

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for August 19  
Golden Text.—“The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.”—Psa. 145:18

The Lesson as a Whole  
In the life of Jacob we see exemplified a saint under the discipline of God, a man of conflicting emotions and often, unhappily, of mixed motives. He was nevertheless throughout all the years of his maturity, one who valued the things of God and appreciated the covenanted blessings promised to Abraham and his seed. Named a “supplanter,” or “heel-catcher,” which is the literal meaning of “Jacob,” because of what took place at his birth (Gen. 25:25, 26; Hos. 12:3), he manifested the same traits of crafty self-interest in many things, and yet we see him a chastened man at the last, to whom the things of God were very real and precious.

The truth of the two natures in the believer is evidenced in his experiences in a very definite manner: th old Jacob nature in conflict with the Israel nature, so that at times we see the former dominating his ways, and at other times the new life is graciously manifested.

There is one chapter of Genesis for which we shall have to wait until we get home to Heaven; the chapter that will tell us what God would have done had Jacob and his mother, Rebekah, been content to wait upon the Lord and not have resorted to a fleshly and deceitful expedient in order to make sure of the blessing of Abraham, as handed on by Isaac. They used carnal means for a spiritual end. But God overruled and saw that His purpose was carried out in spite of their failure. However, the chastening of Jacob was long and severe. He left his home to go to his Uncle Laban for a few days (chap. 27:44), but he was destined to remain there twenty years, and he never saw his mother again.

Verse by Verse  
Gen. 28:10.—Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. What makes this incident all the more touching and remarkable is the solemn fact that this journey of Jacob's was necessitated by his own crookedness and double-dealing. If he had not deceived his father, and in that way affronted his brother Esau, God would have undertaken for him in His own wondrous way. But by his trickery Jacob made a bitter enemy of Esau, for the time at least, and so was obliged to flee from his home in order to save his life (see chap. 27:41-46).

Verse 11.—He lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows. How often God's erring children have sought to rest their weary heads on stone pillows when, if they had gone on in the path of obedience, they might have reposed in comfort! But in this lonely desert place, with nothing to minister to physical ease, Jacob was to learn that God ever watches over and cares for His own, even when suffering from the effects of their own waywardness.

Verse 12.—He dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. It would be better than a ladder. It was a shining pathway connecting earth with Heaven, and on it the angels of God were seen ascending and descending. Such a link between the two spheres is our blessed Lord Himself, now by faith, but some glad day manifest to sight, even as He said to Nathaniel: “Ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man” (John 1:51). He is Himself the way from earth to Glory. None can get to the Father except by Him (John 14:6).

Verse 13.—The Lord stood above it, and said: “I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac. Jacob had known of God in this relationship from his youth. Now a special revelation was vouchsafed to him personally. Jehovah, the God of his grandfather Abraham and of his father Isaac, was watching over him, a wayward though he had been, and in the vision of that night He confirmed to him the blessing of Abraham, both as to the land and his seed. That land, upon which he lay a fugitive and a stranger, should yet be his and his children's after him.”

Verse 14.—“In thee, and in thy seed, shall all the families of the earth be blessed.” This was the promise that through his line the Christ should come. It was almost an exact repetition of what had been said to Abraham long before (chap. 22:18), and we know from Galatians 3:16 that the seed is Christ Jesus our Lord. What grace was thus displayed to Jacob, that unworthy as he was, so blessed a promise should be made to him and so great a privilege conferred upon him!

Verse 15.—“I am with thee, and will keep thee, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee.” Notice God's three “I will's.” He undertook to watch over and protect Jacob in all his wanderings, and at last to bring him safely back to the land of Canaan, never giving him up, although, as we know, He had to chasten and discipline him in order that he might answer at last, in some measure, at least, to the calling that had been confirmed.

Verse 16.—“Surely the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not.” Jacob's declaration when he awoke showed what a limited conception he had of the greatness and omnipresence of God. He localized Him in his thinking, as though that particular place was a special shrine, hitherto unknown to him, where God dwelt or presenced Himself in a way He did not do elsewhere. What follows shows how little he understood the reality of the all-

pervading Spirit of God, whose glory fills both earth and Heaven.” Verse 17.—“He was afraid (or filled with reverent awe), and said, ‘How readable (or solemn) is this place!’ To have thus come so nigh to God was to Jacob a most awesome experience. It led him to give a special name to the place where he had slept and dreamed. He said, “This is none other but the house of God (Bethel); and this is the gate of heaven.” Henceforth that place was to have a special sanctity in the mind of Jacob. Abraham had pitched his tent and built his altar near there of old (chap. 12:8). But it had not previously been thought of as a sacred location.

Verse 18.—“Jacob took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. While this was a pious act, there is no hint that in doing as he did he was fulfilling any command of the Lord. It was rather, I take it, an expression of the religiousness of his own heart.

Verse 19.—“He called the name of that place Bethel.” Henceforth, this locality, which had been known as Luz, was called Bethel, the house of God. Anticipatively, Moses designated it Bethel in the account of Abram's journeys and encampments, but it was Jacob who changed Luz to Bethel in actuality.

