

# The Sunday School Lesson

AUGUST 19.

**Stephen the Martyr, Acts 6: 1 to 8: 3; 22: 20. Golden Text—Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?—Rom. 8: 35.**

**LESSON SETTING**—In the fourth chapter of Acts we read, "Neither said any of them that aught of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. The distribution of this common fund was supervised by the apostles, but complaints arose about the distribution, and the apostles, seeing that the preaching of the Word was their pressing first duty, asked for the appointment of seven men of honest report and full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. Of the seven men chosen, the first mentioned is Stephen, and he is described as a man 'full of faith and of the Holy Spirit.' No nobler character ever wore the martyr's crown."

**II. STEPHEN'S FORGIVING HEART, ACTS 7: 54-60.**  
**Vs. 54, 55.** When they heard these things, the central argument of Stephen is based wholly on scripture. Cut to the heart, gashed, with their teeth, the strength of his accusation still stirred them to rage that they could not conceal. Stephen is not allowed to finish his speech. But he looked into heaven; again the strange contrast between the accusers and the truth of his accusation. He is blind to their anger. He sees not only the glory of God, but Jesus himself in the place of honor and the attitude of power. It was a mighty confirmation of all that he has been saying.

**I. STEPHEN'S SHINING FACE, ACTS 6: 8-15.**  
**Vs. 8, 9.** Stephen, full of faith and power, the task of the Holy Spirit appointed did not prevent him from taking a conspicuous part in the preaching of the Gospel. Did great wonders. He seems to have been largely used by the Spirit as the apostles' natural abilities were relatively small. The number of synagogues in Jerusalem was very large, some where between three and four hundred. The Libertines were most likely the children of Jews who had been carried to Rome as captives by Pompey. Being made freedmen (libertini) they had returned to Jerusalem and formed a synagogue among themselves. Cyrene was a city in Africa. Alexandria was in Egypt. Cilicia and Asia were provinces in Asia Minor. In all these places there were many Jews and in Jerusalem there were many who had their synagogues in Rome.

**APPLICATION.**  
Stephen had surely won the admiration and love of the early church when the historian of those first days could say such things of him as we find in this sixth chapter of Acts. He was "full of grace and power;" in speech he manifested "wisdom and the Spirit;" and among the company of the first deacons he is the one man singled out and characterized as "a man full of faith and power." Dr. Denny has truly said, "When we open the New Testament we find ourselves in the presence of a glowing religious life. There is nothing in the world which offers any real parallel either to this life, or to the collector of books which attests it. The soul, which in contemporary literature is bound in shadows and in miseries, is here raised as on a great tidal wave of spiritual blessing. This religious life is determined by Christ. If we sum it up in the one word 'faith' it is faith in God through Him—that faith which owes to Him all that is characteristic in it, all that distinguishes it from what is elsewhere known among men by that name." These brief tributes that Luke pays to Stephen suggest that "glowing religious life"—faith in God through Christ, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, giving wisdom and power, a beautiful spirit, and "the assurance of victory." That glowing religious life revealed itself in many ways, his zeal and courage and powerful speech and his burning fervor. But it also showed itself in his vigilance. "All that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel." The beauty of the Lord is upon them that are possessed by him. "He will beautify the meek with salvation."

**SHEEP.**  
Sheep, more than any other class of farm animals, are benefited by frequent changes of pasture. When kept on one well-watered pasture, they graze certain portions very closely; but the parts grazed should have a chance to recover. The same amount of pasture will give much better results when divided into two or more fields, and grazed alternately.

**parasites.** At this time the ram lambs should be separated from the ewe lambs and wethers. All uncastrated male lambs not intended for breeding purposes should be disposed of at once. August, however, develop an odor and strong taste. This spoils the appetite for lamb, and decreases consumption. As a result the market becomes glutted and prices fall. This can be avoided by castrating all market ram lambs in the spring or by selling the bucks early in the summer. The ram lambs intended for breeding purposes should be put on a fresh separate pasture, either clover aftermath, oats and peas, or rape, and given one half pound of grain per day. The ewe lambs and wethers may be given the same treatment.

