

EXPLANATION NEEDED



Cpl. William Lay of Chicago had better have a good excuse ready when he returns to his home in Chicago. Mrs. Lay, shown here with the determined attitude, has seen that picture of her husband being greeted in a friendly manner by a Parisian mademoiselle and says that the corporal had better start talking fast when he arrives back home.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for October 1

Golden Text.—I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.—John 8:12  
The Lesson as a Whole

Approach to the Lesson

One of the best ways to get a proper understanding of the expression used by our Lord, "I am the light of the world" (John 9:5), is to try to imagine what the world would be in this twentieth century of the Christian Era if He had never come into this scene at all. In the first place, there never would have been a Christian Era. It was His appearance among men that divided time into B.C. and A.D. When He came, Judaism, the brightest testimony God had ever committed to man up to that time, was in almost total eclipse. Sadducean materialism, on the one hand, and hypocritical Phariseism, on the other, had nearly extinguished whatever light Israel had formerly enjoyed and displayed before the nations. Instead of attracting people to the one true and living God, that glorious Name was blasphemed among the Gentiles through their inconsistencies (Rom. 2:24). In the Roman Empire, philosophical chaos and almost universal agnosticism prevailed. Men had, to a great extent, lost faith in the old gods and had found nothing else to fill the void; while in the barbarous nations beyond the confines of the empire, the same fear and cruelty ever connected with animism and fetishism that prevails today among tribes neither evangelized nor civilized, prevailed. Truly darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people (Isa. 60:2). It was into such a world Jesus came, and by the luster of His life, the purity of His teaching, the atoning value of His death, and the power of His resurrection, He sent forth into all the world rays of light, above the splendor of the noon-day sun, that illumined the darkened hearts and minds of men (Pet. 2:9) and cast light upon the evil things that they became ashamed to do in the daytime of Gospel testimony what they indulged in unblushingly in the night of ignorance and superstition (Eph. 5:3). Today, even the most self-willed and God-defying men recognize the beauty of the life of Christ: "the life was the light of men" (John 1:4), and even though they reject the propitiatory value of His death, they see in it the greatest example of self-sacrifice the world has ever known.

Verse 1.—"Jesus ... saw a man which was blind from his birth." The sad physical condition of this man, suffering from congenital blindness, was but a picture of the true spiritual condition of all men until brought into contact with Jesus by a living faith (Eph. 4:17, 18).

Verse 2.—"Who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" Some of the rabbis taught that a child could sin before birth. They based it on Genesis 25:26 and Hosea 12:3. This was supposed to explain why some people were born with certain handicaps, such as lameness, or inherited tendency to disease.

Verse 3.—"That the works of God should be manifested in him." Godly expositors have differed as to the exact application of these words. Most take them as concluding the sentence that begins, "Neither has this man sinned, nor his parents; but," etc. This would imply that God in His all-wise providence had permitted the child to be born blind that He might be glorified in due time through giving him sight miraculously. Others, notably Dr. G. Campbell Morgan, connect the words with the verse

that follows, making it read, "But that the works of God should be manifested in him, I must work." The Greek text might bear either arrangement. "It is largely a quest This tells of our responsibility to Verse 4.—"The night cometh, when no man can work." Life on earth is likened to the daytime when our Lord was busy in the work the Father had sent Him to accomplish. When the night of death came, such labor would be at an end.

Verse 5.—"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." While he ministered among men He was the visible manifestation of light—His holy life casting light on every man with whom He came in contact (John 1:9). All are shown up, in the light of His perfection, as being sinful and unrighteous. The true Light casts light upon every man. When our Lord looked on to the testimony to be carried on after His return to Heaven, He said, "Ye are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:14). This tells of our responsibility to shine as lights in a dark scene (Phil. 2:15).

Verse 6.—"He ... made clay ... and anointed the eyes of the blind man." It was a picture of the Incarnation. He had in grace stooped to become like us, a man in a body like ours. But this mystery of the Incarnation is beyond human understanding. Just as damp clay put upon the eyes would seem to make the condition of the man worse instead of better, so men are, if we may say so, rendered more blind than ever, as they contemplate the secret of godliness—God manifest in flesh. But what is darkness to the rationalist becomes light to the man of faith.

Verse 7.—"Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." We are told that the name means Sent. It is the apprehension of the Lord Jesus as the Sent One of the Father (John 8:29) that gives spiritual sight to those in nature's darkness. This blind man went to Siloam and washed away the clay, and he came back seeing. The light had penetrated his darkened eyeballs, and more than that, had enlightened his soul forever.

Verse 13.—"They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind." These legalists were as blind spiritually as the man had been naturally (Matt. 23:16, 17; 19:24, 26; Luke 6:39). To them the neighbors of the healed man brought their friend that he might be examined by them.

