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Sunday School Lesson

May 27. Lesson 1X—The Wicked
Husbandmen.—Mark 12: 1-12. Gol-
den Text—The Lord knoweth the
way of the righteous; but the way
of the ungodly shall perish.—Psalm
1: 6.

SUBJECT

A CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY:
IMPENITENT ISRAEL BY REJECTING
THE MESSIAH FORFEITS THE
KINGDOM OF GOD.

INTRODUCTION.—Jesus, the Messiah,
continues for several days to announce
the nature of the spiritual revolution
which he brings. In the end he re-
jected. In our lesson for today the
evangelist puts before us an allegory
which sums up the final meaning of
this rejection. The thought of Israel
as God's vineyard is a familiar one in
the Hebrew scriptures: see Psalm 80:
8-15; Jeremiah 2:21, and especially
Isaiah 5:1-7. When in all these pass-
ages it is said that Israel is God's
vineyard which he specially planted
and cared for, the meaning is that the
Jewish people was set by God in a
place of special privilege among the
nations, and this implies special re-
sponsibilities. God gave to Israel the
knowledge of Himself in His revealed
will, and He looked to it for the fruit
of righteousness. But Israel rejected
the prophets, and now it rejects Mes-
siah Jesus. Consequently it puts away
from itself the hope of the kingdom
of God. The kingdom of God will be
taken from the Jews, and will be given
to other peoples who will make better
use of the imparted revelation of the
divine will.

The allegory of the Wicked Hus-
bandmen is a philosophy of history.
It explains the almost incredible fact
that the Jews rejected Jesus, and that
it was not God's ancient people but
the other nations who became the in-
heritors of the promises, and the in-
struments of God's sovereign will to
institute His kingdom among men.

V. 1. The Christian allegory takes
up and carries further the allegory
employed by Isa. 5:1-5. The nation of
Israel is the "vineyard" which God
plants on earth. The protecting
"hedge" surrounding it is knowledge of
God's law, which separate Israel from
other nations. Vineyards included a
"wine-press" for pressing out the juice
of the grapes, and so God appointed in
Israel a discipline of the moral na-
ture which should promote a righteous
and holy life. Finally, in the vine-
yard is a "watch-tower," which we
may perhaps interpret as referring to
the Temple from which a vigilant su-
pervision of Israel's life was expected
to be maintained. Are not God's
priests, God's ministers of religion,
and the rulers of the nation intended
to be His watchmen?

V. 2. God trusted Israel, very great-
ly, but from time to time He sent
"servants" of His own to remind Is-
rael of their holy obligations, and to
demand from that people the obedience
which was God's due. The servants
in question are the prophets. Compare,
for example, the great passages Isa-
iah 1:16-20; Jer. 7:3, 7; Mic. 6:6-8.
Such passages will show what is

meant by the "fruit" which God re-
quired from Israel by the hand of His
messengers.

Vs. 3-5. These verses now describe
how the disobedient nation dealt with
God's prophets. Instead of hearkening
to them, they insulted, persecuted, and
defied them. Their conduct went from
bad to worse as time went on. From
insult they passed to outrage, and
from outrage to murder. It was well
known that some of the prophets had
been done to death by their enraged
fellow-countrymen because they obeyed
God rather than man. Jesus on
other occasions brought this fact home
to his contemporaries. Compare Matt.
23:37: "O Jeru. lem, Jerusalem! that
killest the prophets, and stonest them
which are sent unto thee!" Compare
also Matt. 5:12 and 23, 29-35.

Vs. 6-8. Now comes the Christian
part of the allegory. After all the
prophets had spoken in vain, God sent
one whom the Christian church knows
as the only begotten "Son of God."
Jesus comes. God makes a most lov-
ing and intimate appeal to the dis-
obedient nation. He calls them through
Jesus to be his "sons." What does
Israel do? It commits the awful crime
of resolving on the Messiah's death.

The casting of Jesus out of the vine-
yard, and the fact that he was
crucified "without the camp" (He-
brews 13:13), in other words, outside
the city wall, on Calvary.

