

Sunday School Lesson

THE PRODIGAL SON
(Lesson for November 25)
Luke 15:11-32

Golden Text — He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. Psa. 103:10, 11.

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE.
Approach to the Lesson
The parable of the Prodigal Son is one of a triad, frequently referred to as the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Lost Boy. Actually the three are introduced as "this parable", indicating the unity of theme binding them together.

Jews, who regularly put them in the same category as the moral reprobates. So far as the Pharisees and the scribes were concerned (these being the religious leaders of the people), they were outcasts, and anyone who associated with them had no standing. Among the many criticisms which these religious leaders hurled at Christ, none was more devastating than that He received sinners and ate with them (v. 2).

It was to answer this criticism that Jesus gave His three-part parable, in each part of which He made clear that it was that which was lost that called for attention. Not the ninety-nine sheep in the pastureland, but the one gone astray demanded the care of the shepherd; not the nine pieces of silver which adorned her hair, but the missing piece called for the woman's diligent search with lamp and broom; not the son who fulfilled his daily round of tasks on the home farm, but the one away in the far country wasting his living, drew out the pity and the yearning love of the father. Over all three might be written

New Ajax Industries

Town council has been told that Slough Estates Canada Ltd. contemplates building a multi-million-dollar, 50-acre industrial subdivision near Lake Ontario. The subdivision would be completely serviced with sanitary sewers, water mains and roads. The property would provide sites for a dozen industries, covering 150,000 square feet of factory space.

The first factory of 12,000 sq. ft. is under construction and will be ready for occupancy by the end of the year.

the words of our Lord, "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Verse by Verse

Luke 15:11—"A certain man had two sons." This is the third section of the one parable beginning in verse 3.

Verse 12—"... Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me..." He anticipated his father's death, and showed that he cared more for the substance than for his father.

Verse 13—"... gathered all together... into a far country..." wasted his substance with riotous living. He was already separated in heart from father and home. Now he "escapes" from the old restraint. Notice how "wasted" (scattered abroad) cancels "gathered together."



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verse 12. Verse 20—"And he arose, and came..." his father saw him... compassion... kissed him." He put his determination into action. Now the scene changes to the father, and we have a glimpse of his heart. The welcome home is spontaneous and hearty. "Kissed" is strengthened in the Greek by a prefix indicating that the father kissed him again and again.

Verse 21—"Father, I have sinned... no more worthy..." Most authorities omit "make me as one of thy hired servants," which was part of the prepared speech (v. 19). In fact of the father's welcome these words would have been strangely inappropriate.

Verse 22—"... Bring forth the best robe... a ring... and shoes..." Every mark of restoration to his place of sonship was given the returning prodigal, a happy exchange for the rags.

Verse 23—"... the fatted calf... let us eat, and be merry..." The fatted calf was reserved for a celebration of marked importance. The feast is a picture of Heaven's rejoicing over a repentant sinner (vs. 7, 10).

Verse 24—"... my son was dead, and is alive... lost... found. And they began to be merry..." Two apt descriptions of salvation—passing from death to life, and the lost being found. The Heart of the Lesson

The focal point of this story, generally referred to as the Prodigal Son, is not the son at all but the father. Our Lord is answering the criticism of the religious rulers of His day that He consorted with sinners. He is defending His manner of life by showing that He is acting as God acts. As the shepherd sought the lost sheep, the woman the lost coin, and the father his lost son, so He sought out sinners for salvation and recovery. The description of the boy's willfulness and degradation is simply the canvas on which the picture of the love and kindness of God is painted.

Notice how deeply the boy had wounded his father. He made it quite clear that he cared little for his father, but much for what he could extract from his father. He flouted his father's authority, abandoned his father's service, and deserted his father's home. In the far country he threw overboard the ideals which his father had taught him, and gave himself up to such behavior as must have broken the father's heart; but all this did not cool the father's love. The boy's destitution, the result of his own folly and sin, only called out the father's compassion; and when the young renegade dragged his weary way home to seek only a crust of bread, the father was ready to heap upon him the tokens of his undying affection.

The forgiveness was complete, unlike David who only permitted Absalom to return to Jerusalem after the banishment brought about by the murder of his brother, but refused to see him (2 Sam. 14:24). The father of the parable received the returning boy with the paternal embrace and many kisses and immediately restored him to all the privileges of sonship, while calling upon all his retinue to join in the festivity celebrating his boy's home-coming.