Verse 34.—"Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? After a lengthy altercation the Pharisees dismissed the case in anger and indignation, refusing in their pride and haughtiness to be taught by an unlettered man. He had met their arguments by a splendid testimony as he declared, "One thing I know that, whereas I was blind, now I see" (v. 25). In their rancorous opposition, they became guilty of a gross perversion of Scripture as they accused him of being born in sins. No one is born in sins; but we are born in sin (Psa. 51:5). But accuracy counts little with heated theological bigots.

Verse 35.—"Dost thou believe on the Son of God?" Cast out by the Pharisees, the man who had received his sight was found by Jesus, who ever has a welcome for those whom the world—whether religious or secular—rejects. His pointed question was designed to make manifest whether the man realized who it was through whom he had been healed.

Verse 36.—"Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?" In a spirit of humility and as one anxious for the truth, the man inquired as to who the Son of God was, upon whom he was expected to believe.

Verse 37.—"Is he that talketh with thee." In simple, direct language, Jesus made Himself known in the mystery of His person as the Son of God come down among men in grace.

Verse 38.—"Lord, I believe." In a moment, the eyes of the man's soul were opened. He gazed upon the face of Jesus in faith and worshiped him.

Verse 39.—"For judgment I am come into this world." It is not present condemnatory judgment (John 3:17), but judgment in the sense of discrimination, and ex-

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Lieut. General Guy Simonds of Winnipeg, commander of a Canadian Corps in France, watches his armoured units in the drive eastward through France.

pose of conditions as they really are. The light reveals the darkness. Those who receive the Light are made to see. Those who reject it are shut up to judicial blindness (John 8:26, 47).

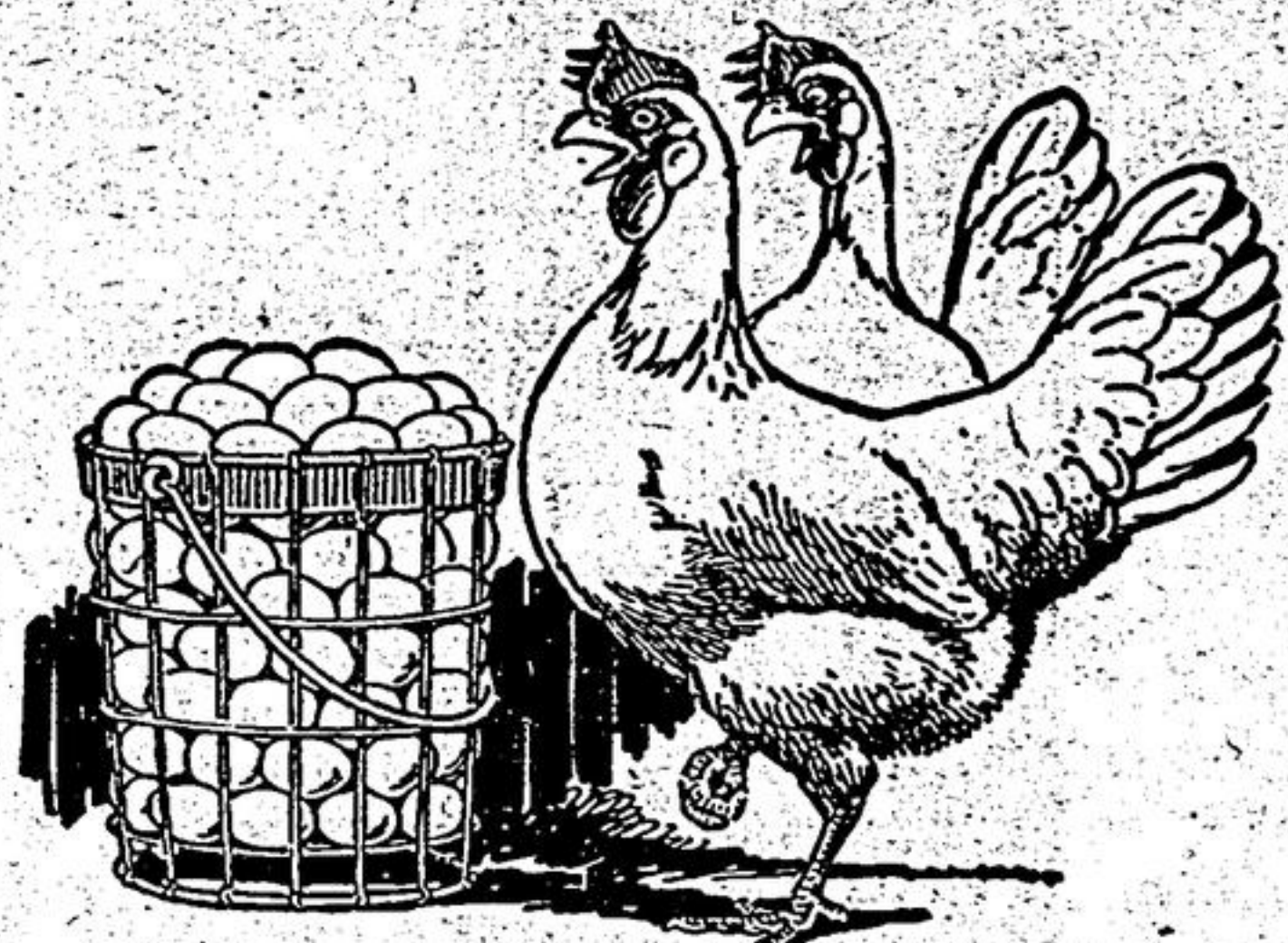
Verse 40.—"Some of the Pharisees ... said Are we blind also?" The question showed how hard were their hearts and how seared their consciences. Going on in smug complacency, they had no sight of God.

