

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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United Methodist Church

Lesson for March 21

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OUR LORD'S INTERCESSORY PRAYER

LESSON TEXT—John 17:1-13
GOLDEN TEXT—"My Father, keep through these hours those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are."—John 17:11

There are some times and places so sacred that one is instinctively hushed into reverent devotion. When Christ prayed in holy intercession (as recorded in John 17) on the night before His suffering His disciples must have been lifted into the very presence of the Eternal One. It was a holy experience.

He prayed for Himself, but even more did He pray for His believing followers. To know that someone is praying for us is indeed an anchor in a time of storm, a strong help to the hour of conflict or of service for Christ.

But to know that the Master prayed for you and me—that is enough to send us, like the disciples of old, out to face an unbelieving world in His conquering name. He prayed for Himself—and He prayed for me!

I. He Prayed for Himself (vv. 1-3)

He looked up and said: "Father," and then He was ready to pray. So close was He to God that there was just this simple recognition of their communion. In Christ are we not as close as He?

What did Jesus ask for Himself? At first thought it seems a little unusual that He asked:

1. For Recognition of His Divine Glory (vv. 1-3)

Why would He who had just given the disciples an example of an admonition to humility desire to have His glory manifested? Be sure it was not a matter of selfish pride. He had finished His work (for He counted redemption as complete throughout His prayer), and now the glory which He laid down when He came to earth (Phil. 2:6-8) was to be resumed.

He wants man to see Him now not only as the compassionate Son of man, but the glorious Son of God, able to save. It is right that the glory of Christ should be magnified and recognized by the whole creation. He is worthy!

2. For the Manifestation of His Grace (vv. 4-5)

The Father had given Christ the heart devotion of those who believed in Him. Note that their faith rested on the name of God (v. 6), and upon His Word which had come to them and to us through Christ.

He recognized their position and standing in Him and established it before God and man. He then prayed for them (read vv. 9-17) that they might be kept in an evil world as a testimony to the grace and power of God in the human heart.

This leads to His Intercession for all believers.

II. He Prayed for All Believers (vv. 18-36)

Christians are not simply the avowed adherents to a particular form of belief, they are "sent" ones. As the Father sent Him into the world, "even so send I them into the world," said Christ.

Christ has gone to be with the Father, but He has left those who believe in Him as His witnesses, His representatives. For this they need holiness. He prayed:

1. For Their Consecration (vv. 18, 19)

For their sakes He consecrated Himself. Surely if He needed it, we do far more. It is not only His will for us, but His prayer. How wonderfully that prayer was answered we see as we look back over the intervening 19 centuries, from His immediate disciples on through the martyrs, the missionary pioneers of all ages, the faithful preachers and teachers of the gospel, yea and "livers" of the gospel too. He knew, He prayed, God answered. Are you in that blessed host of consecrated believers?

2. For Their Unity and Glory (vv. 20-26)

There is a refreshing simplicity about the Christian faith which is utterly different from all the complications which man has prepared and superimposed upon it. Essentially it is a matter of God having sent His Son into the world to be the Redeemer of men. He and the Father are one, He and His followers are one, and so we are all one. We who today believe are included (read vv. 20-23).

This is an inward unity of the spirit, not an outward union of organizations. The answer to our difficulty is not the dissolution of denominations (although there do seem to be far too many subdivisions, too), but the uniting of all groups in a oneness of love and devotion to Christ, and a united emphasis on the gospel.

There is something more here. This unity puts Christ's followers into the place where His glory may be revealed in and upon them. It is His prayer that we should behold in our Saviour the glory which God had given Him because He loved Him before the foundation of the world.

RED CROSS Questions Answers

Q. Why does the Canadian Red Cross have to appeal to the public for funds? Doesn't the Canadian Government pay for these services?

A. Under the terms of the International Red Cross Convention at Geneva, Switzerland, and agreed to by almost every country in the world, all monies for international relief must be raised by voluntary subscription from the public. Government subsidization would constitute a violation of this agreement and would result in forfeiture of international privileges.

Q. What does the Red Cross do for Canadian servicemen who are ill or wounded and confined to hospital wards?

A. As soon as a Canadian serviceman is admitted to hospital anywhere in Britain his name is given to the London office of the Canadian Red Cross. They, in turn, communicate with their hospital visiting committee connected with that particular hospital. A Canadian Red Cross woman visitor then calls on the patient, bringing him such comforts as candies, cigarettes, reading material and even his home-town newspapers.

Q. Does the Red Cross look after servicemen in Canadian hospitals?

A. Yes. The same procedure followed for overseas hospitals is used here in Canada. The Canadian Red Cross spares no effort to make sure that no Canadian serviceman confined to hospital suffers from loneliness.

