

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for January 12
Golden Text.—Whatever he saith unto you, do it.—John 2:5

The Lesson as a Whole
This beginning of miracles, performed at the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee, and the cleansing of the Temple at Jerusalem were designed to declare the authority of our blessed Lord and to show forth His glory as the Creator who had come to earth and clothed Himself in our humanity in order that He might become our Kinsman-Redeemer.

We are given no information as to who the contracting parties were, nor are we told what other guests were present save the Lord Jesus, His mother, and His disciples. All our attention is focused upon the Lord Himself, whose presence turns every occasion into one of joy and gladness and who, in His grace, meets every need of the heart of man.

It is significant that John's Gospel, in its early section, brings a wedding before us, and his great prophetic Book, the Revelation, closes with another wedding, the marriage of the Lamb, in which all the redeemed of all ages are to have a part, whether as of those who in this age make up the Bride (Eph. 5:30-33) or those of other dispensations who will be there as friends of the Bridegroom (John 3:29). Every wedding feast on earth should be so conducted as to picture that glorious nuptial event which shall herald the dawning of the glorious Kingdom of the Son of man over all the earth. A Christian marriage is not, as in Rome's sense, a sacrament, but it should be recognized as setting forth in symbol what the ritual, often used, calls "the mystic union subsisting between Christ and the Church." Where this is kept in mind, there will be no unseemly levity nor vulgar display, but all will be carried out as under the holy eye of Him who graced that wedding in Cana.

The necessity for the cleansing of the Temple told out most plainly the sad condition of Israel at this time. The very sanctuary itself had become defiled by the greed and covetousness of both priests and merchants.

Verse by Verse
John 2:1.—"A marriage in Cana and the mother of Jesus was there." This marriage we are told, took place on the third day; that is, the third day after the call of Nathanael, as related in chapter 1. Mary the mother of the Lord Jesus was there already. Some have conjectured that those who were to be married at this time were intimate family connections of hers, but Scripture is silent as to this.

Verse 2.—"Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage." Having been invited to the wedding, the Lord Jesus Christ and the little group of possibly six disciples journeyed northward, reaching Cana in time for the feast.

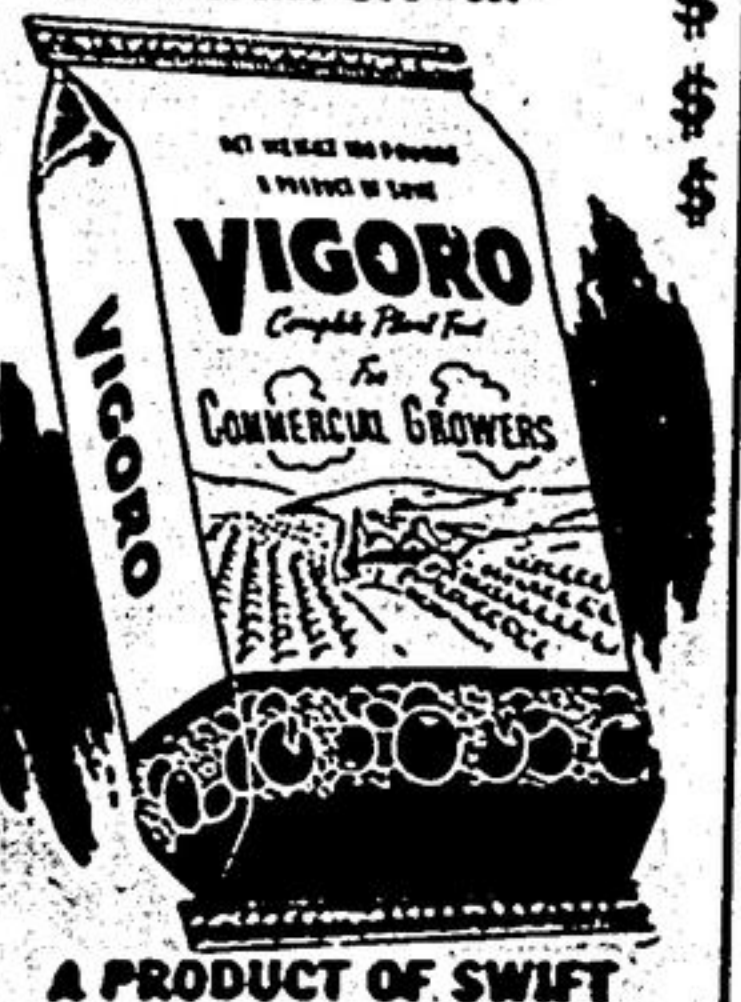
Verse 3.—"They have no wine." The juice of the grape, prepared in various ways, sometimes spiced or mingled with other flavoring agencies, was the common drink of the country and specially on convivial occasions such as weddings and other feasts. Mary noticed that the supply had run out and probably in order to avoid shaming the parents of the bride and groom she called the attention of the Lord Jesus to it, and that in a way which clearly implied that she looked to Him to do something about it.

