

Sunday School Lesson

PARABLES
ON DISCIPLESHIP
(Lesson for January 22)

Golden Text—For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted — Luke 14:11

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE
Approach to the Lesson
There is no indication that John the Baptist ever went to a party. Jesus, however, was different. Our Lord Himself made the comparison, "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber." Matt. 11:18, 19.

One feast which our Lord attended is described in all the synoptic Gospels, the feast which Matthew made for Him when he left his customs booth and followed Jesus.

At the other end of the social scale, we find Jesus accepting invitations to the homes of Pharisees. At least three such supper engagements are noted by Luke (7:36; 11:37; 14:1).

Twice we find Him entertained in the home of Mary and Martha and Lazarus in Bethany. After His resurrection Jesus was the invited guest at an evening meal. On this latter occasion the meal was interrupted by His being recognized and vanishing.

There are several excellent books dealing with table talk. One classic in this sphere is Luther's "Table Talk". An American work along the same line and yet very different, is "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," by Oliver Wendell Holmes but no table talk has ever been of such lasting value as that of the Lord Jesus Christ. What He said at table was always of immediate and abiding interest, and always very much to the point. It was not with out its humorous touches, which reveals the fact that our Lord must have been a social man in the highest sense of the term. His teaching, was never colorless.

This week's lesson introduces us to our Lord's table talk at one of the suppers which He attended in the home of a Pharisee.

Verse by Verse
Luke 14:7—... a parable... when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms... For the occasion see verse 1.

If the tables were the usual small three-sided tables with the innerspace for serving, the center places would be the "chief seats," which the guests were unceremoniously seizing.

Verse 8—"Sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honorable man than thou be bidden..." For "sit" read "recline," as was the custom. Putting on an air of importance is no proof of greatness.

Verse 9—"And he that bade thee... say, Give this man place." To find that others put a lower estimate on our importance than we do ourselves is a humiliating experience.

Verse 10—"But sit down in the lowest room... he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher; then shalt thou have worship..." For "worship" read "honor." While the language seems to indicate taking the lowly place with a view to the honor of being led to a higher seat, the undertone of the passage is that we are not to think of ourselves as worthy of the higher place but to choose the lower as probably belonging to us.

Verse 11—"For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Here is the moral principle of which the foregoing is an application. The greatest example of the latter phrase is our Lord Himself. See Philipians 2:6-11.

Verse 12—"A certain man made a great supper, and bade many." This was a common mode of entertainment, and at times was lavish to the point of extravagance.

Verse 13—"And sent his servant... Come; for all things are now ready." Instead of setting a time and leaving it up to the guests to come, a servant was sent to bring them.

Verse 14—"And they began to make excuse... I have bought a piece of ground... have me excused." This, of course, was the unusual feature—the invited guests refusing to come at the last minute. The buying of a field was a poor excuse. If it were already bought, the seeing could wait till next day.

Verse 15—"I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them." Who would buy animals first, and prove them afterward? This also was rather flimsy.

Verse 16—"I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." Marrying a wife exempted a man from military service for a year (Deut. 20:7), but there is no indication that it was 21—"Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city... the poor and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind." Here was a householder who was bent on having a feast, even if the invited guests failed to show up. Compare verse 13.

Verse 17—"Lord... yet there is room." There were not enough poor, maimed, blind,

and lame people in town to fill the quota of guests. That indicates the extent of the feast, and the number who had turned down the invitation.

Verse 22—"Go out into the highways and hedges... that my house may be filled." The town having been canvassed, the country around was scouted to make up a full complement.

Verse 24—"... none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper." The lord of the house rejected those who had rejected him. So shall it be with the Lord Jesus.

The Heart of the Lesson
Our Lord was at the equivalent of our Sunday dinner in the home of one of the chief Pharisees. Nobody present on that occasion would ever forget it. It was full of interest from the word "go," and on this occasion our Lord took command. Jesus was under scrutiny, as was not unusual. In such circumstances, He always seemed to appear in His most shining glory. In this particular instance, two circumstances combined to make the scrutiny all the more keen. It was the Sabbath, and a man suffering from dropsy was right in front of him, probably on the other side of the three-sided table at which Jesus reclined (vs. 1-6).

These religious Pharisees, with their companions the lawyers, suspected what Jesus would do, and they were not disappointed. He had a wonderful way of disarming His opponents. To His straightforward question, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath day?" they had no answer, and when, after healing the ailing man, He further challenged them as to their own behavior in the case of an ox or an ass falling into a pit on the Sabbath, they were completely silenced.

