

Sunday School Lesson

CALEB: LIFE-TIME DEVOTION

Numbers 13:26-33; Joshua 14:6-15; printed text, Joshua 14:6-15
Golden Text: Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE

By H. A. Ironside, Litt.D., pastor of Moody Memorial Church, Chicago. Approach to the Lesson

The name Caleb means whole-hearted, and it was well suited to the character of the man who bore it. He appears on the page of Holy Scripture as one who was fully committed to the will of God. When the ten spies brought back their evil report of the land and made the heart of the people to melt, it was Caleb who quieted the troubled host by saying, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it" (Num. 13:30). And when all the people murmured against Moses and Aaron and were on the verge of setting up a rebel captain to lead them back to Egypt, Caleb joined with Joshua in endeavoring to dissuade them from their evil purpose and to encourage them to go up in dependence upon

God, and take possession of the inheritance he had promised them. So when the rest were doomed to wander in the wilderness until all the men of that generation had passed away, these two faithful warriors were preserved alive as witnesses to the unchanging purpose and omnipotent power of the Lord of hosts Num. 14:1-30).

Forty-five years afterward we see this doughty old chieftain, at the age of eighty-five, claiming his portion, as promised by God, and entering into possession of Hebron and its surroundings, after expelling and destroying the remnant of those very giants whose lofty stature had so terrified the unbelieving ten spies. It is a marvelous picture of the energy of faith in one who was not of double heart, but wholly devoted to the Lord. These things are written for our learning (Rom. 15:4), that we may realize how God values single-heartedness in his service. "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (Jas. 1:8). He who would please the Lord must seek him with the whole heart (Psa. 119:10), and make everything else bend in subjection to his revealed will.

Verse by Verse:

Josh. 14:6—"The thing that the Lord said." To Caleb, the word of God was paramount to every other consideration. He had risked everything upon that word, and it had not failed him. So in the energy of faith he now put in his claim for an inheritance, assured that he could not be denied. Faith ever acts upon the Word and is never disappointed.

Verse 7—"As it was in mine heart." Caleb at forty was already wholly devoted to the will of God. When the ten were the slaves of

fear and cowardice because of their unbelief, this wholehearted man was ready to risk everything upon the promise of Jehovah. His own heart was fixed, resting on that Word, and he sought to incite others to the same implicit confidence in the message of the living God.

Verse 8—"I wholly followed the Lord my God." It was not a fleshly vainglory or spiritual pride that made Caleb so speak. He had settled it in his soul that God could be depended on to do as he had said, so he gave him whole-hearted allegiance. The ten spies caused the heart of the people to melt because they were occupied with the foes and their fortified cities instead of with the power of God. They looked upon the seen things instead of the unseen.

Verse 9—"The land whereon thy feet have trodden." In that long-ago time Moses had promised that the very land Caleb had explored, and about which he brought back so favorable a report should some day be his, to pass on as an inheritance to coming generations.

Verse 10—"As he said." Now, declared Caleb, "the Lord hath kept me alive these forty and five years," and he was assured that he who had fulfilled his Word up to that point would carry it out in regard to the future. The faith of the octogenarian was as real and strong as the faith of the vigorous man in his prime. For all the years between, Caleb had kept God's word in his heart.

Verse 11—"As my strength was then, even so is my strength now." We see in this a fine example of the words "They shall still bring forth fruit in old age" (Psa. 92:14). Instead of declension, there had come with increasing years a greater determination to enter into and enjoy all that God had promised.

Verse 13—"Give me this mountain." It was a fortified mount, supposedly impregnable, defended by a race of giants, but Caleb knew that he is faithful that promised" (Heb. 10:23), and so he claimed the right to take the city and its environs in the name of the Lord. A weakling would have looked for an easier job, or settled in a less dangerous locality, but this hero of faith faltered at nothing when convinced that he had the mind of God.

Verse 15—"Joshua blessed him." To Joshua, it must have been a delight to grant the request of his loyal old comrade. He gave him Hebron, as Moses had promised.

Verse 14—"Hebron the inheritance." Hebron means fellowship or communion. It speaks of that happy

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the man of faith, who by overcoming all difficulties, puts fellowship with God above every other good, and refuses to be kept out of its enjoyment by the hosts of evil—the world rulers of this darkness, the wicked spirits in the heavens, who seek to hinder the believer from the present possession of the privileges which are his in Christ Jesus (see Eph. 6:12, in any translation).