Verses 20, 21.—“If God will be with me . . . then shall the Lord be my God.” That Jacob failed at this time to enter into the fullness of God's promise is evident from the attempt he made to bargain with God. Although the Lord had promised so definitely to be with him and to protect and bring him back to the land, Jacob says, “If God keeps His word, then I will recognize and honor him.” It was the language of a legalist who had not yet learned the true meaning of

grace. Verse 22.—“This setone shall be God's house, and I will surely give the tenth unto thee.” God had exacted no such pledges from him, but Jacob made them in such a way as to put God to the test, as it were. The fulfillment of the vows depended upon the fulfillment of the promises of God. It was a very sad evidence of Jacob's low sense of soul and lack of understanding of the covenant God had made.

The Heart of the Lesson  
God's sovereignty enables Him to deal in grace with erring mortals apart altogether from any ability on their part to earn or deserve His loving favor. But our poor, legal hearts respond very feebly to His goodness and loving-kindness. It is difficult for us to abide in a sense of grace. We would far rather try to put God in our debt (Rom. 4:4) than take Him at His word and receive His gifts in simple faith.

### MAXIMUM PRICES FOR PEACHES, PLUMS AND PEARS SAME AS 1944

The maximum prices for peaches, plums and pears have been set by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board at the same levels as prevailed in 1944, except that the grower's price for No. 1 Ontario-grown peaches has been raised five cents per basket. A new grade of British Columbia peach is selling this year and a maximum price has been set for it.

The same ceiling exists for imported and domestic fruit. The order came into effect August 6 for imported and domestic peaches and domestic plums. The effective date for imported plums and domestic pears is August 13 and for imported pears August 20.

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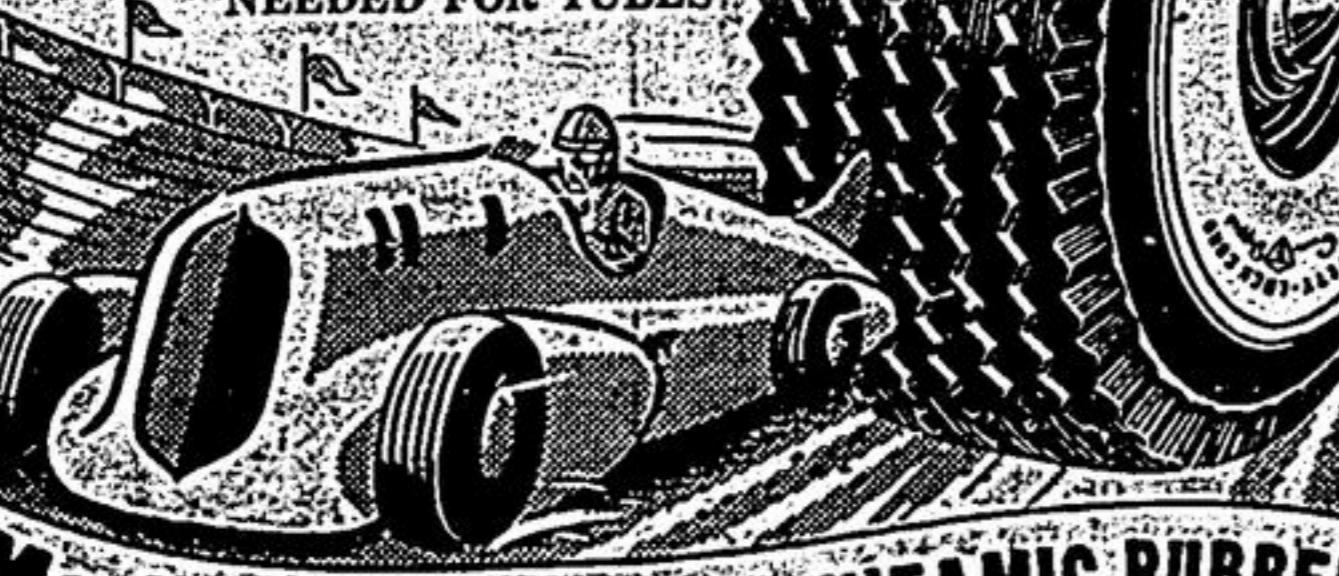
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Canadian service men permanently incapacitated through enemy action in the field will be confirmed in acting ranks held when wounded. Defence Headquarters announced July 19. Under previous regulations, acting rank was relinquished after 90 days in hospital.

The 1,000th Canadian-made Mosquito airplane has taken off for the Pacific. It rolled off the assembly line at De Havilland Aircraft in Toronto and was on its way within an hour. The Mosquito travels at more than 425 miles an hour and carries 1,000-pound bombs.

Canada's daily war production bill rose from \$1,500,000 in 1940 to a peak of \$9,000,000 in 1943. Since the beginning of 1945 it has averaged about \$6,000,000.

Canada's blood donor service began late in 1940. By the end of 1944, 1,758,967 blood donations had been received.

