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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

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Lesson for April 6

THE KINCDOM RENT ASUNDER

LESSON TEXT—I Kings 12:1-33.

GOLDEN TEXT—"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."—Prov. 16:18.

PRIMARY TOPIC—The Story of a Foolish King.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Rehoboam's Folly.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The Division of the Kingdom.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Why the Kingdom Was Divided.

The kingdom so gloriously administered in David's time reached its climax in the time of Solomon. Solomon was led astray through the influence of his heathen wives, and the kingdom had begun to wane. God had expressed his indignation toward him and made known the fact that the kingdom was to be rent from him, yet not in his time, but in the time of Rehoboam (I Kings 11:9-13).

I. The Demand of the People (vv. 1-4).

This was occasioned by the burden of excessive taxation and enforced labor, which was required by Solomon in order to build costly houses and temples for his heathen wives. Owing to the multiplicity of his wives, this became very burdensome. They promised loyalty to him on the condition of lightened burdens.

II. Rehoboam's Foolish Decision (vv. 5-15).

1. Rehoboam Consulted With the Old Men (vv. 5-7). These were men of experience who had been Solomon's advisers. They advised that the people's request be granted.

2. Rehoboam Consulted the Young Men (vv. 8-11). These young men had grown up with him, possibly were his half-brothers, sons of Solomon's many wives. Being thus brought up in the luxury of the harem, they were ignorant of the legal right of the people. Therefore, they advised even that the burdens be increased.

3. Rehoboam Followed the Advice of the Young Men (vv. 12-15). At the appointed time he announced his purpose to the people. He even answered them roughly, asserting his purpose to increase their burdens and sorrows.

III. The Revolt of the Ten Tribes (vv. 16-24).

Upon Rehoboam's announcement of his rash purpose, all Israel cried out, "What portion have we in David? . . . to your tents, O Israel."

1. Rehoboam's Attempt to Collect Tribute (vv. 18, 19). Adoram, his tribute gatherer, was stoned to death. So violent was the opposition on the part of the people that Rehoboam had to flee to Jerusalem to save his life.

2. Jeroboam Made King Over Israel (v. 20). They seemed to have lost no time in selecting a head so as to be strong in their opposition to Rehoboam.

3. Rehoboam's Attempt to Compel the Ten Tribes to Return to David (vv. 21-24). To effect this, he assembled his army of 180,000 men. Through the prophecy of Shemaiah, which forbade them to go against their brethren they were persuaded to return.

IV. Jeroboam's Scheme to Unify the Ten Tribes (vv. 25-33).

1. He Established Calf Worship (vv. 25-30). His pretext for this worship was his fear lest the religious unity should heal the political separation. His fear was that the people would go back to Jerusalem to worship and therefore would gradually be led to acknowledge allegiance to Rehoboam and his own life would be taken. He was too shrewd a politician to do away with religion. He knew that religion was a powerful factor in man's life. The prevailing religion of the world today is a political one. It is used as a sort of cement to hold together people and political interests.

2. His Scheme of Worship (vv. 31-33).

(1) He built houses and high places (v. 31). This was against the direct command of God. God had directed His people to destroy the high places, to break down the idolatrous centers.

(2) He made priests of the lowest of the people (v. 31). God had set aside the tribe of Levi to fill the office of priesthood. In this again he disobeyed God.

(3) He changed the day of the Feast of the Tabernacle (v. 32). The time of this feast was set by the Lord (Lev. 23:33, 34). Jeroboam argued that the change in the time would be better suited to their northern climate, but God who made the climate ordained the time of the feast. It was his business, therefore, to obey God.

(4) Jeroboam himself intrudes into the priest's office. This act of presumption on his part was the climax of his godless acts, which all grew out of his wicked heart.

A Good Policy

For this is my maxim. I hold that the party receiving an obligation should ever remember it, the party conferring it should forget it immediately, if one is to act with honesty, the other without meanness.—Demosthenes.

Are Found Together

Propriety of thought, and propriety of diction are commonly found together. Obscurity and affectation are the two great faults of style.—Macaulay.

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR TOPIC

By the Rev. Charles E. Schaeffer, D. D.

April 6th.—**In His Steps. How Jesus Loved and Served.** John 11: 3-5; Mark 10: 42-45.