Q. Does a member of the Canadian services have to be confined to hospital before receiving benefits from the Canadian Red Cross?

A. No. Millions of knitted comforts such as scarves, sweaters, mitts, socks, helmet, etc. are given away free to members of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Active Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force (and their associated women's divisions) to keep them warm in the course of their duty. In addition, cash grants are made by the Canadian Red Cross towards servicemen's hostels in Canada and abroad.

Q. Does the Red Cross confine its benefits to men and women of the Armed Services only?

A. No. Civilians in many parts of the world are benefitting from Canadian Red Cross services. British civilians in enemy internment camps receive food parcels weekly just as British prisoners of war do; victims of bombing raids in Britain receive clothes, bedding and medical supplies from the Canadian Red Cross; transfusions of Canadian Red Cross blood serum have been given to civilians, not only in Britain but in Russia and Malta; a million pounds of jam and honey from Canada had been distributed to British children; layettes and baby clothing is given to expectant and nursing mothers in Britain.

Q. What does the Red Cross do for civilians here in Canada?

A. Despite the tremendously increased wartime demands made on the Canadian Red Cross, its peacetime activities are carried on as usual. These consist, in part, of medical attention in outpost and frontier settlements, travelling dental clinics, classes in nutrition and home nursing, etc.

Q. What would the Red Cross do in the event of an attempted invasion of Canada?

A. Canadian Red Cross disaster relief organizations, supported by strong provincial committees, have been set up on the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard, as well as at other vulnerable points inland, and are ready to go into instant action in the event of air raids or other war emergencies. Equipment held in readiness includes portable operating-room equipment, mobile hospitals, blankets, surgical and medical supplies.

ANNUAL HALTON SEED FAIR TO INCLUDE DISPLAY OF LABOUR SAVING EQUIPMENT

Arrangements are now under way, states Agricultural Representative J. E. Whitehead, to have an exhibit of certain labour saving devices on display at the Halton Seed Fair in the Milton Town Hall, on March 10th and 20th. A prize list for Halton's annual seed show is now available upon request at the local Agricultural office. President Harrop and his fellow executive members have arranged an excellent prize list which includes three specials offered by the T. Eaton Co. Limited.

Inquiries for seed grain, clover and alfalfa seed are already being received by the Committee in charge. The seed

show is an excellent place to either sell or buy. Good offered for sale must be of the same quality and grade as that exhibited.

"As We See It"

By J. A. Stang

WAR MAKES quite a difference doesn't it? We change our ideas of this, that, and of the other thing over night during war time. Even the possession of such an otherwise important commodity as money doesn't seem to be nearly as important as it was at one time. We seem to be able to get along just as well without so many things that we used to think so necessary to our comfort and well-being.

Even during this severe winter when we were unable to always get the correct kind of fuel that we have been used to having, we were able to keep our homes comfortable and nobody suffered very much. We are unable at times to get the favorite cut of beef that we like best of all but we find that some other cut seems to satisfy our hunger just as well. The sugar bowl isn't as well filled as it used to be, but after all what difference does it make? Perhaps the tea isn't as strong as we used to make it but we find we are the better for having learned to use the weaker beverage. We never thought of buying the light colored lower-priced salmon, but now when we are unable to get any other kind we find that the flavor of the light colored kind is just as nice as was the higher priced red salmon.

We had the habit of getting the car out every time we wanted to go down town but we find that with the scarcity of gas we can still walk and find that the walk is good for us. We had to have new suit or hat or shoes or rubbers every time that the old ones looked a little shabby, but now we find that we are able to take better care of the old clothes and that they can be cleaned up and do just as well as would a new outfit. Besides that, they are much more comfortable to wear than a new outfit would be. Before the war it would never do for us to be seen carrying home an armful of parcels. It just wasn't done. But now we seem to be able to carry quite a load and never even think of asking to have the parcels sent up. We had the habit of thinking of the ladies as belonging to the weaker sex but we find them today doing men's work in almost any line that you can think of and apparently doing a better job than the men that they have replaced. They don't look any the worse for so doing either. We read of the arrangements for collecting funds for the Red Cross and while we used to wait until somebody came around to ask us for funds for that purpose, now we consider that we can just as well hand those donations of ours in at headquarters, for our locality, and thus save somebody the trouble of calling upon us. Instead of keeping our tires in good repair we simply ordered some new ones but now that the 8th Army need some 2000 new tires each day on its long hike westward from Egypt, we find that we are unable to get any new tires at all, and we take good care of the old ones. Instead of having all the lights possible on at once we find that we can see to read or to listen to the radio just as well with fewer lights and thus have the satisfaction of knowing that we are helping the power situation for munition factories. Even if some of our favourite programs are off the air now because of the scarcity of sponsors, other programs take their place. Even if we are unable to get programs that we like at times we can get along without them and even get more out of our reading when the radio is shut off entirely. We read and hear a good deal about getting back to normal times after the war, but we wonder if perhaps a good many old time habits and wants may be discarded for good. In fact a good many of them will be much better, forgotten.