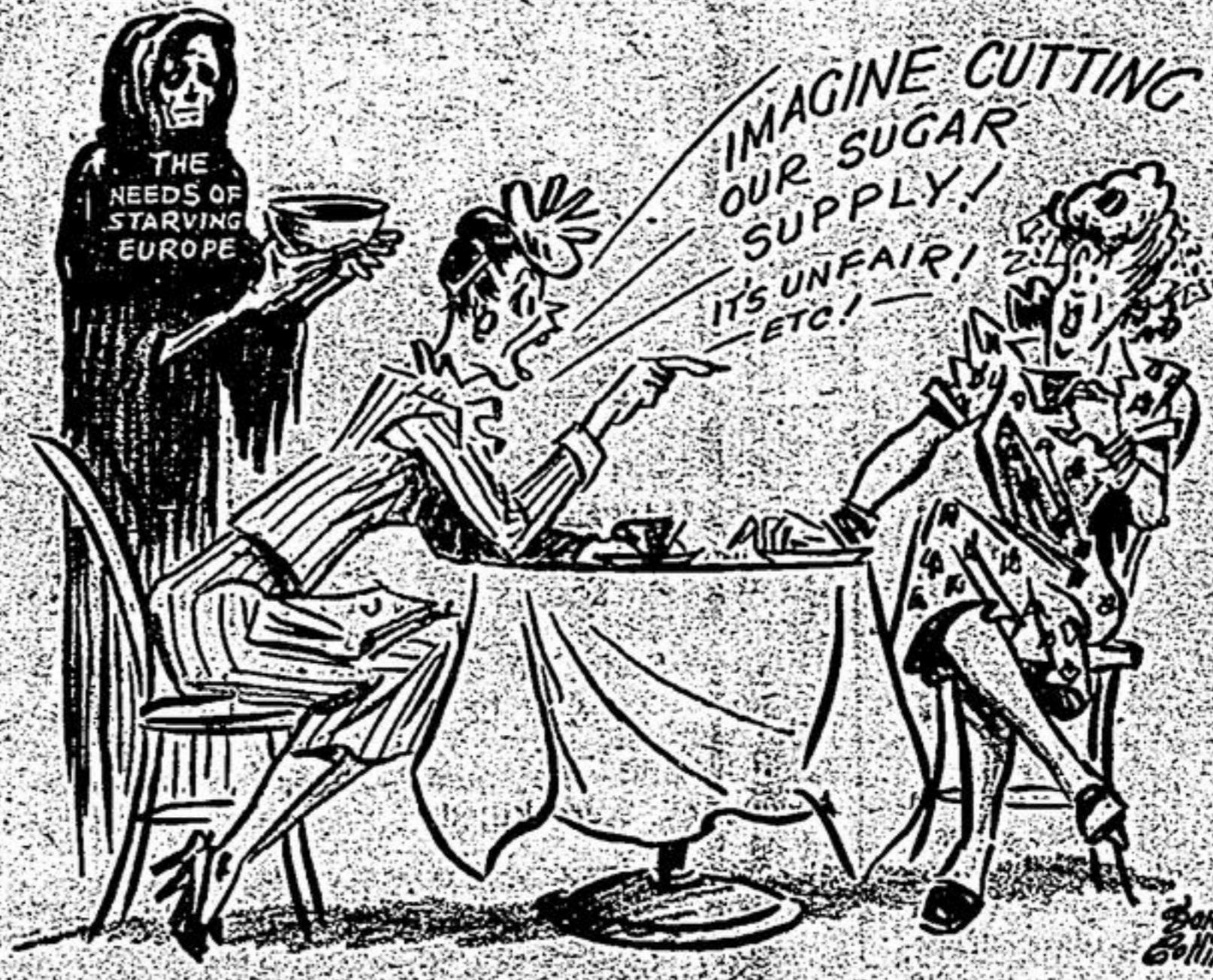
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## HYDRO RURAL SERVICE . . . WHEN?

To the Hydro,  
Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask when am I going to get electricity brought to my farm. You've had my application for some time and I was told that it had been approved. The Hydro wires pass my farm. Why then is nothing done about it?

Please let me know if this matter has slipped your mind, or do I get electricity?

Yours truly,  
John P. xxxx  
R.R. No. 6, xxxx, Ontario

To the writer of this letter and several thousand others who are in the same position, your Hydro can definitely say that your application for service certainly has not slipped our mind. Everything that can be done is being done to serve as many new customers as soon as possible.

Even though many regulations have been relaxed, and the war in Europe is over, there is little, if any, sign of improvement in the shortage of labour and materials. The shortage of only one of the many parts needed to complete a service results in a delay. The labour and materials available are being used with extreme care and planning to serve as many new rural customers as quickly as possible.

To those applicants in areas where Hydro lines are still to be constructed, Hydro service will be made available as the supply of labour and materials improves. Already sufficient applications have been received which will require the construction of over 2,000 miles of line that cannot be undertaken in 1945. However, your Hydro is making every effort to complete by the end of 1945 all applications made in 1944 that have been officially approved by letter.

Your Hydro has done and is doing everything possible to extend electricity to essential rural services. The Hydro rural service that you are waiting for will be completed just as soon as the labour and material situation permits.

THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER COMMISSION OF ONTARIO