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**THE NATIONAL DEBT**

Many of our readers will be surprised to learn that they are in debt to the tune of \$650. Some of them will probably dispute the statement and maintain that they will have to be shown. Our authority is the Huntington Gleaner, which asserts boldly that every Canadian owes this sum, no matter what their age, occupation or condition in life. Some day this money will have to be paid and in the meantime every citizen of Canada is paying interest on the debt. The reason for all this is of course the national debt, which now amounts to approximately \$7,178,000,000. This appalling total includes the total net direct debt of the Dominion of Canada, the guaranteed or indirect debt of the Dominion, the direct and indirect debts of the nine provinces and the direct debts of the 4,300 municipalities. This huge debt is the direct financial obligation of the people of Canada, for it was in their name that the borrowing was done. "Is it any wonder," declares the Gleaner, "that the question is often asked, 'How much further can this taxation go?' Is it any wonder that when one stops to look at Canada's national debt, that the wonder grows how the people of Canada stand for such expensive taxation? Everything has, to end, even excessive taxation. And the time should be near at hand when steps for a decreased taxation and the clearing off of some of the burden of this national debt is going to be attended to."

**PHILOSOPHY OF MAN**

Man comes into this life without his consent, goes out against his will, and the road between is a rocky path. When he is young the big girls kiss him; when he is older the little girls kiss him and the big ones won't. If he is poor they say he is "no good"; if he becomes rich he is a "grafter." If he enters politics, it is for what he can get out of it. If he keeps out of politics he is not public spirited enough to do his part. If he gives to charity, it is just "for show." If he does not he is "stingy and miserly." If he takes an active interest in church work he is a hypocrite; if he does not he is a hardened sinner. If he is affectionate he is "soft"; if he is not he is "cold blooded." If he spends money he is spendthrift; if he saves it he is a tightwad. If he dies young he had a wonderful future ahead of him; if he lives to a ripe old age he never amounted to much anyway. So why worry.—Exchange.

A Scotsman rushed into hospital bleeding from a cut in the cheek. "Done while shaving, I suppose," said the doctor. "You want me to stop that for you?" "Not necessarily," replied the Scot. "I was just wonderin' how much you paid for blood transfusions."

**Peter Declares His Love**

International Uniform Sunday School Lesson, January 25th, 1939

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14: 15.  
**LESSON PASSAGE:** John 21: 11-19.  
 "My soul he doth restore again; And me to walk doth make Within the paths of righteousness, Even for his own Name's sake."

The Unbroken Net, 11  
 At the beginning of Peter's association with Jesus, he was directed where to cast his net in the sea of Galilee. He obeyed the instructions given by Jesus from the shore and the net was filled until it broke. In this lesson, after the Resurrection, Peter is fishing again and drew to the land a net full of great fishes, yet the net was not broken. We may see in this contrast a parable of Peter's growth as a soul-winner. At first, he was not efficient. He would meet people without giving them faith in Christ. After months of training by the Good Shepherd, Peter was learning the art of becoming a fisher of men. On the day of Pentecost, he demonstrated his skill. Thousands were won to Christian faith. Yet Peter's greatest service, as an apostle was probably in private conversation, face to face with one person. In so many lines fishing provides a closer analogy than net fishing.

Practical Service, 12 - 14  
 Christ has given us the highest idealism concerning God and man, yet he was constantly doing lowly deeds of service for others. He fed the multitude, he healed the sick, he girded himself with a towel and washed his disciples' feet. Here we find him preparing a meal for his disciples. He who said to all humanity, "Come unto me, ye that labour and are heavy-laden" said to his disciples, "Come and dine." We need to learn to hold together the ideal and the real, the theory and the practice. Too often religion tends to become content with ritual and rhetoric, forgetting that the test of the Last Judgment is actual service. The people who write articles for magazines about the unemployed are not as creative and constructive as those who give direct help, providing sleeping accommodation, food and work for the unemployed. Sentiment in the heart should never be allowed to be a substitute for meeting actual need.

Restoring a Soul, 15 - 17  
 The author of the twenty-third Psalm spoke of God restoring his soul, even as a shepherd restores a lost sheep. In this incident we see Christ, the Good Shepherd, restoring the soul of Peter, the disciple who had denied him. There was no condemnation, no opening up of the wound. Christ made one test, that of love. Once he was assured that Peter really loved him, Christ was ready to entrust Peter with apostolic leadership. The incident shows Christ's willingness to forgive. Peter did not plead for forgiveness. He did not need to. Christ was ready to forgive freely. Not only did Christ forgive Peter, but he gave him high commission, placing heavy responsibilities upon the disciple who had denied him three times. This is one of the most gracious pictures of Christ in the whole gospel story. He who taught forgiveness until seventy times seven practised it himself, forgiving those who placed him on the cross and forgiving the traitor disciple who, under strain and stress, denied him. Christ is still able to restore our souls.

Peter's Loyalty, 18  
 It took a long time for Peter to become firmly established in faith, but he made good abundantly in the end. During the public ministry of Jesus, Peter required special tuition and direction, but after the resurrection, he became the acknowledged apostolic leader. He carried a large degree of responsibility at the Jerusalem conference. He also demonstrated his personal courage. He was arrested and his life endangered, but Peter did not recant. Tradition is that he died, crucified head downward, thus further expiating his sin of denial. Christ predicted martyrdom for Peter, comparing Peter's helplessness as a little child with his helplessness as a martyr at the close of life. Peter's spiritual career could easily have been spoiled. He was impulsive, headstrong and had a trigger tongue. It was the skilled care of Christ that enabled Peter to overcome all his handicaps and emerge triumphant at the end. What Christ did for Peter he can still do for those who will put their lives under his leadership.

