

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for July 6
Golden Text.—My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.—Job 27: 6

The Lesson as a Whole
 In this lesson we are concerned for the moment, not with the value of the Book of Job as a whole, or with the special line of truth it is designed to set forth, but with the character of the man of whom it treats. Job was a man of exemplary behavior, a man of true piety and absolute integrity. He was, as attested by God Himself and admitted by Satan, a man whose life was righteous and whose ideals were of the very highest type. Such men are rare, but when found are a credit to society and of great value to the community. Job was all that we have said, but the day came when he had to bow in repentance before God and acknowledge the corruption of his own nature. This was the very object God had in view in permitting him to be tested by Satan and exposed because of his sufferings to the suspicion of his friends, who could not believe that a truly good man would be allowed by God to endure the physical anguish and the mental torment to which the patriarch was exposed.

The Book of Job is the Book of repentance. Here God takes up, not the worst, but the best man He could find on earth and shows us how this good man was brought to the recognition of the sinfulness of his nature despite the outward perfection of his behaviour, so that he cried, "I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (chap. 42: 6). The lesson for us is plain: if so excellent a man needed to repent, then surely none can fail to realize that God is righteous when He commands all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17: 30) and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2: 4). No one who knows God aright will ever be complacent about his own righteousness, however blameless his life may be.

Verse by Verse
 Job 1: 1.—"A man whose name was Job." The character of this man is depicted in the opening verse: a man of piety and exemplary behavior. He dwelt in the land of Uz or Huz, on the south-east of Palestine and settled early by the descendants of Esau, and later annexed to the land of Edom.

Chap. 27: 1.—"Job continued his parable." What precedes this in chapter 26 and follows it in chapters 27 to 31 constitutes Job's final defence of his character after his three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, had tried in vain to make him acknowledge that he was afflicted by God because of hidden sin in his life.

Verse 2.—"God who hath taken away my judgment, and vexed my soul." Job knew that God was dealing with him, but he could not understand why. He called God to witness to the integrity of his heart.

Verse 3.—"The spirit of God is in my nostrils." He was not referring to the Holy Spirit, but to his own human spirit dwelling in the body so long as breath remained. The spirit is the real man. The body is the habitation or tabernacle in which it dwells (2 Cor. 5: 1-3; 2 Pet. 1: 13, 14).

Verse 4.—"My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor utter deceit." If Job had acknowledged what his friends desired him to confess, that he was suffering because of hidden wickedness, he would have lied against his own soul. He was not conscious of such evil behavior, so he could not be honest and confess that what they charged him with was true.

Verse 5.—"Till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me." Job was a righteous man and he knew it. What he had not learned was the sinfulness of his own heart and the corruption of his nature.

Chap. 31: 19.—"If I have seen any perish for want of clothing." In coming to the close of his defense of himself, Job insists on his concern for others, his care for the needy, his compassion for the poor. If it were otherwise he calls God to attest it by making manifest his iniquity.

Verse 20.—"If he were not warmed with the fleece of my sheep." He had ever been ready to minister to the poor and share his wealth with those less fortunate than himself.

Verse 21.—"If I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless." He was certain none could accuse him honestly of taking advantage of any who were in distress but rather the contrary.

Verse 22.—"Then let my arm fall from my shoulder blade." If guilty of any unkind or uncharitable actions, he called upon God to render him helpless.

Verse 23.—"For destruction from God was a terror to me." He dreaded the divine displeasure and so had endeavored to live so that God might have no occasion to smite him in judgment.

Verse 24.—"If I have made gold my confidence." He was immensely wealthy, but he did not trust in his riches, but in God Himself.

Verse 25.—"If I rejoiced because my wealth was great." He recognized God's goodness in providing abundantly for him; yet he did not

VANDORF

(June 26, 1947)

Miss Marilyn King of Toronto was holidaying at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Switzer last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Grant and Miss Phyllis Grant spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jack McCague at Alliston.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown and family spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown at Princeton.

Miss Margaret Jenkins of Toronto is holidaying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Kingdon for three weeks.

Miss Lillian Wright of Toronto spent a day with her mother, Mrs. A. Wright.

Miss Joan Ewenof Holt has been holidaying with her uncle and aunt Mr. and Mrs. J. Irwin.

Miss Alice Tremain of Toronto accompanied Miss Ruth Oliver home for the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carr attended church at Keswick on Sunday morning and spent the day with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Carr and Peggy there.

Welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Grant and daughter Phyllis of Toronto who are living in the new Oliver house.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Hobbs have bought a farm at Hope.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Allin of Aurora had dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Oliver on Saturday.

Mrs. Aylett entertained 15 girls and boys on Saturday to celebrate Nancy's fourth birthday.