Verse 15—The name before was Kirjath-araba. Of old the Anakim under the command of Araba had held this citadel and called it the city of Arba. But faith expelled the giants who defied the will of God and turned a scene of idolatrous rites and wicked revels into a place for communion with God. Then the land had rest from war; that is the portion in which Caleb had obtained his inheritance and God's word had been vindicated. These Anakim were the remnant of an aboriginal people who dwell in the land before the present possession of the land.

The greatness of the character of Caleb is expressed in his name. He was not of double heart. Mixed motives had no place in his life. He had settled it years before that he was to be entirely the Lord's and after he lived up to his name as the "whole-hearted". Undoubtedly, the cause of much of our failure today is that we are so lacking in this spirit of disinterested devotion to the will of God. Of old, the disciples were exhorted that with purpose of heart they should cleave to the Lord. (Acts 11:23) Jesus declared, "If thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light (Matt. 6:22). When we sanctify the Lord God in our hearts and give him the place of supreme authority, all controversy is at an end, and the life is entirely under his control. This is the path of glory and blessing. No one can be successful in his Christian life who is endeavoring to have God and the world share his heart (1 John 2:15).

Toronto-Goodwood F-L-A-S-H-E-S

W. Davey, 8 Stanton Ave.

Our birthday register shows Newton Ellis having his natal day July 9th and Miss Mary Wagg, con. 3, as July 6th (wonder how Miss Wagg is today?) The one on July 10th is Miss Maggie Glenn of Woodville celebrating another year of her life. Goodwood will walk at Cannington on the 12th, and we suppose some will take their cars while others will avail themselves of the bus service. Of course the old reliable C.N.R. provides good service to Cannington too. Our thought backs to days when we ran along with old 572 holding the banner strings and as proud as a peacock. There was John S. Todd, Samuel Todd, William Todd, Thos Todd, Peter Vanhorne, W. McGuckin, S. Alcock, Thos. Glenn, George Coates, James Todd, J. Higgins, all of whom have passed on. We still have with us Bert Stewart who was a youthful member in the early days of which we write.

We learn that our friend Adam Wallace has moved back to the Uxbridge district. Well we can't blame him for doing this, as one gets "fed up" with the hustle and bustle of city life. Despite chilly weather the Dominion Day reunion of the Harpers was attended by about 65 relatives, some coming from as far as Detroit. The Howard Harper home was a scene of bustling activity as friend met friend and old times and incidents were told over.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lee of Rochester are on holidays in Montreal and will visit his parents Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lee in Toronto later. Arthur attended school in Uxbridge town when

the family lived there. Recent pictures in The Tribune of past reeves are sure interesting and nice to see. Last week we were particularly impressed when the late James McCullough's came up for review. Being an old Goodwood boy it had an added kick for us. The photo was just like him in his prime of life.

Hollywood Lodge, Island Grove is being equipped with moving pictures for its patrons. Many from Stouffville are familiar with this place.

We want to say something of a church service held in the bush at Stouffville long, long ago, 50 years to be exact. Many from Goodwood way used to attend, and outdoor services were very popular. At that time the old church in Goodwood which stands where the present United is, was well attended and not a few admired the building more than the present structure with its tower. Those were the days when Sunday was observed as a day of rest and not of pleasure and amusement. How times have changed!

To the new pastor in Goodwood we extend our best wishes for a successful tenure of office there which after all largely depends on cooperation all round, and we feel that the new minister will receive this.

Goodwood decoration day is close at hand and folks are looking up flowers for the occasion. Brethren of L.O.L 572 will be expected to do their part in decorating graves for departed brothers with a flag or some form of recognition for those fine men who have received the great summons.

How many recall busy days supplies of food to the hungry when Goodwood was booming and the depot was sending out folk in the city? It was the centre of a great strawberry producing area and we recall piles of crates at the station for shipment, all representing toil for the pickers who received one cent a box for their labour. And what labour it was, with back aches and kinks here and there over the body. Then came the raspberry picking. There were pails and pails of them each morning going south by train. How would it appeal in this day standing out in the terrific heat of the sun picking berries, then perhaps carrying them from the fifth concession to the stores at Goodwood for only three cents a pound in trade for groceries. Everybody was happy just the same, and the boys were glad to get to Robinson's, Johnston's and Doak's ponds for a dip in the old swimming holes. Compare this with the conditions surrounding the boys and girls there today with their lovely park, motor cars, and other conveniences. How happy we all should be.