Verse 41.—"If ye were blind, ye should have no sin." That is, if they were utterly without the light of conscience or of revelation they would not have been responsible. But they prided themselves on

their knowledge, while yet refusing the Savvior. Therefore, they were doubly guilty. Their sin remained uncleansed and unforgiven.

The Heart of the Lesson  
Having come into the world, the Lord Jesus, Christ is the touchstone of all hearts. He is incarnate Light, revealing God to man and manifesting the true condition of those to whom He ministered. When men come into the light and face their sins before God, there is cleansing and forgiveness for them. When it is a question of our daily walk, He is still the Light. As we follow Him, we find our way through the darkness of this scene on to the Heavenly City

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Birds may lay well for a short time on an inferior ration, but for steady, high production over a long period, without moults, slumps or heavy mortality, something better is required. Actually it costs no more to feed a good ration than a poor one, because on the poor feed the pullets or hens eat more while producing less. Naturally a ration made up of selected ingredients, carefully balanced to contain the necessary proteins, minerals, vitamins and other materials in just the right proportion for highest results, cannot be prepared for the same price per hundred pounds as the inferior ration. Yet, measured in feed cost per dozen eggs, it is much cheaper. After all, it is your returns over your feed costs that make the profits.

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"I think it can be safely said that the sugar supply position is the most difficult situation we have to face today in any rationed commodity. You can't get all you want in wartime. If one pound will do, don't buy two."  
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The sugar situation is NOT sweet

FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE SUGAR CANADA CONSUMES HAS TO BE IMPORTED

This map shows where Canada, Great Britain and the United States got their sugar in the good old days of peace. Our three countries take practically all the exportable sugar from these major sugar-exporting areas.

But supplies have either been cut off by enemy occupation of the country—as in the case of Java and the Philippines, or their production radically reduced by shortage of workers, as in the case of Hawaii, Porto Rico, Australia, Trinidad, Fiji.

Even the production of beet sugar in Canada and the United States has been drastically cut by labour shortage. In both countries the '43 sugar beet crop was forty per cent less than in '41. The only country to show an important increase is Cuba, where output had for years been deliberately restricted. But its increase has not been sufficient to offset the losses elsewhere—let alone meet the increased demand.

**ROLLING ON SUGAR**  
The war has brought some unusual demands on the United Nations' sugar pool. Vast quantities have been taken for making industrial alcohol used in the manufacture of synthetic rubber (tires, etc.) as well as T.N.T. and smokeless powder. For instance, the explosive to fill five 16-inch shells requires as much sugar as

is produced on an acre of the finest sugar land. This year Cuban sugar alone used for making industrial alcohol will equal Canada's normal sugar imports for more than two years.

**THE SUPPLY IS SHARED**  
All sugar supplies are pooled and under the control of the Combined Food Board of the United Nations, which allots supplies to Canada, United States and Great Britain on a uniform basis.

**DO WE NEED MORE SUGAR?**  
A century ago the whole world didn't consume as much sugar as Canada does today. Our sweet tooth has been acquired in quite recent times. Sugar rates high for its energy value, but starchy food is a good substitute.

**WE'RE LIVING ON OUR SUGAR CAPITAL**  
At the time of "Pearl Harbour" the United Nations had a reserve stock-pile of about 3 million tons, but for the last 3 years we've been using more than has been produced—and dipping heavily

into "reserve." Liberated nations will have to dip in too. Extra good crops could improve the situation, but greatly increased supplies are not in sight. If current consumption keeps up, we could be very short of sugar next year. We must do the utmost to conserve our supplies.

RATIONING WAS STARTED BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE OF SHIPS. IT MUST BE CONTINUED BECAUSE WORLD STOCKS ARE DEFICIENT  
THIS IS ONE OF A SERIES OF ANNOUNCEMENTS GIVING THE FACTS ABOUT THE SUPPLY SITUATION OF VARIOUS WIDELY USED COMMODITIES  
**THE WARTIME PRICES AND TRADE BOARD**