Jesus then turned His attention to the guests. He had noticed how they scrambled for the places reserved for more honorable guests, so He took them to task in a parable which differed from the immediate situation only in the circumstance of its being a wedding feast.

In this parable our Lord deals only with the outward conduct rather than with inward motive and disposition. In fact, it reads almost as if the going to the lowest place was in the hope of being invited higher. The application (v. 11), however, makes the lesson more complete. It contrasts the proud man who pushes for the high place with the humble man who honestly feels himself unworthy of any other than the lowest place. The end of the former is abasement, the end of the latter is exaltation.

The host did not escape. It was quite manifest that this man was a society party. Apart from the Lord Jesus Himself, the guests were all probably people who had already entertained this particular Pharisee or who would return the compliment by inviting their present host to their homes. In such an affair there was no moral value, and certainly it was not laying up the treasure of rewards in Heaven. So Jesus suggested another kind of party that would have moral virtue, and, while not receiving any social recompense, would mean blessing from God and recompense in the great day of the Resurrection. His suggestion was to make a feast for the poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind. In large measure those belonging to this category are taken care of in other ways today, but not all Christians recognize their responsibility in the care of the handicapped in our contemporary society. Doubtless we all give too much attention to what we reckon our social obligations and too little to our moral obligations.

One of the guests responded to this suggestion by hinting at the ideal conditions which would exist in the Kingdom of God, envisioning the perfect supper there. This opened the way for another great parable, the parable of the Supper, to which the invited guests refused to come, but which was furnished with last-minute guests from the streets and lanes of the city, and from the hedges and highways of the country.

BETHESDA
Mrs. Peter Brillinger
The W.M.S. was held at the home of Mrs. Burkholder. Mrs. Taun was in charge and opened the meeting with a New Year's prayer. The devotional was given by Mrs. Scott. Reports were given by Mrs. Taun Mrs. Empingham, Mrs. Burkholder and Mrs. Brillinger. Missionary News by Mrs. Dibb and Mrs. Smith.

A Life Membership was presented to Miss Selena Atkinson by Mrs. Hunt on behalf of the W.M.S. She has been a wonderful and faithful worker for many years. A reading was given by Mrs. Allin and a solo was sung by Mrs. Brillinger. Mrs. Hunt read two chapters from the book, "Hope Rises from the Land." Closing prayer was by Mrs. Taun.

The annual congregational meeting of the United Church will be Thursday, Jan. 19th (tonight) at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brillinger.

Earl Bales Succeeds Earl Toole as Chairman T. & Y. Road Commission

Earl Bales of North York Twp., warden of York County in 1940, was named chairman of the Toronto-York Roads Commission for 1956. He succeeds Earl Toole of Newmarket.

Mr. Bales was a major for a number of years with the Queen's York Rangers. He entered politics in 1928 and became reeve of North York township in 1934, a position he held until after 1940.

Mr. Bales has served on the roads commission since 1942. He is a representative of Metropolitan Toronto which names two appointees to the commission. Two members are appointed by the county and the fifth member of the commission is named by the province. Each appointment is for a five-year term.

The Toronto-York Roads Commission is responsible for the county-suburban roads. It controls about 170 miles of heavily travelled roads and its annual budget is between one million and \$1,500,000. Metropolitan Toronto contributes 25 percent, the county 25 percent and the province the balance for these expenditures.

Vest Pocket Editorial: A nation's wealth and economic strength lies in its industry, plants, rail transport systems, agriculture, natural resources and the people's ability and willingness to work.

GORMLEY

For the last few years, members of Gormley Women's Institute have been collecting items of historical interest in the community for compiling a Tweedsmuir History Book. A loose leaf suitably inscribed Tweedsmuir Book and acetate dividers have been purchased and work on it is now under way. The committee of Mrs. Harry Smith, Mrs. George Boynton, Mrs. Jack Gamble, Mrs. E. A. Smith and Mrs. Norman Brown, is convened by Mrs. R. C. Baycroft and their first meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Baycroft on Wednesday January 4th, 1956.

As this is the history of the surrounding community and its people, anyone having suitable material regarding property and families is asked to kindly get in touch with one of the committee and they will gladly co-operate in compiling it. Pictures are very important, as they can tell far more than a written explanation. History of farms and small properties, changes made, births, deaths, obituaries, marriages, special occasions in schools, churches and community activities, are taken from any of the newspapers. Be sure to mark date and name of paper from which it was taken.

