisy Belle, Holstein cow owned by Adolph Busse, apparently doesn't think so.

Daisy Belle, who recently became the mother of two bulls and a heifer, has refused to have anything to do with her sons, showering all her affections on the daughter.

Since their birth, Mrs. Busse, who named the offspring Pete, Repeat and Repeater, has fed and cared for the bulls.

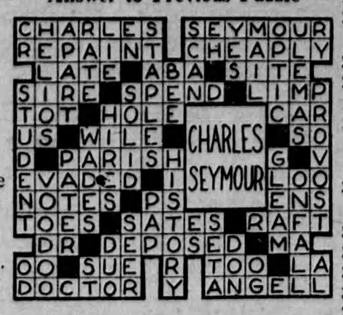
Multiple births among cows is unusual, but the fact that all three are thriving despite the unusually high mortality rate makes them a rarity.

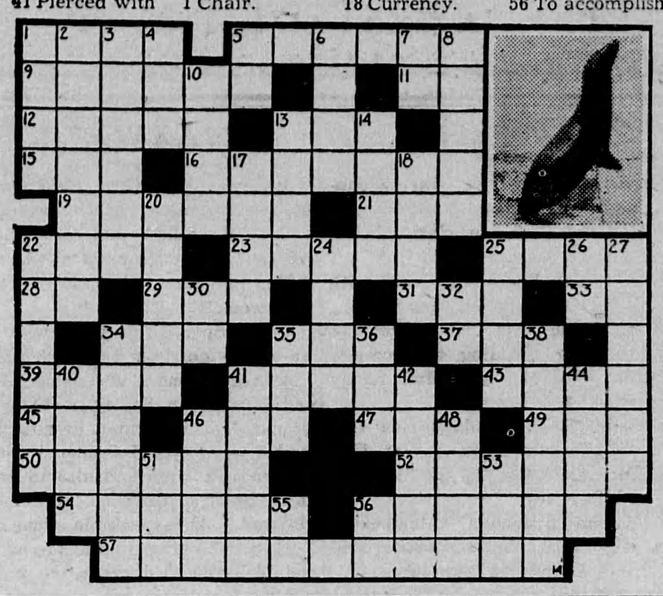
# Furry Sea Mammal

**HORIZONTAL**
1 Pictured fur-covered animal.
5 It is a —— animal.
9 Kingdom.
11 Form of "a."
12 Cetacean.
13 In the middle of.
15 To scatter.
16 Goblet.
19 To seat again.
21 Insane.
22 Price.
23 Its —— is valuable for coats (pl.).
25 Destiny.
28 Either.
29 Inlet.
31 To hasten.
33 Laughter sound.
34 Obese.
35 Sorrowful.
37 Membranous bag.
39 To leak.
41 Pierced with horns.
43 Shape.
45 Aurora.
46 Sick.
47 Pale.
49 Ratite bird.
50 To revolve.
52 To count again
54 Skin diseases.
56 To argue.
57 It is a —— animal.

**VERTICAL**
1 Chair.
2 Sovereign.
3 Soft-finned fishes.
4 Cover.
5 Myself.
6 Fence bar.
7 North America.
8 Finished.
10 Speed contest.
13 Chinese sedge.
14 Ten cents.
17 Sunk fence.
18 Currency.
20 Leather strip.
22 It lives in —— regions.
24 Expensive.
25 Unable to hear
26 Exclamation.
27 It is one of the few aquatic ——s.
30 Neuter pronoun.
32 Exists.
34 Pugilistic.
35 Sun.
36 Moisture.
38 Sky phenomena.
40 Plant part.
41 To gather after a reaper.
42 Challenger
44 Part in a drama.
46 Passage
48 God of wisdom.
51 Data.
53 Greek letter.
55 Note in scale.
56 To accomplish.

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**



The far-seeing businesss leader thinks more of initiative than of tradition. Not "Yes, you are right," men, but "Yes, I'll do it," men are the ones he looks out for.

Dr. Bowie, Principal of the Dundee (Scotland) School of Economics, recently gave a list of the points that make a good business manager, and a further list of causes of waste. Briefly summarized they are: The ability to delegate authority, to make decisions, to give clear-cut instructions, to understand his staff, to accept suggestions, to value initiative, to depart from tradition where necessary, to have a sense of humor.

## THIS CURIOUS WORLD By William Ferguson

SOUTH and Central America presents a strange array of bird life in the winter. Birds whose summer habitats are entirely different, hobnob together during their stay in the tropics. More than 200 species of North American birds are known as winter migrants in Guatemala.

**NEXT: Do snakes have a voice?**

POP—Singing on the Run

By J. MILLAR WATT