**The Sacking Method.**  
For several years I have been using two flat racks fitted with side boards and end gates like a wagon box to take care of the grain at threshing time. When the set is made outside of a barn this plan saves a lot of lifting and requires less help, providing the bins are situated properly for quick unloading. My bins all face a driveway and fill from the top. Remove from the bigger spout and use short spout. Run the grain in sacks, putting in one bushel of wheat or rye, or one and one-half bushels of oats per sack. Set sacks in tiers. Do not hurry. Make a "run" of about sixty bushels of wheat or rye, and ninety bushels of oats. One man to each wagon and a boy to hold sacks will handle all the grain any machine will put out. Might say I do not sack any grain when drawing to market. Set wagon in front of bin, scoop direct into box. Twenty to thirty minutes will put on a load of ninety to one hundred bushels.—A. B. Y.

**Some Suggestions on Controlling Spontaneous Combustion.**  
By H. H. Musselman  
At this season of the year a great many barn and building fires occur on the farm. Due to the isolated position of many of these buildings, they seem to furnish ready passage for lightning, so that lightning, as a cause of fires, is doubtless responsible for many of them. However, it is a fact that many of these fires, whose causes are obscure, cannot be accounted for in this way. The isolated position of these buildings would seem to make it easy to determine the causes of fires if started by human agencies. After lightning and the human element are taken into account, there still remains a considerable proportion in which the causes are never fully determined or which must be put down as unknown.

**Waterproof Dams.**  
Years ago on the home ranch we used to build a good many earth dams across ravines and canons to retain rain water for the stock. The dams were not permanent as a rule, though they were usually built high enough to prevent any overflow.

**Using the Blower.**  
Here is my idea of handling grain. First thresh the grain right into a triple wagon box and scoop it into the granary and save all of that heavy carrying of it in sacks as most everybody does.

**March and April lambs** should be weaned and put on fresh nutritive pasture early in August. When the lambs are weaned early and put on clean ground it lessens the danger of their becoming infested with internal

**POULTRY.** There is a tendency among some people to believe that poultry do not require any special care during the summer months, and may be allowed practically to shift for themselves. While it is true that conditions are more favorable for growing stock, and for egg production in adult stock, yet at no time of the year is more care necessary to prevent disease and vermin than during the warm summer months. Poultry kept in close, stuffy sleeping quarters cannot be kept in the best condition of health, and are fit subjects for the ravages of lice and mites. It would be much better to have wire netting put in place of the glass windows in order that more fresh air might circulate in the house.

**Tuning Up the Lawn Mower.** A few simple operations may be necessary to put your lawn mower in good condition. Take the machine apart—really apart. There will be at least seventy pieces. Give each piece a bath in kerosene, using a scrub brush and wiping dry with an old rag. Be sure to do a good, thorough job of cleaning, as the mower cannot properly function if badly clogged with grass and dirt. After the bath and drying, assemble the machine without reference to adjustment.

**O. A. C. Barley Grown in the United States.** Dr. C. A. Zavit received a letter recently from Professor Moore of the Agricultural College of Wisconsin which contained the following interesting item: "Now practically all of the barley grown in Wisconsin and in many of our surrounding States emanate from a kindly sent us. We will never be able to get even for the good things you have done for us in bygone years."

**A Handy Grain Wagon.** Being short of help on the farm at threshing time, I found it necessary to make a large box about four feet high for my wagon. The bottom of this box was slanting at about a forty-five degree angle from the end and the left side, leaving the lowest part in the centre, in the sight side of the box. At this low part I have an eight-inch hole with a sliding stop.

**The Hidden Source of Fires.** Some Suggestions on Controlling Spontaneous Combustion. By H. H. Musselman. At this season of the year a great many barn and building fires occur on the farm. Due to the isolated position of many of these buildings, they seem to furnish ready passage for lightning, so that lightning, as a cause of fires, is doubtless responsible for many of them. However, it is a fact that many of these fires, whose causes are obscure, cannot be accounted for in this way.

**GREEN FEED TO SUPPLEMENT PASTURE.** The three great factors affecting our dairy industry are: (1) The man who cares for the dairy cow. (2) The kind of cow maintained. (3) The feed supplied. It is the last mentioned which will be dealt with principally here.

**Waterproof Dams.** Years ago on the home ranch we used to build a good many earth dams across ravines and canons to retain rain water for the stock. The dams were not permanent as a rule, though they were usually built high enough to prevent any overflow.

**Using the Blower.** Here is my idea of handling grain. First thresh the grain right into a triple wagon box and scoop it into the granary and save all of that heavy carrying of it in sacks as most everybody does.