We have been following "in the steps" of our Master and have been considering each month a topic setting forth certain aspects of His life which we might emulate. We saw how and when Jesus prayed, how and what He taught, what He said about happiness, and now we come to study how Jesus loved and served. In this topic we get to the very heart of the life of Jesus. We touch both the inner springs and the outer actions, the motives and the deeds. It was love which led Him on. It brought Him from Heaven to earth, and it characterized His whole life while here among men. It was the one badge which He wished His disciples to bear. It was in love where Jesus excelled pre-eminently. As we study the Gospels with this thought in mind we find a number of outstanding characteristics of His love.

We are struck at once with the fact that He loved the unlovable. It is so easy to love those that love you and to love those that are really deserving of our love. To such love goes out spontaneously; it requires no effort on our part. But Jesus loved the unlovely. He loved those who were despised and rejected of men; even those who despised and rejected Himself. He loved those who knew no other love. It was in this way that He won them back to the Father. Love is a very sensitive thing. Love responds to love. When people feel that they are loved they will invariably love in return. Jesus warmed those that were down and out back into the fellowship of God.

He loved His **enemies,** those who reviled Him, and sought to do Him injury; even those who nailed Him to the cross. In His last moments He prayed for them and said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Herein Jesus taught us a lesson. Love is not merely an emotion. It can be subjected to the will and we ought to be sufficient masters of ourselves to direct our love to those who need it. It is hard to love one's enemies, but it is not impossible. Jesus never asked the impossible of His followers. We should love those who are in less fortunate circumstances than we are. It is the only way in which they can be reclaimed. We shall never be able to rescue people from our slums and from the dens of vice and iniquity if we go at it in an abstract or even in a legal manner, but only as we approach them in the spirit of love and kindness and seek to lift them up on a plane where they become really worthy of our love.

Jesus loved His **friends.** He had to have friends and He found them in the little home at Bethany, where were the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and their brother, Lazarus. We are told that Jesus loved these friends of His. He doubtless found a warm, congenial atmosphere in their home and in their fellowship, and when the cloud of the final days of His life rested heavily upon His heart He found a refuge and rest in the fellowship of His friends. Every night He went out from Jerusalem to Bethany and lodged there. When Lazarus, His friend, had died, we are told that "Jesus wept" (the shortest and most pathetic verse in the Bible), and those who saw Him weeping said, "Behold, how He loved him!" He loved passionately. His was not a half-way, anemic sort of love, but an intense, warm, affectionate love which stirred the deepest emotions of His soul either to joy or to sorrow. Love ought always to flow unless it is a passionate and intense love.

He loved **people because of the possibilities which He saw in them.** The rich young ruler came to Jesus. We are told "He looked on him and loved him." He saw in this young man the possibilities of great service if he would consecrate his wealth and ability to the highest purposes. He loved him because he was young. The rich ruler had the possession of youth. All young people are interesting because of the possibilities that lie in them. Jesus was always stirred in His innermost soul by children and by young people. He loved the young ruler because he had earthly possessions. How he might have used these things for Christ and in the service of his fellowmen! Here, too, we may learn a lesson from our Master. We shall never gain much by despising and denouncing the rich. We shall gain far more by loving them and opening channels of great usefulness for them.

Jesus was steadfast in His love. We are told of Him that "having loved His own He loved them unto the end." His love was not a mere spasm. It was not something of fits and starts, of moods and whims. But it was a constant, steadfast, enduring thing. This is always the nature of true love. It is enduring, "it never fails," it is not determined by circumstances or outward conditions, but by the springs of goodness and truth in the heart itself.

Jesus not only loved, He also **served.** His love found expression in loving deeds. He declared that He came into the world to serve. "I am among you as one that serveth." He said, "The Son of Man is come not to be ministered unto, but to minister and give His life a ransom for others." He said that he who would be greatest among them should be the servant of all.

Jesus served **humbly.** There was no task too lowly to which He would not stoop. When the disciples were contending among themselves as to who should be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus took a towel and girded Himself with it and took a basin of water and began to wash the feet of His disciples. It was a lowly service. It revealed the spirit of humility which characterized Him in all of His service.

He served **unselfishly.** He would not do anything with a view of having honor bestowed upon Himself. He was no selfseeker. He said, "I seek not my own." Here is a great lesson which we ought to learn from our Master. There are too many people who make themselves believe that they are serving Christ and their fellowmen when they are really serving themselves. One should always keep himself out of sight in rendering any good deed. Many an act of service is spoiled because selfish motives and interests begin to appear. Follow Jesus all through His eventful career and see how unselfishly He served. The miracles which He performed were not done for self-glorification, but for the welfare of those who needed His help.