Mrs. Ralph Willis of Toronto had dinner with Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Switzer on Thursday.

Mrs. Smith and sons and Mr. R. Scott visited with Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Anderson in Aurora on Sunday.

Wesley S.S. Sunday School is planning to hold a Vacation Bible School from July 7th to 18th.

Everyone is invited to attend the showing of a very good moving picture on Friday evening, July 4th, at Wesley Church. It is called "The Power of God" and is sponsored by Wesley Sunday School.

Mrs. A. Russell Graham gave an impressive address at Wesley Church on Sunday morning. She is a nurse and has spent 30 years as a missionary in India. She wore a lovely costume like the natives of India.

Mrs. Loveless of Markham was a supper guest with Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Switzer on Thursday.

The Vandorf group who motored to Guelph in the Langdon bus were Mrs. Arthur VanNostrand, Mrs. Nddry, Mrs. Ralph Willis, Mrs. Herbert Oliver, Mrs. H. A. White, Mrs. Fred VanNostrand, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Austin Richardson, Mrs. Thompson, Miss Merle Stevenson, Mrs. George E. Richardson, Mrs. A. Allin, Mrs. Henry Stephenson, Mrs. Walter Graham, Mrs. Jno. Petch, Mrs. H. A. Switzer, Mrs. W. Yake, Mrs. C. Williamson, Mrs. Avis, Mrs. Clayton Pogue, Miss Pearl Cale, Mrs. George Preston, Mrs. Harold Dewsbury, Mrs. Floyd Preston, Mrs. S. Aylett, Mrs. Wicks, Mrs. Sleeth, Mrs. A. Pattenden, Mrs. C. Pattenden, Mrs. S. Eade, Miss Norah Allin, Miss Mary Bowser and Mrs. Horace Hilliary. Everyone enjoyed the trip and the program to celebrate the fiftieth birthday of the Women's Institute.

find his joy in his riches, but rather in the One who enabled him to amass so much treasure—all of which had been swept away.

Verses 26, 27.—"If I beheld the sun.....or the moon.....and my heart hath been secretly enticed." Already the sun and the moon were worshiped as deities by the people of near-by lands, but he had never allowed himself to become guilty of thus denying the one living and true God.

Verse 28.—"I should have denied the God that is above." To have looked idolatrously upon the heavenly bodies and sacrificed to them would have been to apostatize from the monotheism which he confessed. In regard to all these things, and to many more which he mentioned in this long defense, he knew he was guiltless. In these chapters he uses the pronouns I, me, my, mine over 190 times. This was "his righteousness" which he held fast. In other words, it was his religion before he saw the Lord.

The Heart of the Lesson
 So far as human righteousness goes, Job had more of which to boast than any other man of his time. Moreover, it was the manifestation of new life, for he was a true child of God, whose faith was seen in his manner of behavior. But he had to learn that the best of men possess the same evil nature as that which is found in the worst of sinners. It was to give him the realization of this that God permitted him to be so sorely tried and tested. We need not feel that suffering is an evidence of the divine disfavor, for the Lord chastens, or instructs by discipline, those whom He loves. We all need to learn, as Job learned, that our best endeavors are stained with the corruption of our sinful hearts.

UNIONVILLE

A very fine piano recital was given by the pupils of Miss Ila C. Weighill, A.T.C.M. in Central United Church, on Friday evening, June 20. The programme presented a quartette, trio, duets and solos, with saxophone solo and trumpet duet with the following pupils taking part: Helen and Betty Russell, Helen Bratton, Lorna Latimer, Brian Allen, John Bratton, Marilyn Anderson, Wilma and Anne Caseley, Jimmy Lacey, Muriel Webb, Donald Anderson, Donald Miller, John Little, Neil Stiver, Alberta Milne, Doris Little, Mrs. Bratton, Walter Artyanko, David Boynton, Margaret Walker, Robt. Coulter, John Marshall, Delphine Logan, Doreen Hiltz, Betty Miller, Bernard Moore, Beatrice McInnes, Mrs. Colter, Doreen MacKay, Margaret and Pearl Rainey, Eleanor Brown, Ted and Bill Hiltz, Don Summerfeldt, Beverley Bratton, Jean Grant, Joan Chapin, Betty Tribbling, Edith and Marion Dzin, Jean Demail, Nancy Hiltz, Roy Robson, Marian Warne, Beth Brown, Jean Muirhead. Saxophone solo by Neil Stiver. Trumpet duet by Don Summerfeldt and Ted Hiltz. Miss Beth Brown on behalf of the class spoke a few words of appreciation of Miss Weighill's work and Miss Betty Russell presented the basket of roses.

MOUNT ALBERT MAN DIED IN VANCOUVER

Charlie Thompson, aged 32, a hospital patient for long years out in Vancouver, where he lay helpless with a broken back, is dead. He was laid to rest there on Saturday.