Follow Me, 19  
 Christ asked Peter one question, "Lovest thou me?" He gave him one commission, "Feed my sheep." He left him one command, "Follow me." All that was distinctive in the life of Peter came through following Christ. From the first day when Andrew introduced him, Peter received truth, inspiration, power, love from Christ. The relationship had been very real during the public ministry of Christ, but after the Ascension, how could Peter follow Christ? No longer would he see the familiar form or hear the loved voice. Strangely enough, it was after the resurrection that Peter came into fullest power. He received the Holy Spirit and Christ lived in his heart by faith. The teacher of Galilee was no longer localised; his spirit was let loose upon all humanity for all time. Peter ceased to walk by sight and learned to live by faith. He was as sure of the presence of Christ with him as when Christ had stood in the boat or been with him on the holy mountain. Instead of "forgetting," Peter realised the presence of Christ more clearly as the years went by. We are not deprived of something the disciples had in the earthly ministry of Christ. By the presence of the Holy Spirit we share in the fuller power which the apostles experienced. We share the blessedness of those who not having seen, yet have believed. Christ still says to us, as he said to Peter, "Follow me."

1. What was the secret of Peter's growth?
2. How does Christ's example teach practical service?
3. What does it mean to love Christ?
4. Is Peter typical of average human nature?
5. "Follow me." Why did Christ repeat the actual words of Peter's original call?

**WORLD POPULATION IS 2,134,000,000**

The population of the world at the end of 1937 was 2,134,000,000 the League of Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics estimated. The figures were 18,000,000 over 1936. The bulletin revealed that more than one-half of mankind lives in Asia, where China claims about 450,000,000, India 350,000,000, and Japan and its possessions 100,000,000. The population of Soviet Russia was estimated at 178,000,000, while of 397,000,000 human beings in Europe, 79,000,000 live in Germany, 47,000,000 in the United Kingdom, 43,000,000 in Italy, 42,000,000 in France and 35,000,000 in Poland. The bulletin gave the population of the United States at 130,000,000 while South America has 90,000,000 of whom Brazil claims 50 per cent. In Europe, the United States and Japan the proportion of old people is increasing as the death rate begins to overtake the birth rate. In Austria and France in 1937 there were more deaths than births.

**For Kitchen Artists**

By Frances Lee Barton

As many artistic honors are won in the kitchen as in a painter's studio. Every day American housewives are mixing flavors just as skillfully as a competent painter mixes his palette of colors. One of the most subtle flavor combinations at the disposal of the artist-housewife is chocolate and coffee. Your plainest cake recipe will do you honor if you adorn it with this unusual frosting:

**Chocolate Mocha Frosting**  
 2 tablespoons butter; 2 1/2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar; 1/4 teaspoon vanilla; 1/4 teaspoon salt; 1/4 square unsweetened chocolate, melted; 2 tablespoons strong coffee. Cream butter; add part of sugar gradually, blending after each addition. Add vanilla, salt, and chocolate and mix well. Add remaining sugar, alternately with coffee, until of right consistency to spread. Beat after each addition until smooth. Makes enough frosting to cover tops of two 9-inch layers, or top and sides of 8x8x2-inch cake, or about 2 dozen cup cakes.

**The SNAPSHOT GUILD**  
 FINDING PICTURES



Winter is full of pictures—indoors and out—that you should be capturing now.

WHEN one is taking pictures—in the winter or any other time—there are just three things to seek. They are: interesting subjects, or interesting occurrences, or interesting effects of light. Any of these—or all together—will yield good pictures, and you can find them almost anywhere. At random, I have set down a list of winter picture ideas—just suggestions to set your imagination working. Load up your camera, try them—and I'll hazard the guess that you can turn out dozens of good pictures in the next few days. First, snow pictures. Can you picture the sparkle of sunlight, falling across new snow? Curious shapes of snow in drifts, on trees, on shrubs and fences. Children sledding, or throwing snowballs? Shadow patterns on the snow? Neighbors shoveling snow from the house walk? A horse-drawn sleigh? Tracks of people, or birds, or rabbits, in the snow? Snow falling, soft and white, outside your window? Paths beaten to barn or garage? Birds in the snow, pecking at crumbs? All these will make good pictures. Then, cold weather. Can you put cold into a picture—so that the viewer feels it? How about a picture of an old horse, nuzzling a frozen-over water trough? Icicles hanging from a faucet or pump spout? Frost on the kitchen window-pane? Passerby, bending into the wind, snuggled deep into the collar of their overcoats? Someone scattering cinders on an icy pavement? A small boy, rubbing his frosty ears with mittened hands? An old automobile with radiator spouting steam? A stretch of open country with snow clouds dark above it? These are good pictures—they tell the story of winter. Again, indoors. Warm pictures, to contrast with the cold outside. Have you tried frost pictures? Pictures of the family toasting marshmallows, or telling stories before the fire? Reading, under the warm glow of a lamp? These are good—and easy to make, with fast X-type film and two or three photo bulbs. Pictures such as these are interesting because they tell a story. They have "something to say." And they are the snapshots you should be getting now.

John van Gulder

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