**A Gate Attachment.** An attachment that will always keep the garden gate closed consists of a wooden pulley fastened to the top of the gate near the post to which the hinges are attached. A strong cord or flexible wire is fastened around this pulley and passed horizontally through a smaller pulley to a weight is raised, and when it is released pulls the gate shut and holds it so. The strength by which the gate is held may be varied by increasing or decreasing the diameter of the pulley or the size of the weight.



## EFFICIENT FARMING

**COVER CROPS IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.** The use of cover crops for the production of humus has become of great importance since manure has been produced steadily less available. The advent of the motor car has meant a new era in vegetable gardening to the extent that this manure is not produced in the desired quantities, so says C. C. Eidt, of the Department of Horticulture, Ontario Agricultural College.

### OILSKIN WRAPPERS FOR APPLES

Long ago in the days when men and women first began to give some attention to their personal appearance—and in the opinion of some cynical philosophers that was a long time ago indeed—it was found that oil was good for the complexion. In the Old Testament, among other blessings given to men, is clearly set forth that of "oil to make his face to shine."

**The man who has an interest in his dairy cows will give them good care and feed, and follow this up by weighing and testing his milk to determine how many of the cows are profitable producers.** When the non-profitable cows are eliminated from the herd, his object will be to keep up a maximum flow of milk at a minimum cost throughout the entire lactation period. In some districts where old pastures are in use—and they are many—it has been found impossible to keep up the milk flow without supplementing the pasture with either concentrates or green feed of some nature. Mill feeds are too expensive to feed heavily throughout the entire season, and they reduce the profits unnecessarily.

**Adjust the bearings so that there is no up-and-down play in the reel. This is tested by grasping the reel in the middle and lifting it. Bearings must be adjusted before the knives.** To adjust the knives, use a single newspaper in place of grass, draw the reel together and the bed knife together until the reel spins easily and yet cuts the paper. Be sure the sides are adjusted equally. Try the paper at two-inch intervals throughout the length of the bed knife.

**The interest of the United States Department of Agriculture in apple scald, a disease unknown to apple growers or eaters before the days of cold storage, dates back to the Paris Exposition of 1900.** An exhibit of American apples was prepared for that occasion, which involved the placing in storage of many samples, shipping them to France in refrigerator ships, placing them again in cold storage there, and withdrawing these specimens of prize fruit from time to time for exhibition purposes.

**It may be found that, due to some unusual strain, such as trying to cut a stick or stone, the bed knife of a reel knife has become sprung.** Such a condition is indicated by one reel knife or a part of the bed knife refusing to cut when all other reel knives or the remainder of the bed knife cut perfectly. If the springing is not too great, it may be ground out at home. If very badly sprung, the mower should be sent to a repair man who has a machine constructed to grind lawn mowers. Never try to file a lawn mower; your chances of success in the job are very small.

**It was found that barrels of apples, composed of samples from several orchardists, showed variable keeping qualities, after having been removed from storage, some of the apples scalding badly within a few days, while others kept their fresh complexions very well.** The reasons were investigated and it was found that though conditions of picking and storage had much to do with the presence or absence of scald, the essential factor was still hidden. The matter was permitted to rest for several years, however, as the department's recommendations—to pick apples only when well ripened, to store them at a temperature of from 31 to 32 degrees Fahrenheit and to use them as soon as possible after removal from storage—saved much of the former loss. Continuing losses, however, caused the question to be taken up again in 1915 by Charles Brooks, of the U.S. Bureau of Plant Industry.

**Whenever possible a cover crop should be sown as soon as possible after the preceding crop has been harvested.** It is estimated that a good cover crop equals in value fifteen tons of manure. A grower cannot afford to waste this opportunity for food conservation and humus growth. Even where early vegetables are to be grown the following season it sometimes pays to leave the cover crop over winter, to hold readily available soil fertility.

**Everybody knows what happens to butter if it is placed alongside of onions or muskmelons.** The volatile substances in the vegetable or fruit are absorbed by the butterfat, imparting to it a characteristic odor and taste. The same thing happens to butter or other fats or oils placed close to a box or barrel of apples in storage, only in this case it removes from the apples the substances which not merely give them their flavor, but also cause the impairment of the skin which, when the apples are removed from storage, results in scald.