Deceased was brother of Mrs. Myron Anderson and Mrs. Gordon Pockler, and some years ago met with an accident which left him an invalid. When in Vancouver a few years ago the editor of this paper called at the hospital and had a short visit with Charlie, who since that time has improved, and was lately able to be in a wheel chair. He was taught how to knit as an occupation that would employ his time.

The late Charlie Thompson was born and raised at Mount Albert.

NOT ALL WET

While there was undue moisture in the Stouffville district and over most of Ontario this spring and early summer, to such an extent that many farmers were unable to sow early grains, a small area in the south-east corner of Markham township seemed to have received better treatment from the weatherman. According to Mr. Thos. Reesor, a most reliable authority, his farm and those of his neighbors escaped many of the rainfalls of other districts and the crop went in much as in other years.

Mr. Reesor reports that prospects thus far look excellent for a promising year in that section of Markham and Scarboro with which he is so familiar.

Notwithstanding favourable conditions in isolated areas, Ontario's spring grain crop will this year be only 70 per cent of last year's crop

because of exceptionally heavy spring rains which delayed seeding. It was announced in the monthly crop report of the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

In most of Eastern Ontario and parts of Northern Ontario only between five and 30 per cent of the intended acreage has been seeded.

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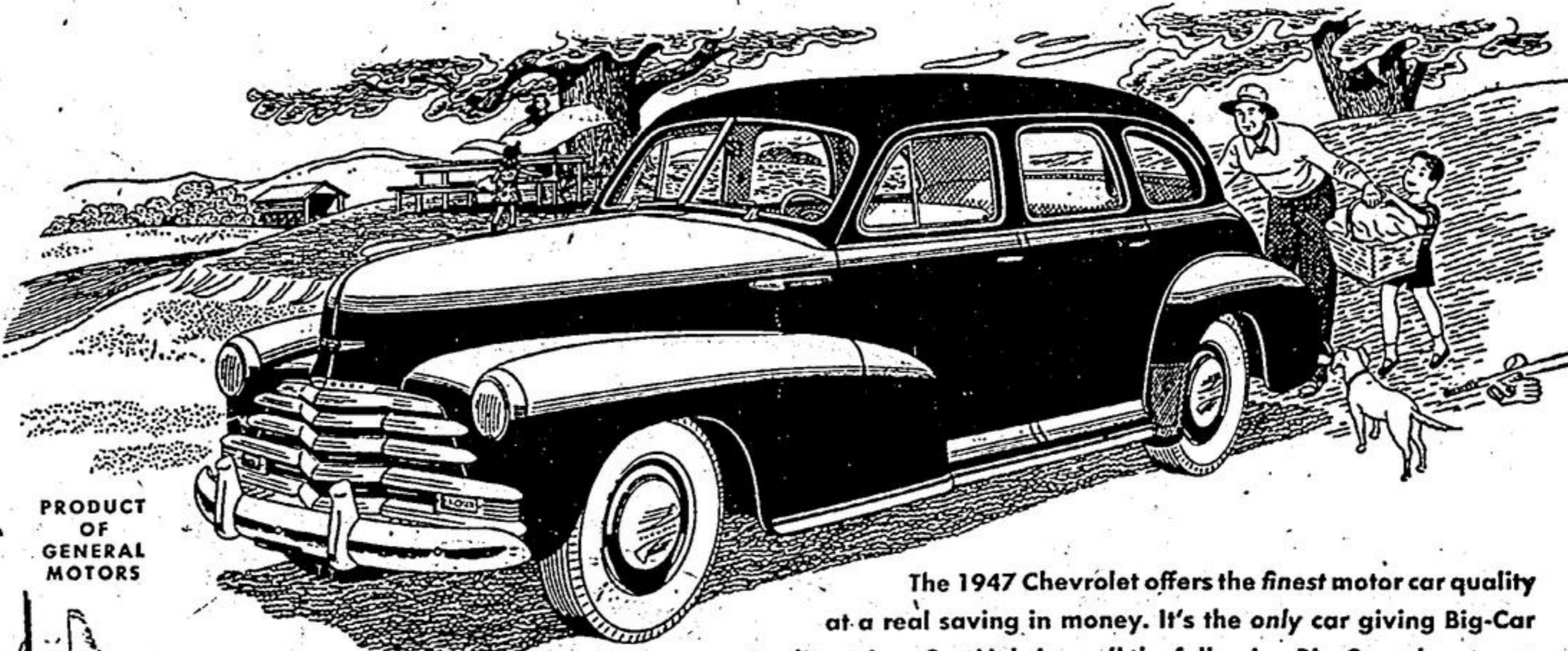
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