Vs. 9-11. What may be imagined to
be the historical consequences of so
awful a crime against the love of God?
There is only one answer. Jesus is
God's Messiah, the bringer of the king-
dom. Therefore Israel, by rejecting
him puts away from itself the king-
dom of God. It condemns itself to the
destruction of a divine judgment
against it. On the other hand, the
rejected Messiah of Israel becomes the
exalted Lord of a new Israel. Jesus,
despised and disowned by his own na-
tion, becomes the spiritual Head of
millions among other peoples and
races and tongues, Phil. 2:9-11. The
word of Ps. 118:22-23, which are here
cited, were a favorite quotation of the
early Christians. They expressed so
remarkably what had happened to
Jesus in the divine order of history.
He, the rejected and crucified One, had
become the corner-stone of a new hu-
manity of God.

Handsome Window Curtains

There was a time when every win-
dow curtain looked like every other
window curtain. But this is a thing
of the past; distinctiveness in curtains
is the order of the present day.

A smart curtain described below is
elegant enough for the most preten-
sious residence, yet equally suitable in
the small house or apartment, and can
be made at home very easily.

This curtain is for a window where
one wishes to shut off the view. For
it this "metalline cloth" is employed,
since it admits light yet one cannot
see through it easily. This curtain
should be full window length or else
floor length. Make the bottom
straight and edge it with very deep
fringe to match. Run a row of heavy
silk threads straight across the cur-
tain, from one to two feet above the
bottom edge, depending on the length
of the curtain and the size of the win-
dow. Then decorate this lower part
with heavy embroidery silks, using a
rather large design, of course. If
gold-colored metalline cloth is used,
an attractive color combination for the
embroidery would be purple, blue,
rose and a soft shade of green.

With this curtain, velvet side drapes
are especially effective, in a soft deep
blue, or a soft green, or other suit-
able color.

SHE NEVER DID
Her Auntie told her not to smoke—
She never did.
Or listen to a shady joke—
She never did.
She kissed no men—not even one.
She did not know how it was done—
You wouldn't think she had much
fun—
She never did.

FLOWERS and VEGETABLES

No. 15

As soon as the sweet-pea plants are
up an inch or so keep the hoe going.
Constant cultivation is the price of a
good showing of sweet peas. Do not
let them lack for water, but do not
sprinkle them. Give them a real soak-
ing, and then don't water them for
several days. A little good fertilizer
sprinkled along the row, just before
the buds begin to swell, and well wa-
tered in, will help the plants a great
deal, and will add to the depth of the
color of the flowers.

Shade Loving Flowers

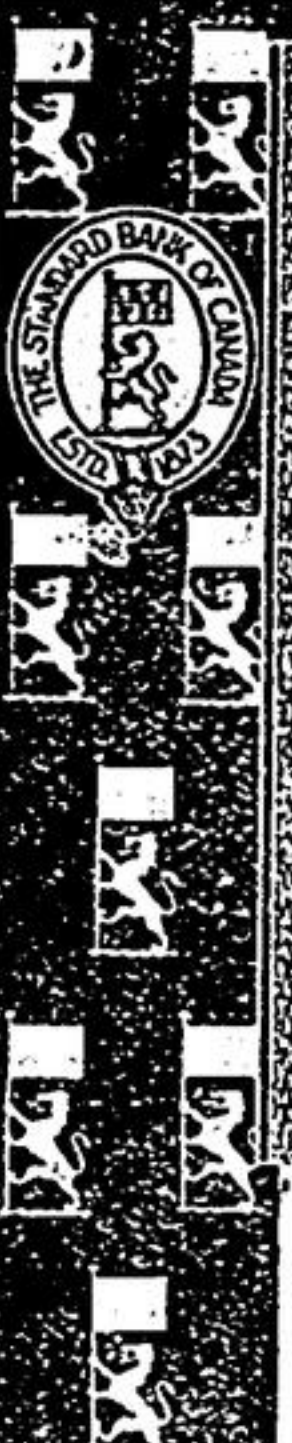
Brightening up the shady corners
of the flower garden is usually quite a
problem, although many annuals actu-
ally prefer to be away from the sun
part of the time. Of course, it is al-
most impossible to get anything to
grow in a spot which is without sun-
shine during the whole of the day, ex-
cept, perhaps, ferns; but the follow-
ing will do well in partial shade:
Alyssum, Lupine, Marvel of Peru,
Nemophila, Nicotiana, Pansy, Phlox
and Verbena.