Verse 4.—"Woman, what have I to do with thee?" This was not a brusque rebuke, as our Authorized Version would seem to imply. It was actually as though He said, "Lady, what is that as between thee and me?" Then He added, "Mine hour is not yet come." He would manifest His glory in due time. He did not need to be hurried.

Verse 5.—"Whatever he saith

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HOW TO IDENTIFY LIVE FOX AND WOLF PUPS

A rather perturbed gentleman phoned the Department of Lands and Forests as to whether the pups he had captured alive were wolves or foxes. His first impression—based probably in anticipation of the bounty—was that they were wolves, but consultation with some of his friends created doubts. By some he was advised that they were foxes, while others maintained they were wolves. The result was, as might be expected, confusion! To the in-experienced there was, of course, room for argument. When very young, there is a certain amount of resemblance between the two, and general appearance may be deceptive. However, in one regard, there is a distinct difference which will settle any question of identification where live pups are concerned. In foxes the pupils of the eyes are vertically elliptical, similar to the pupils of a cat's eyes. In wolves and dogs the pupils of the eyes are round, similar to the pupils in the eyes of humans. There are other differences, of course, but this detail of the eyes is outstanding.

unto you, do it." Mary thus addressed the servants, assured in her own mind that her holy Son would meet the need in some way. Her words may well speak to every one of us. She did not draw attention to herself, but directed it toward Him who had come into the world so miraculously.

Verse 6.—"Six waterpots of stone after the manner of the purifying of the Jews." These aptly picture the legal forms and ceremonies of Judaism, all empty and useless to meet the crying needs of the hearts of men and to give that purification which fits them for fellowship with God. They had their place once, but now He had come into the world to whom all the types of the Law pointed.

Verse 7.—"Fill the waterpots with water." This, too, was a symbolic act. When we pour into the forms and ordinances of the Law the pure living water of the grace of God, as set forth in the New Testament, they are then no longer dry and lifeless ceremonies, but become wonderful illustrations of the Word of the truth of the Gospel.

Verse 8.—"Draw out now, and bear to the governor of the feast." It was fitting that he should be the first to taste the result of the manifest power of Christ, in order that he might commend it to the rest.

Verse 9.—"The water that was made wine." Amazed at the fragrance and taste of the wine in his cup, and unaware of the means whereby it was obtained, the governor of the feast called upon the bridegroom for an explanation.

Verse 10.—"Thou has kept the good wine until now." There was something about this pure, delicious wine that was superior to all they had been using. This does not necessarily imply fermentation, but rather a richness of flavor beyond that in common use. The Lord Jesus had done in a moment of time what, as Creator, He does in ten thousands of vineyards throughout many lands in the course of several months: that is, changing water into the rich blood of the grape.

Verse 11.—"Manifested forth his glory." In chapter 1:14 we saw Jesus as the true tabernacle, in which was hidden the glory of the eternal Son. Each miracle He wrought was a manifestation of that glory.

Verse 12.—"After this he went down to Capernaum." Going from Cana to the city where His mother now lived, the Lord Jesus remained some time in Galilee, preaching and teaching until the annual Passover season drew nigh in the Spring of A.D. 27.

Verse 13.—"Jesus went up to Jerusalem." As a Jew, under the Law, Jesus was careful to obey the command to keep certain feast (Deut. 16:1), even though they had become cold and formal. That which of old was designated the Passover of the Lord (Num. 28:16) is here called "the Jews' passover," because the Lord was no longer honored in its observance by most of those who participated.

Verse 14.—"In the temple of those that sold... and the changers of money." Originally all of this was for the convenience of those who came to the feast from distant lands, but it had degenerated into a matter of personal gain and so was obnoxious to God.

Verse 15.—"A scourge of small cords." With so insignificant a weapon did Jesus drive out the dishonest merchants and hawkers who had been preying upon the people who come to worship God.

Verse 16.—"Make not my Father's house an house of merchandise." This is a stern rebuke of all selfish commercializing of the things of God.

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MOTHER VIEWS MISSING CHILD'S GIFTS



Christmas Day was saddest day in lives of Rusnak family, St. Catharines, Ont., after disappearance of Marian, nine. Mrs. John Rusnak is seen with Marian's unopened presents.

9th Line, Markham

(Too late last week)
The Sewing Circle held their meeting at the home of Mrs. Geo. Lewis on Tuesday this week.

We are pleased to know that Mrs. Jas. McCreight has arrived home from the Western Hospital, Toronto, and is steadily improving. Miss Catherine Masters who has been attending High School in Weston is spending the Christmas vacation at her home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Simpson and family had Christmas dinner in Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. O. Peacock and Bill also Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Lewis and Richie spent Christmas Day the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Smith of Bethesda.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Terryberry have gone to Detroit to visit their daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. John Borland (nee Lillian Morgan) of Toronto spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Morgan.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Watt and Wilbur were guests of Mrs. Watt's brother, Mr. Frank Pugsley of Toronto, for Christmas dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hoover and Margaret spent Christmas at the home of Mrs. Balsdon, Markham.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Thomas and family had Christmas dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Robt. C. Johnston of Toronto.

