

TIMELY TOPICS FOR WOMEN . . .

By Barbara Baines

REDUCED PAY CHEQUE PRESENT A CHALLENGE TO HOUSEWIVES

So the last pay cheque your husband brought home looked pretty skimpy, eh? Well from now on they are all going to be rather lean, but is the average housewife down-hearted? Not if they are all like Mrs. M., a young friend of mine with two small children whose husband is doing war work.

"I'm lucky," she says, "to still have my husband with me. Lucky to still have a comfortable home and good food. What if the government does take 25 percent of our pay cheque? We still are very much better off than millions of others."

"We will have to readjust our whole way of living," she continued, "but we won't suffer any real hardship. In fact, to me, our wartime pay cheque is a sort of challenge. I have always been pretty good at 'making things do' and now I will have a real opportunity to show how good a manager I can be . . . a chance to prove myself a domestic efficiency expert."

"John leaves most of the financing to me," she explained, "but we always talk over anything of importance together before making a decision. So we have set aside tomorrow night to rework our budget."

"One thing we won't have to worry about is the tax deducted at the source. But it will be tougher to save enough to cover our insurance, rent, taxes (which form part of our compulsory savings) and the extra 10 percent of the tax that will be due in a lump sum next April 1st. We have already decided the only way to be sure of having the money on hand when needed is to deduct it from each week's pay cheque, and deposit it in a separate account where it will not be used for anything else."

Well Mrs. M. has made a good start at rearranging her household budget on a wartime basis. I'd like to have been able to listen in on her talk with her husband and find out just how they plan to cut down on their living expenses to meet their reduced income.

Not many families will be able to reduce their general overhead, rent for taxes, fuel, telephone, light, etc., to any large degree. Nor is it wise to cut down the food allowance if health is to be maintained. The government hopes the greatest savings will be in the reduced buying of household equipment, household furnishings, luxury goods and clothes and in the reduced spending on car upkeep.

But the majority of families on moderate incomes will find that only by careful management, and rigid economy in even the little things, will they be able to make the required savings and keep out of debt.

The families most greatly handicapped by the new taxes are those who face heavy commitments because of installment buying. Payments that could be met with ease before the new taxes went into effect now become a burden. Small debts that formerly could be paid out of the savings of a few weeks, present a bit of a problem now that those savings must go to the government.

It can therefore readily be seen that each family must have a budget . . . a definite plan for spending, and for making the savings to meet the government requirements in order to keep out of debt.

CHANGING FASHIONS

The fad for going stockinged has taken the nation by storm since silk hose are no longer obtainable, and is a favourite topic of conversation wherever you go. But did you realize to what an extent the hatless fashion has taken hold?

I can recall the time (and it was not so long ago) when one just did not appear on Spad Street in Ottawa without a hat. But when I was in the capital the other day, I was surprised to see more than half the well-dressed young women who made up the five o'clock crowds without hats.

Only in the downtown section of the largest cities, and in fashionable hotels and restaurants are hats still the rule on week-days. In suburban communities and small towns and villages few women wear hats in the summertime. And high school and college girls seem to have discarded hats for both Summer and Winter.

The new Fall clothes, though less frivolous, look just as smart as they ever did, but it takes a clever woman to know just what she is wearing. Believe it or not, there are some of the new sources of cloth for clothing: milk, peanuts, potato, yucca plants, glass and soybeans.

The slacks and bandana girls have set a new fashion all their own. There was a time when a woman wearing navy coveralls on the street was conspicuous, but no longer. In every district where there are major war industries you will see stark-clad women workers going to and coming from work by the hundreds. The newer uniforms are better fitted and are smarter than those that made their appearance in the early days of the war, and look quite presentable for street wear in Summer, but they are anything but attractive under a fur-trimmed, drowsy coat in Winter. I see no reason why the manufacturers cannot design an inexpensive trenchcoat suitable for winter wear with them.