Summer Care of Roses

Until the first of July new and es-
tablished roses can be helped along
by surface applications of quick-acting
fertilizers, such as nitrate of soda.
Use a scant tablespoonful of this fer-
tilizer, and dig it lightly around, but
not touching the plant. One or two
applications a fortnight apart are suf-
ficient. After July, according to A. H.
Tomlinson, O.A.C. Guelph, slower act-
ing fertilizers should be given. Weak
liquid manure in this connection is
valuable. To be safe deep forking af-
ter the roses become settled should
cease, but shallow cultivation is ad-
visable. A few low growing plants
such as Pansies and Calendulas,
growing about the roots, after the bed
is established is an advantage.

A Few Annuals Worth Trying

There should always be space in
the amateur's garden for a few new
flowers of more than average merit.
In this connection the Callopsis can
be recommended. This is a half hardy
annual producing brightly colored yel-
low flowers with dark brown centres,
on long stems. They are good bloom-
ers, do well under ordinary conditions
and are particularly fine as cut flow-
ers. The Scabious is another worth
trying. It can be sown any time now,
and will furnish very sweet scented
bloom from late summer on. It grows
to a height of around two feet, and,
therefore, requires plenty of room, in
good soil and open position. Calendul-
as, or Pot Marigolds, can still be
sown. These giant yellow and orange
flowers are excellent for cutting, as
they will last a long while indoors.
The Clarkia, Salpiglossis, Godetia, the
Lupines and several others all good,
but rather unfamiliar, may well be in-
cluded.



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Bradford Mill to Be Sent to Canada

Announcement is Attracting
Attention of Trade

Bradford—The announcement that
the entire plant of a Bradford worsted
spinner is to be shipped to Victoria, in
British Columbia, has attracted much
attention not only in textile but in
other commercial circles. The re-
moval of one mill, although not making
much difference, so far as the total
capacity of the Bradford district is
concerned, is felt to be important in
that trained operatives will be thrown
out of work.

John Moore, who is taking his plant
to Canada, says that he recently vis-
ited various Canadian cities to see what
the prospects were for this purpose.
The City of Victoria offered him a
free mill site, free water up to a cer-
tain amount and freedom from mun-
icipal taxation for seven years. Dis-
cussing his plans he said:
"We shall import our tops from
England mainly, and convert them
into yarn in our mills, delivering them
either in the gray, or in the dyed state.
About 120 operatives will be employed
there, chiefly women and girls. The
Canadian authorities wish to provide
for their womenfolk. A few girls
may be sent for later from England to
teach the Canadian operatives."
Mr. Moore said he had decided to

export his mill rather than to manu-
facture in England and attempt to ex-
port the product because competition
from abroad had not been met by the
Government through its safeguarding
of industries, or tariff facilities, while
Operation 1—Remove hat and coat,
business difficult.—He said that he had
decided to go to Victoria because its
climatic conditions for the worsted in-
dustry are ideal.

It is pointed out in Bradford that
by exporting his mill Mr. Moore will
not only place himself within the
Canadian tariff wall but, as his ma-
chinery is all second-hand, he will be
able to take it into Canada at low
rates.

The shipment of this mill was re-
ferred to recently in Parliament,
where government spokesmen ex-
pressed, skepticism regarding its re-
moval. There is felt, however, no
doubt, that it will be exported.

In Slam lawsuits are decided by
plunging the litigants into cold water.
The one who stays under the longest
wins the case.—(English paper.) In
other countries, litigants generally
find themselves in hot water.

Garden seed houses are now putting
out an "improved" dandelion seed for
the production of greens. As good as
to get greens may taste, however, and
as welcome a sight are the bright
yellow blossoms, no one will ever ad-
mit that they will "improve" the
lawn.



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It may be that "the world a-ting
follows the world a-wheel," but it does
not follow long.