**The other day a city friend went to a farmers' picnic with me.** He enjoyed himself a lot and said to me that he did not think there was the difference between the farmer and the man there used to be. I told him that I thought the auto and modern machinery helped to equalize things in some ways, but I thought there still was a difference. In the country we have plenty of wholesomeness and hard times, while in the city they have lots of money and vice. So take your choice.—F. W.

**Put a hole large enough in the granary wall to let the spout of the thrasher go in, and high enough so the grain will run by itself.** Put a few stove pipes on the end so it will go to the other end of the granary. As it fills up take a pipe off at a time. All you need is a shovel to keep the grain leveled off.—Henry J. Duffin.

**Had we then known of a simple trick in the construction of these dikes it is safe to surmise that each dam would have lasted for a number of years.** This trick involves the corrugating of the old ground surface with a plow or spade on the line the dam is to take. When the dam has been built, no water will seek its way along this line any quicker than through any other portion of the dam.—D. R. V. H.

**Then it was found that these substances applied to stored apples would cause scald after their removal from storage.** These harmful substances are soluble in oils, and therefore the first remedy thought of was to apply the oil to the surface of the apple. This was effective in preventing facial blemishes, but, like some other complexion aids, the remedy was as bad as the disease. The apples had a greasy look which did not appeal to the buyer. It was then thought to apply the oil to paper wrappers, and this method has been tried out with great success.

**The basement barn granary.** We thresh on the barn floor; we have a basement barn with the granary in the basement. We are having a big funnel made to fit the separator and silo filler pipes to lead them into the granary from the machine, so you see, all we need is the big funnel and silo filler pipes. I think this will be a better way of carrying in the grain in bags, which needs at least three men.—A. E.

**If your curtains blow out of the window or against the screen, cover several dress weights and slip them into the hem.** This will keep them in place and save continual laundering. A small, hard stream of water upsets the domestic affairs of the manly-gray which so often damages the houseplants. Or the plants may be washed with soapuds.

**The little fruit worm which feeds on gooseberries may be kept in check by turning a liberal number of them in the gooseberry patch.** Clean cultivation also aids in keeping down its pest.

**CANADA'S AUTOMOBILES**

If a country's elaborate automobiles is to be taken as a criterion of the nation's economic well-being, Canada's record is frequently accepted. The number of automobiles in 1922 increased over 1921 by 9.6 per cent. It was 470,862 automobiles in 1922, an increase of 136,307, an increase of 45.44 per cent. The Province of Ontario possession of cars with 400, followed by Quebec, Saskatchewan was third, followed by Manitoba, Alberta with 49,368. British Columbia occupied fifth place with Maritime Provinces, Nova Scotia 16,029, 18,419, and Prince 23,234.

**The possession of a car in 1922 is a fact that in 1921 there was not one car through to every eighteen persons in Ontario. In 1922 it was 13.7 per cent. In 1921 it was 12.5 per cent. In 1920 it was 11.5 per cent. In 1919 it was 10.5 per cent. In 1918 it was 9.5 per cent. In 1917 it was 8.5 per cent. In 1916 it was 7.5 per cent. In 1915 it was 6.5 per cent. In 1914 it was 5.5 per cent. In 1913 it was 4.5 per cent. In 1912 it was 3.5 per cent. In 1911 it was 2.5 per cent. In 1910 it was 1.5 per cent.**

**Canada maintains among the countries of the world a second only to the United States position in regard to Her capita possession of motor cars.** This is a fact of great importance, and one which is becoming more and more apparent. The automobile has, in fact, become the daily life of the Canadian farmer, and is adding to his productivity.

**Very often an electric line or even a visitor's light plant disturbs after that his watch is losing its day or more from being tested by the dynamo.** The apparatus used for correcting this trouble is a simple piece of soft iron in the center large on the watch to be inserted. Iron are wound a number of times around the watch. This is done with a fine insulated wire. All right is sent through the watch. There is now ready an electric line to be used with a watch.

**Says Hohenzollern Are Defrauding R.** The former Kaiser and his son are not only not paying income taxes, but they are making big profits out of the Hohenzollerns in the Republic. The change of the Hohenzollerns in their traditional light dynasty, demand an investigation.

**Prevents Drippage.** A new tar-pouring adjustable spout to prevent the flow of its contents from the handle.