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Comments on the Lesson

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5th
THE MORAL BASIS FOR TRUE WORSHIP

by Rev. John M. Smith
 Kyle M. Yates in his book "Preaching from the Prophets" in a few quick sentences gives his readers an idea of the social and religious conditions in Israel at the time of Isaiah. "The corrupt city government and the covetous judiciary made life miserable for the poor of the land. Luxury and idleness and indifference to the wants of others added to the suffering of many and to the worthlessness of those who were prosperous. The drink evil added its toll of sorrow and distress and want." "Superstitions; customs from the East, and the deadly worship of Moloch broke down any spiritual impressions they might have had. There was very little religious depth, the moral fibre was gone, ethical standards were low. Prophets were too busy with strong drink to give attention to the spiritual welfare of the people. They had no message of value even if they had wanted to help spiritually. The women were coarse, sensual, drunken and thoughtless. We can readily see how difficult would be the task of a true man of God living in such times. How the injustice, cruelty, oppression, dishonesty and immorality must have burned deep into his heart! His love for God and His righteousness, his deep convictions and clear vision caused him to speak in no uncertain terms and with a voice of authority against the existing evils. He urged the nation toward repentance and right doing.

"Cease to do evil: Learn to do well." Is. 1:16. He declared that without a sound moral basis their religious rituals and festivities were an abomination unto God.

The Biblical Basis:

Isaiah 1:11-18. Jer. 7:3-7

In verses 11 to 15 of the Isaiah passage we see the Israelites as a very religious people participating in many rituals, sacrifices, solemn meetings and festive occasions in the name of God. The prophet sees all this as a great machinery repugnant to God as the basis for true worship was lacking. Instead of moral righteousness, love, sincerity and service there was great evidence of sinful injustice, selfishness and careless indifference. In verses 16-18 the prophet calls the people to repentance and urges them to seek out the true way of life and to accept the pardon of the Lord their God. Such repentance, forgiveness and earnest seeking after righteousness and social justice would form a basis for true worship.

In the passage from Jeremiah we have a picture of the Israelites at a time in their history when they confidently looked upon themselves as God's Chosen People against whom He would allow no harm to come. In the Temple they saw the symbol of protection—a magic charm to defend them from all danger. The prophet is here urging them to give up this idea of false security and to amend their ways in compliance with God's Holy Will. The true sincerity of the people, as the prophet saw it, lay in obedience to God's laws as related to Himself and man. Only as the temple stood as the symbol of God's righteousness holding sway in the lives of the people could they claim to be God's Chosen People—then would their temple worship have meaning and depth.

The Application:

In this lesson the emphasis seems to be "The people's blindness to social injustice made their formal acts of worship meaningless." Un-

doubtedly there were many who worshipped sincerely in "spirit and in truth" and to these the rituals and sacrifices of worship were a suitable means of expressing their sentiments to God. Isaiah and Jeremiah had no quarrel with such folk. They were not condemning worship as such and replacing it simply with a code of "good deeds" but they were battling against worship turned into an empty form because it lacked support in the living of the worshipper.

When we apply this lesson to our situation today, let us be as wise in our judgment. In our churches there is evidence of insincerity, indifference and a lack of reality. There is a tendency among some to make a "Sunday Christianity" which finds little or no expression in the business, recreational and six-days-a-week phases of our lives. Worship for some is as convenient as hydro which is snatched on as one enters the sanctuary and promptly snapped off again as one leaves. There are, however, in our day those who worship sincerely and make an honest effort to apply God's will to their lives seven days a week. Christianity for them is a full time relationship between God and His people resulting in social justice, a sincere love for fellowmen, and a passion for the things of the Kingdom. These messages of Isaiah and Jeremiah urge us to look to our lives as related to our worship. They urge us to do a bit of self-examination to ascertain the depth of our moral righteousness, the extent of our obedience to God and the sincerity of our worship.

Most of us if we do this honestly, shall hear the challenge of the prophets to "Wash you, make you clean." "Amend your ways and your doings." We shall feel the urge to be penitent, and to avail ourselves of God's pardon. The realization of such penitence and pardon will send us forth to live and to worship in a new spirit. Let us go to the church, sinners that we are, in the spirit humility, sincerity and reverence, and God will commune with us and our worship will have meaning for life.

Helpful Quotations:

"Church worship is not a way of discharging our religious duties: it is preparation for them."

"Our worship of God rotates around the salvation offered us in Jesus Christ."

"A vision of God always brings a consciousness of personal unworthiness."

"Genuine heart change is more important than conformity to rules of ritual."

"True religion is an inward, spiritual, genuine response of the heart to the righteous God."

"Religion may be tested by its results in producing the right sort of conduct and attitudes."