A large crowd attended the school concert which was held on the evening of Dec. 17 and spent a most enjoyable evening.

ORGANIST 49 YEARS HANNAH LAW DIES

Pickering Resident More Than 50 Years

PICKERING, Dec. 30.—A resident of Pickering for more than 50 years and for 49 years organist at the Presbyterian Church in Pickering, Miss Hannah Law died here at the home of her brother, George Law. She was in her 84th year.

Born in Scarborough Township, Miss Law attended school at the village of Scarborough. She had been a music teacher for many years in Pickering and was widely known throughout the district as an active church worker and popular musician.

She is survived by her brother George, who is now the only living member of a family of nine. The Law family were early settlers of this district.

CHARLES E. BAKER

For some years active in the bakery business in Uxbridge, Charles E. Baker, 67, died last week at his home, 167 Close Ave., Toronto. He was born in Toronto, returning there 12 years ago when he retired because of ill health. Mr. Baker was a member of the Masonic Order, the LOL and First Avenue Baptist Church. Surviving are his widow, the former Lillian Ward, and two sisters, Mrs. J. A. Bartlett, zephyr, and Mrs. John Hubbert, Toronto.

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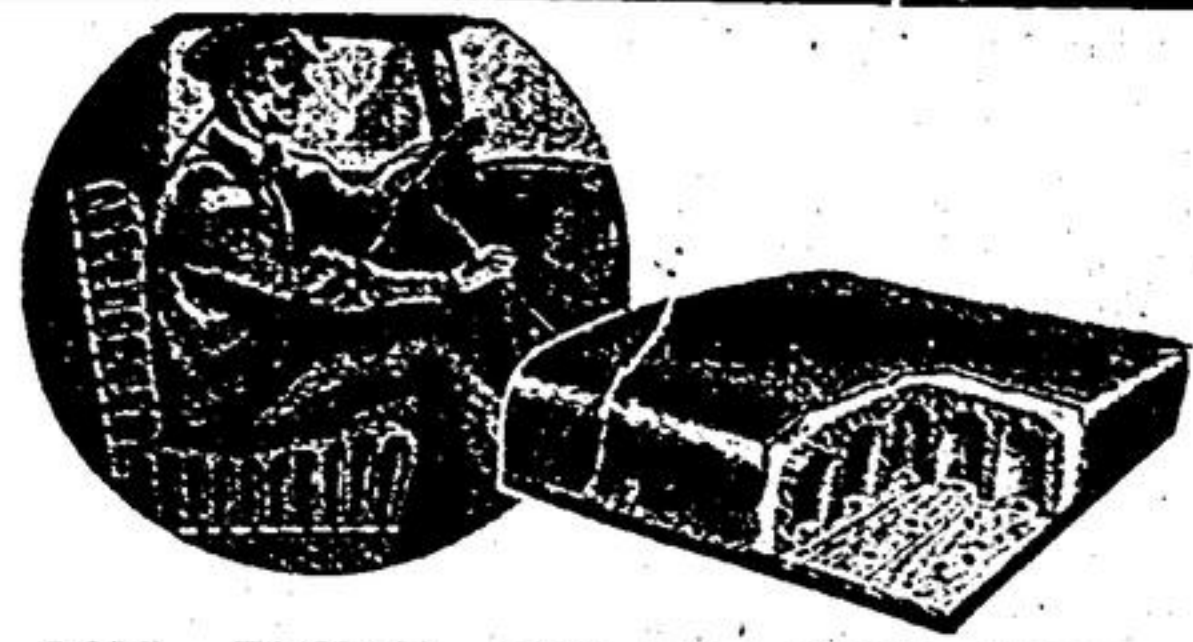
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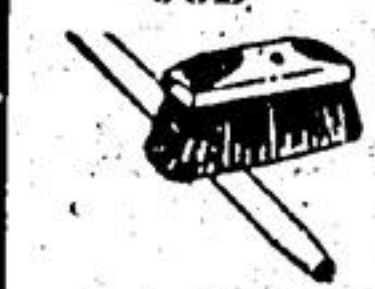
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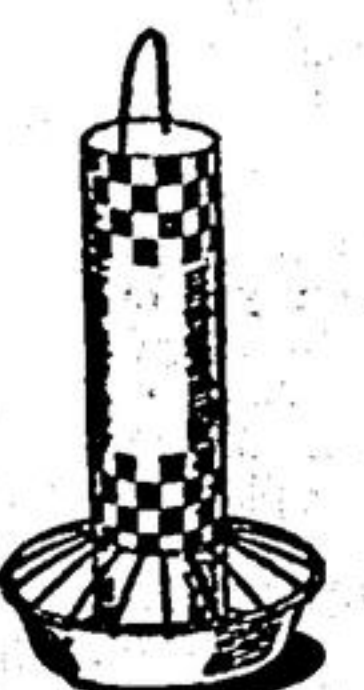
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