MR. JOHN BRACKEN, the new leader of the Conservative party in the Dominion House, in an address recently mentioned that we Canadians should be using peat for fuel to replace so much imported coal. Of course this idea of his isn't original at all as the same subject has been discussed a good many times and efforts have been made to use peat from time to time without much success it seems. The idea is of interest locally because of the fact that so much peat is available within hauling distance. There are some peat bogs in the Caledon district and then there is the big Luther Marsh in the north end of Dufferin and of Wellington Counties. The Luther Marsh has recently received a good deal of publicity because of the huge dam that has been built on the Grand River and there must be plenty of information available regarding the quality and quantity of peat in the Luther Marsh. If this idea of Mr. Bracken's could be investigated properly and this new fuel made available it would be interesting to try the new fuel out. No doubt it would be just as satisfactory as are some of the substitute fuels which we have had to become used to this past winter. We do hope that we may hear more of it.

show is an excellent place to either sell or buy. Good offered for sale must be of the same quality and grade as that exhibited.

Letter of Thanks

The following letter was received by the members of the Lorne Scots W.A. in appreciation of the gift of cigarettes sent at Christmastime, and clearly shows how the men appreciate their thoughtfulness:

Secretary Lorne Scots W.A.
Dear Mrs. Kidd:

I would like to thank you and the Ladies' Auxiliary for the very welcome gift of cigarettes I received at Christmas time. We all appreciate parcels from Canada, especially at this time, when we are thinking of our families and friends back home.

Our food is quite plain, and sometimes monotonous, but still very adequate, and the Canadian boys are in excellent physical condition. They are very well behaved on the whole, and are as good, or better, soldiers than any in the Empire. We shall see the proof of this in a very few months when the Canadians will be doing the real job they came over here to do.

I hope the folks in Canada are showing the same kind of hospitality towards the visitors in their midst, as we receive from the English people. I have been fortunate enough to travel all over England and Scotland, and not only have made the acquaintance of people in many of the countries, but have made some very fine personal friends.

The bare necessities of food and clothing are still obtainable at reasonable prices, but the luxuries and extra comforts are either non-existent or so expensive that few people can buy them. All industry, and man and woman power, is employed in the production of war materials. Everyone works long hours, works hard, and has little time for pleasure, but no one complains. We are all so glad to have been delivered from the disaster which came so perilously close, that everyone puts his shoulder to the wheel, realising that hard work is their share of this war.

Fortunately, this winter has not been a cold one, and no one has really suffered from lack of fuel, food or clothing. Some of us who have been over here for some time, perhaps do get a bit impatient or "fed up" and we are all anxious to get into action, get the job over with, and come back home to Canada.

Let me thank you again, the Ladies' Auxiliary for their gift, and hope that all in Georgetown are happy and well.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH BARBER

—Spring is on the way. If you have anything to dispose of at housecleaning time, try a Herald classified ad. They bring results.



War calls must come first...
which means that we should reduce our non-essential use of the telephone to the minimum. Present facilities cannot be increased; your cooperation is needed if war calls are to go through promptly. Please remember that the wasteful use of telephone time can hold up war business — and that every second you save counts.



GIVE IT A THOUGHT
Through the air steel birds fly,
Even while brave men die,
While at home in plants we make
Planes for our young airmen to take
Through the air in flashing flight
In the day and in the night.

While we at home want to fight
We know in our hearts it is not right,
And so we buy our bonds and stamps
So that we may have military camps.
For young men more able to fight
And to fly our bombers through the night.

Be assured of getting your copy of the Herald every Wednesday at the Post Office, by subscribing now.

150,000 RAILWAY WORKERS REPORT TO CANADA AT WAR!

Last year, we hauled 150 million tons of materials, foods and munitions... double the pre-war traffic.

We carried Twenty Million NEW passengers... fighting men and war workers.

We built tanks, guns, shells, ships.

Twenty-two thousand of us were with the armed forces of our country.

Now, we are busier than ever providing the mass transportation that only the railways can furnish.

The country depends upon us to do this job. We must move the troops. We must handle freight. And, with your cooperation, it will be done.

IF POSSIBLE AVOID TRAVEL OVER WEEK-ENDS AND HOLIDAYS

CANADIAN PACIFIC **CANADIAN NATIONAL**