FOR OUR SCRAPBOOK

I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'T is the business of little minds to shrink, but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principles unto death.

—Thomas Paine

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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By HAROLD L. LINDGREN, D. D., Of The Sunday School League of Ontario (Approved by Ontario Magazine Union)

Lesson for September 13

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JOSEPH SOLD INTO SLAVERY

LESSON TEXT—Genesis 37:1-36. GOLDEN TEXT—Love service not—1 Cor. 13:1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Does it pay to trust God? Is He really concerned about the affairs of men? Does He know the trials and the heartaches of His children? These are the crying questions of today, and they find their answer in God's dealings with men of the past. The story of Joseph has many interesting and instructive phases, but perhaps the most important just now is the truth of our lesson, "The Lord saith: them that honor me I will honor."

We first find Joseph as he learns that

I. Jealousy Bears Bitter Fruit (vv. 1-36).

Joseph was his father's favorite and was shown that favoritism in many ways, but it was perhaps most fully expressed in the coat of many colors. This was a luxurious long robe with sleeves, indicating that he was a gentleman and not to do ordinary work of one who wore the sleeveless, knee-length tunic. His brothers deeply resented this evidence of the father's favor.

The dreams which Joseph rather innocently yet perhaps unwisely told to his brothers and his honest report of their wicked behavior fanned the flame of jealousy into a consuming fire which threatened his life. But God, through Joseph's brother Judah and through the opportunity they had to make money out of selling him into slavery, kept him for His own purposes.

May we not learn that the darkest hour may be the time of God's deep interest and directing power. The only way strong men can be developed is by suffering hardness and trial. "God wants iron saints, and since there is no way of imparting iron to the moral nature than by letting His people suffer, He lets them suffer (Heb. 12:11)." (Meyer).

Parents should also learn here the dangers of favoritism among children. It is one of the most destructive of evil influences that can enter a home. It hurts the child who is favored, alienates the other children, and it destroys the confidence in parents and respect for their authority. Let's have none of it!

II. Deceit Attempts to Conceal Sin (vv. 17-36).

One of the tragic things about sin is that a wicked act does not stand alone but leads into another sin to cover the first. In the case of Joseph's brethren, their sin against him was covered by deceit. They lied to the father and maintained that he for years, even though they saw that their aged father was brokenhearted. How callous sin makes the heart of a man!

Yet the very fact that they lied to cover their sin indicates that they were ashamed to admit that they had fallen so low. James Strahan well says: "Evil never dares to be sincere. It always borrows the colors and wears the garb of innocence. It has a whole lifetime of hard labor in keeping up appearances. Hypocrisy is the tribute which all bad men have to pay to the ideal of goodness."

III. God Overrules Evil for Good (v. 36).

It was God's plan that Joseph should come to his greatest usefulness in his place of authority in Egypt, so He directed the sale of the young slave into the home of Potiphar, a leading officer of Pharaoh.

The story of Joseph's life in Potiphar's house is one of unusual interest. Faithfulness to duty, loyalty to God and truth led to shifting experiences of imprisonment and of favor, but ultimately he came out into the place of leadership in the government of Egypt. In this place God marvelously blessed and used him.

Since the matter of the relation of men to government is so much before us these days, it will be well to note that Scripture holds a very exalted view of the public servant. Paul says we are to "be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God" (Rom. 13:1). The Bible clearly teaches that every governmental agency and every public servant, from the policeman on the beat to the President in the White House, is only permitted to exercise authority over his fellowmen because God has ordained that there should be such government. Clear it is that every right-thinking official of state and nation should be humble, teachable, discreet, and wise in the exercise of his power, and God-fearing in the discharge of his responsibility.

Our lesson provides unusual opportunity for the teaching of proper family relationships, the right attitude toward government, as well as the blessed assurance and confidence which we may have who have entrusted our lives into the hands of God.

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THE RAILWAY AND THE WAR . . . By Thurstan Topham

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