Stouffville Youth For Christ Second Markham Church SATURDAY NIGHT, 7.45 P.M.

This Saturday night the film is "The First Disciple"

We are making a half-hour broadcast for radio station HCJB, Voice of the Andes, sending greetings from the local ministers and churches to our missionary friends on foreign fields. Also the first night with the local Quiz Team. N. Rowan, director.

GROVE'S CHICKS for 1956

Ames In-Cross Hybrids
On farm tests averaged 35 more eggs per hen than other breeds.
Babcock, Foreman & Shaver Strain White Leghorns America's Best.
Sussex or Columbian Rock x Parmenter & Warren Cross Rhode Island Reds ALSO LEGHORN & RHODE ISLAND REDS
The above breeds tops for high egg production. The Columbian Rock & Red is an excellent meat bird. Place your order now for delivery on preferred dates, February to June.

Grove's Poultry Farm

Markham R.R.2 Phone Stouffville 67701

CREAM

For Best Results Ship Your Cream to Stouffville Creamery. We pay two cents more per pound Butter-fat for Cream delivered to the creamery.

COLD STORAGE LOCKERS

from \$8.00 to \$12.00 per year or by the month. Stouffville Creamery Co. To have our truck call, phone 186w

Whitchurch Federation of Agriculture ANNUAL MEETING

Vandorf, WED., JAN. 25th 1956, at 8 p.m.

- Mr. Fred Wiest Jr., fieldman for York County Federation of Agriculture.
- Report of the Dominion Federation of Agriculture Convention held at Hamilton.
- Discussions at Agriculture Short Course, Guelph.
- Are the small farm operators going to be forced out of business?
- Is a two price system for selling agricultural produce desirable? Hear this report.

FREE LUNCH—ALL FARM PEOPLE WELCOME
A. McELROY, President. MRS. R. ARMITAGE, Secretary.

VANDORF

Wesley Young People held their elections, and the new officers for 1956 are as follows: Past Pres., Bill Kingdon; Pres., Jim Seeth; Vice-Pres., Paul Parry; Sec. Treas., Elsie Crawford; Assist. Sec-Treas., Sheila Van Nostrand; Pianist, Jacqueline Ransom; Assist. Pianist, Gail Aylett; Conveners of Standing Committees — Ted Brown, Ann Crawford, Gail Aylett, Bill Richardson, Bill Kingdon.

Wesley Women's Association are catering for a turkey dinner for the Teacher's and Trustees of Whitchurch Township on Thursday, Jan. 26th at 7 p.m.

Mr. George Hocking, Portland, Oregon, renewed old acquaintances here during the past weekend and spoke briefly at the Sunday morning service at Wesley Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Morley, Mr. George Hocking were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Petch and Bob.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray McCarron and family of Port Hope were Sunday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Pogue and family.

Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Brown and family motored to Paris on Sunday and visited Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown and family.

MT. PISGAH

Mrs. C. Pattenden
We are glad to report that Mrs. Wabace Scott is home again after her stay in Newmarket Hospital and a brief convalescence at the home of her father, Mr. W. H. Smith, at Richmond Hill.

Master Dean Harvey celebrated his birthday on January 6 by having Kenny Doner, Billy Coutt and Ronnie Haughton in for a party.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gamble and family visited his mother, Mrs. Hattie Gamble at Richmond Hill on Sunday evening.

Mr. Elwood Pattenden celebrated a birthday on Monday, January 16. He had a chum, Allen Badgero of Stouffville, in for supper on Sunday evening, as well as Allen's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Badgero.

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Monday evening, January 30, at the church.

Master Bobby Baycroft also celebrated a birthday last Friday and had Lawrence Ash in for supper.

The Women's Institute will hold their meeting on Wednesday evening, January 25, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Baycroft. This is an open meeting and all are invited to come. Motto — Pray for a good Harvest but don't forget to hoe — by Mrs. E. Smith. Roll Call — Name's a breed of fowl. Mr. Ivan McLaughlin will show pictures. Please bring sandwiches.

Mr. Harold Doner is under the doctor's care at home.

Musselman's Lake

The first Euchre was a success as expected. Everyone enjoyed themselves and wanted more. The next one is to be held same place, Ballantrae School, Friday, January 27th, at 8:30 p.m. Plans for a Box Social are being made and it is to be held at the school on Friday, February 10th. More about this later, but just keep the date in mind.