MT. PISGAH

Mrs. C. Pattenden
Mrs. L. Smith

Mrs. Hattie Gamble of Richmond Hill had Sunday supper with her son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gamble.

Friends of Mrs. J. MacDonald of Richmond Hill formerly of this community, will be pleased to hear she graduated last Friday from a Practical Nursing Course, which she was taking.

Mr. and Mrs. Scotty Willis visited their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Dawn, at Matheson at the weekend.

Mrs. Harry Smith is spending a few days in Toronto with Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Barker and family.

Mrs. Harold Botham and boys spent the weekend with her parents in Toronto.

Little Cathie Macklin of Temperanceville spent Sunday with Norma and Teddy Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Loy Carr are enjoying a trip to Bancroft and Hamilton this week visiting friends and relatives.

Those from this district enjoying the hunting season in the North Country last week were Mr. Ed. Leary and Mr. Ronald Holmes.

Lawrence Ash and Bobby Baycroft enjoyed a day at the Winter Fair last Thursday.

Dorothy Baycroft received her diploma in special commercial at Aurora High School Commencement on Friday night as well as a book for standing first in her class. Joanne Reid also stood first in her class, Grade 9 and received a book.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Baycroft and family attended the banquet for the York County Jr. Farmers Home Ploughing Contest at Victoria Square on Friday night. Bobby won first in his class.

The Gormley Women's Institute will meet on Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock at No. 7 School. Roll Call — Name an implement used by grandfather. Guest speaker for Agriculture and Canadian Industry will be Mr. W. M. Cockburn of Newmarket. Temperanceville Institute will be visiting us and all husbands and families are invited. Ladies provide lunch.

There were fourteen present at the Woman's Association meeting held at the home of Mrs. Stephenson. This was election of officers and the reports showed a balance on hand to date of nearly \$550.

Mrs. Harry Smith was made Honorary President and the Officers for 1957 are as follows — President, Mrs. R. Baycroft; 1st Vice Pres., Mrs. N. Brown; 2nd Vice, Mrs. L. Smith; Secretary, Mrs. C. Pattenden; Asst. Sec'y., Mrs. H. Botham; Treas., Mrs. Stephenson; Pianists, Mrs. Leary, Mrs. Scott; Missionary Convener, Mrs. Keffer; Temperance Convener, Mrs. R. Smith.

Parsonage Committee — Mrs. Baycroft, Mrs. H. Smith; Flower & Sick Committee — Mrs. Howlett, Mrs. Scott.

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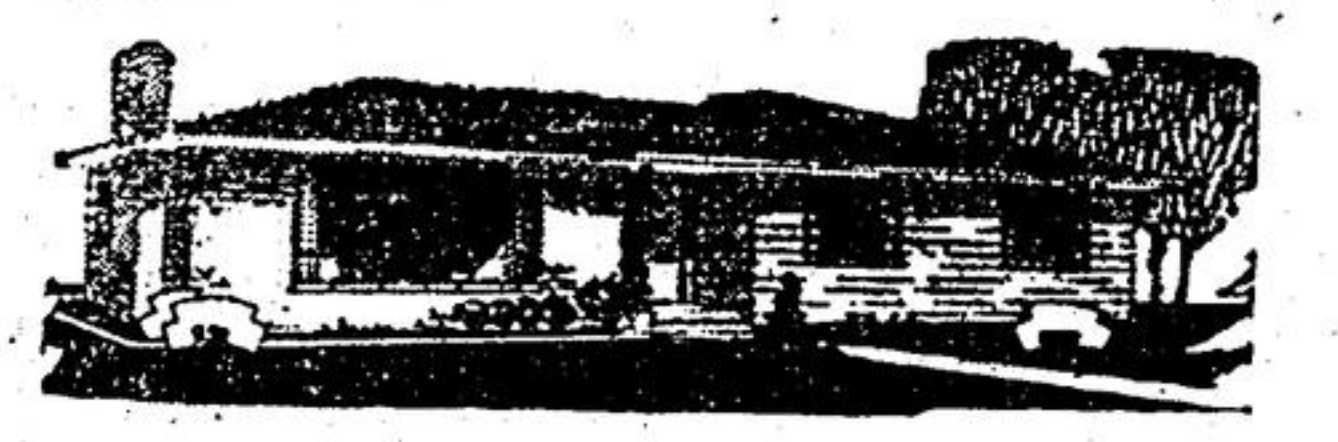
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