Mrs. Walter Lewis of Dinsmore Sask., who has been attending her mother down east, has returned to Toronto on her journey home to Sask. It has been years since our friend Walter has visited Goodwood and when the time comes then there will be a royal welcome for him. We hope Mrs. Lewis en her visit while here.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Haigh are now having a few holidays with Mrs. Haigh's brother at Cherrywood also at Brougham Whitevale and Markham.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sweeney and daughter also Mrs. Meyers of Detroit visited Mr. and Mrs. W. Davey on Dominion Day.

Pleased to hear our friend Mrs. S. Ottewill who has been visiting her daughter up north will return to Goodwood in time for Decoration Day.

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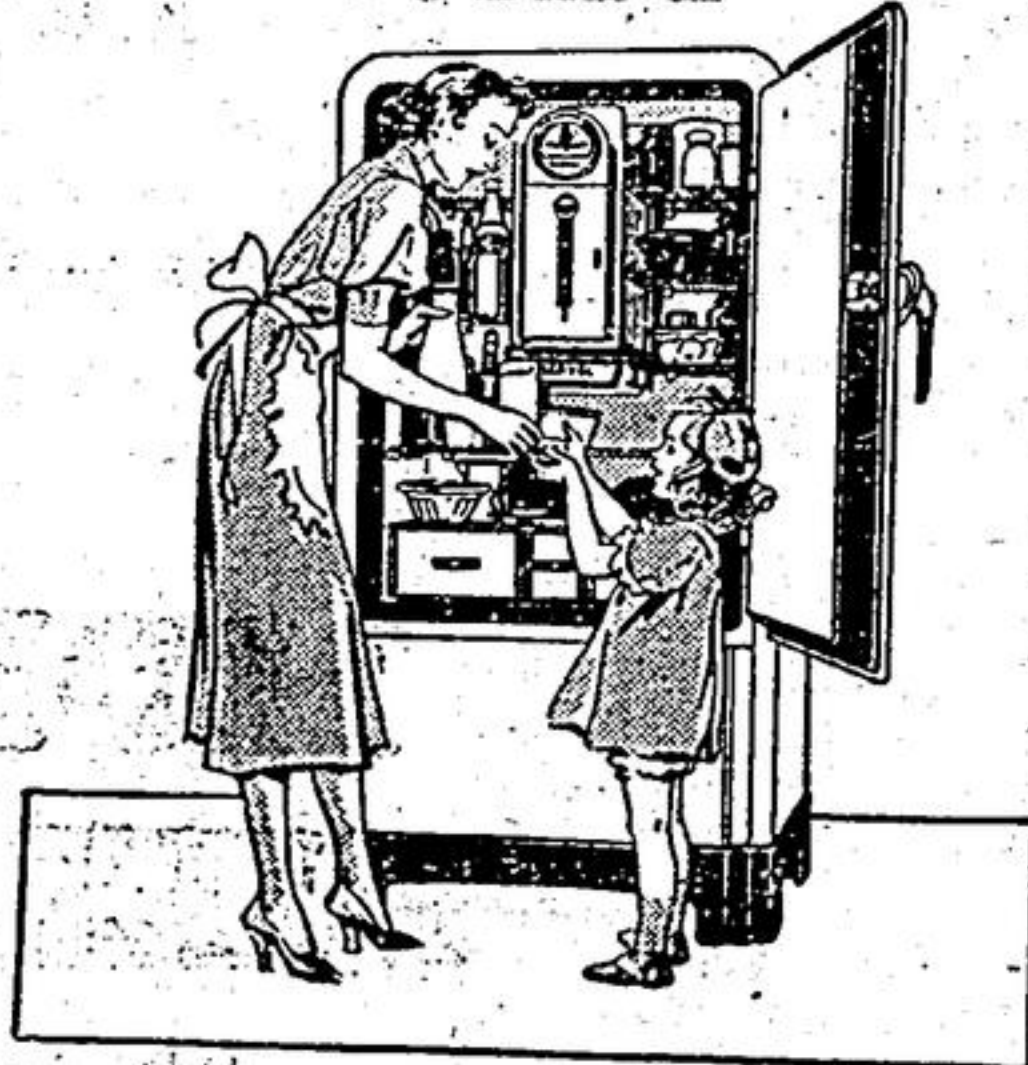
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