Don't forget your next Home and School meeting Wednesday, Jan. 25th, at 8 o'clock, in the school. Miss P. Campbell, the school nurse, will be the speaker and will be glad to answer any questions you may have about the health of your child. Tea will be served and an enjoyable evening is being planned for all. Remember, you don't have to be a member, so come and have a pleasant and interesting evening.

The sympathy of their many friends and neighbours is extended to Mr. and Mrs. W. Wright, Lakeshore Road, in the death of Mrs. Wright's father, Mr. W. J. Wager. Mr. Wager has been ill for some time and passed away last Tuesday at the age of 82.

We are happy to hear that Mrs. W. Grensted is at home again after a prolonged visit with her daughter in Toronto. We hope she is feeling fit. Birthdays congratulations to Ronney and Kirk Mortimer. The brothers celebrate their birthdays on the same day, Jan. 17th. Ron is 14 and Kirky 8. They had a party and a lot of fun last Sunday.

The Ladies Bowling League held a meeting to form a banquet committee which will take care of all the details of the Windup Party. Betty Wilkins, Rose Fronski, Gloria Forfar and Phil McLennan are the lucky four.

The men's bowling scores, as promised last week, are — Cartwrights Fish Men 34
Lees Sand Men 32
Cards Excavators 32
Browns Rockets 28
Toppers Smoke Eaters 28
Forfar's Carpenters 22
Overs Turkeys 22
Childs Whirlwinds 21

Enough coal is carried every day over a three-mile conveyor belt network at TVA's Shawnee Plant, near Paducah, Ky., to provide electric power for an entire city the size of Detroit.

LEN WILKES Clothes Shop Store-Wide CLEARANCE Reductions are 1/2 Price and Less

Girls 3-piece Snow Suits			
sizes 4 to 8	Reg \$12.95	SPECIAL \$9.95	
Boys & Girls Station Wagon Sets	4-6X	regular price 18.95	sale price 13.95
		16.95	11.95
	2-3X	15.95	9.95
Snow Suits	sizes 2-3-4 and 5	11.95	7.95
Nylon Buntings	3 only	11.95	4.95

Girl's Coat Sets sizes 2-6 ONE LOW PRICE \$11.95

Snow Pants, wools & gabardines	2.98 & 3.95	1.98 & 2.98
Children's Flannel Shirts	sizes 3 to 7	1.98 .99
Children's Overalls	sizes 2 to 7	.99
Children's Pullovers & Cardigans		.99

Girl's Full Length Storm Coats Nylon Gabardine with Mouton Collar sizes 7 to 12 ONE LOW PRICE \$8.95

Felt Skirts	sizes 10 to 14	7.95	4.95
Girls' Jumpers & Dresses		clearing from 1.98	
Girls' Skirts	4 to 6X & 7 to 12	1.98 & 2.98	
Girls' Wool Coats, 7 only		to 24.95	10.00
Ladies' Shrug Sweaters, broken ranges		5.95	1.98
Ladies' Cardigans & Pullovers		to 6.95	2.98

Ladies Skirt Clearance sizes 12 to 16 \$2.98 up

Ladies' Twin Sweater Sets		13.95	8.95
Ladies' Wool Cardigans		8.95	5.95
Ladies' Viyella Shirts, plaids & plains	to 10.95	5.95	
Reversible Wool Skirts, 12 & 14, 2 only	14.95	8.95	
Ladies' Blouses		Special 1.98 to 3.98	
Men's Flannel Work Shirts, 14 1/2 - 18		1.98	
Men's Wool Pullovers & Cardigans	to 9.95	2.98 & 4.95	
Men's Melton Windbreakers		to 14.95	9.95

Men's lined Denim smocks SPECIAL \$5.95 Overalls to match above SPECIAL \$3.98

Men's Skating Sweaters		9.95	6.95
Strides	sizes 28 to 34	13.95	8.95
Men's Turtle Neck Work Sweaters			3.98
Boys' Trousers, sizes 8 to 16		special 2.98	
Boys' Winter Jackets, sizes 8-16	to 14.95	9.95	
Boys' Melton Windbreakers	to 11.95	5.99	
Boys' Wool Pullovers & Cardigans			2.98
Boys' Polo Pajamas	sizes 8 to 14		1.98

LEN WILKES Clothes Shop Telephone 24W1 STOUFFVILLE