FORMER POLICE OFFICER MOVES FROM MILTON

Seymour English, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. G. English of this district and a graduate of Milton High School, was awarded a Dominion-Provincial student's id bursary and is attending the University of Toronto this year. Milton school did exceptionally well this year in scholarships. Margaret Dredge also won a Dominion-Provincial bursary while Elizabeth Fitzgerald, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Fitzgerald won the J. S. McLean scholarship for English and History. Lore King, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. G. A. King won the Reuben Wells Leonard scholarship, one of which is awarded to each high school outside Toronto for the students having the highest aggregate in any nine subjects.

CHURCH NEWS

Georgetown United Church
 Rev. John M. Smith, Minister
 Miss Lynda Stewart, Organist
 Sunday School — 10 a.m.
 Morning Worship — 11 a.m.
 Thanksgiving Service. Let us worship together and give Thanks to God.

Evening Worship 7 p.m.—Christ Live! In Me.
 Wed., Oct. 12th — A recital by the coloured soprano, Miss Hazel Solomon, under the auspices of the Sunday School.

Knox and Limehouse Presbyterian Churches
 Rev. Alex J. Calder, B.A.

Knox Church
 10.00 a.m. — Sunday School
 11.00 a.m. — Public Worship

Limehouse
 1.30 p.m. — Sunday School
 2.30 p.m. — Public Worship
 The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed at both churches this Sunday.

Baptist Church
 Rev. Chas. R. Gower, Minister
 10 a.m. — Abound in Thanksgiving

11 a.m. — Sunday School
 7 p.m. — Action
 8 p.m. Monday — BYPU
 8 p.m. Wednesday — Prayer Meeting and Bible Study.
 If you have no church home, worship with us.

St. George's Church
 Archdeacon W. G. D. Thompson, Rector
 Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity:

Holy Communion, 8.00 a.m.; Sunday School 10.00 a.m.; Matins 11.00 a.m.; Evensong 7 p.m.

St. George's Church, Glen Williams
 Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity:
 Holy Communion — 9.30 a.m.
 Sunday School — 10.30 a.m.

Norval, Hornby and Stewarttown (Anglican)
 Rev. J. E. Maxwell, B.A., L.Th.

St. John's, Stewarttown
 7.30 p.m. — Harvest Festival
 Rev. H. B. Snell, B.A., B.D. of Toronto

St. Paul's, Norval
 9.30 a.m. — Holy Communion

St. Stephen's, Hornby
 11.00 a.m. — Holy Communion

Holy Cross R.C. Church
 Rev. Fr. V. J. Morgan
 2nd and 4th Sundays: Mass at 9 a.m.
 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays: Mass at 11 a.m.

Norval and Union Presbyterian Churches
 Rev. J. L. Self, B.A., B.D.

Union
 10.00 a.m. — Sunday School
 11.00 a.m. — Public Worship
 Norval
 2.00 p.m. — Sunday School
 3.00 p.m. — Public Worship

Norval Charge of the United Church
 Rev. Alex Cowan
 Norval

10.00 a.m. — Sunday School
 11.00 a.m. — Public Worship
 Glen Williams
 2.00 p.m. — Sunday School
 7.00 p.m. — Public Worship
 Mount Pleasant
 2.30 p.m. — Public Worship

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Rome's centuries-old Palazzo Venezia, which not long ago housed Mussolini's offices—the well-known balcony is over the door at right—is the site of the Second World Health Assembly. The Assembly will further develop the United Nations' world-wide attack on disease through the World Health Organization (WHO).

CARLING'S CONSERVATION CORNER

IF YOU FOUND THE BASS FISHING POOR THIS YEAR IT MAY BE THAT SOMEBODY STARTED FISHING FOR THEM BEFORE THE SEASON OPENED. THE MALE BASS PROTECTS THE NEWLY LAID EGGS IN THE SPRING FROM OTHER FISH

BY GOLLY I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
 ME TOO. HE MUST BE THE POPPA BASS. HE'S SO FEROCIOUS LOOKING!

DURING THIS PERIOD HE SNAPS AT ANYTHING THAT APPROACHES THE NEST INCLUDING BAIT WHICH HE DOES NOT WANT

WHEN THE MALE BASS ARE REMOVED THE ENEMY FISH SUCH AS PIKE, SUCKERS AND CATFISH ROB THE NESTS DESTROYING THOUSANDS OF EGGS

BASS EGGS EH? LOVELY LOVELY!!

BOTH THE LARGE-MOUTHED AND SMALL-MOUTHED BLACK BASS NEED YOUR PROTECTION. NO TRUE SPORTSMAN WILL TAKE BASS BEFORE THE SEASON OPENS

Next spring remember the importance of observing the closed seasons for game fish—there's a reason for them. By fishing only during the open season you will help to keep nature in balance.

Nature Unspoiled — YOURS TO ENJOY — YOURS TO PROTECT

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