He served people with a view of lifting them on their feet. Consequently there are times when He refrained from rendering the service that was asked of Him. Sometimes He laid burdens upon people which they could not fully understand. But it was that through it all He might serve and strengthen the people for whose welfare He came and lived upon the earth. He gave us an example that we should do as He did. "He went about doing good." That is our mission in life. Inspired by love for our fellowmen, as Jesus was, let us go forth and serve them as He did.

NOTICE!

The County Commissioners of Carroll county, Maryland, will sit for Transfers, Abatements and Revision of Taxes on the following days for the following Districts of Carroll county, as follows:

Dist. Nos.	1 and 2,	April 2nd, 1924
Dist. Nos.	3 and 4,	April 3rd, 1924
Dist. Uos.	5 and 6,	April 4th, 1924
Dist. Nos.	7 and 8,	April 9th, 1924
Dist. Nos.	9 and 10,	April 10th, 1924
Dist. Nos.	11 and 12,	April 11th, 1924
Dist. Nos.	13 and 14,	April 16th, 1924

And there will be no abatements or revision granted after the 16th, day of April, 1924 for the Levy of 1924.

CHARLES W. MELVILLE, President.

Samuel J. Stone, Clerk.

3-21-4t

COMMISSIONERS' NOTICE

Hereafter, and until further notice the County Commissioners of Carroll County will meet at their office in Westminster every Monday and Tuesday of each week for the transaction of business.

By order,

SAMUEL J. STONE.
Clerk.

Dr. E. H. Garey

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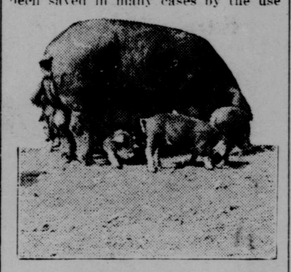
ONE-THIRD OF PIGS DIE BEFORE WEANED

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

That about one-third of pigs farrowed in the spring die before weaning time, is shown by reports from representative farms in four corn belt states. A summary previously issued by the United States Department of Agriculture showed an average loss of more than 35 per cent, on 168 farms in Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, of 18,837 pigs farrowed in the spring.

Additional information on this subject was recently furnished the department by H. G. Zavoral, live stock specialist of the Minnesota university extension service. The Minnesota survey covered 363 farms. Of 27,412 pigs farrowed on these farms in the spring of 1923, a total of 9,300 were dead before weaning time. This loss of 34 per cent compares closely with a loss of 33 per cent in that state the preceding year, and also with the percentage for the other states.

The chilling of young pigs can be largely prevented by proper housing at farrowing time. Those crushed by being laid on by the sow could have been saved in many cases by the use



Exercise Is Essential for Sow and Her Litter.

of guard rails around the sides of the farrowing pen to prevent the sow from lying against the wall. The farrowing of weak or dead pigs is preventable in a large degree by the use of vigorous breeding stock and proper care and feed given the sow before the pigs are born. Detailed information on swine management and method of reducing the losses mentioned, may be obtained without charge from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., as long as the supply lasts.

Advantage to Have Ewe Flock Gaining in Weight

When the ewe flock is gaining in weight rather than losing at the breeding season, they will come in heat more nearly at the same time and should all breed within three or four weeks. This is a big advantage in the spring, for then the lambs will all be dropped within a comparatively short period and careful attention can profitably be given the flock at that time. When ewes are in a gaining condition they drop more twins. This has been proven time after time on the western range where the lamb crop is largely determined by conditions at the breeding season.

With the beginning of cool weather, healthy ewes will have a better appetite and if feed is provided will naturally gain in weight. Ten days before the ram is to be turned into the lock the ewes should be given a little grain—about half a pound a day—or else have the run of a good pasture.

Make Rapid and Cheaper Gains by Using Protein

Pigs on good pasture make more rapid and cheaper gains and are ready for market at an earlier age when a small amount of high-protein feed is used with the grain ration.

In recent tests at the Ohio agricultural experiment station the cost of corn fed alone to pigs on excellent forage was $6.30 for each 100 pounds of gain. The cost of corn and tankage added at the rate of .27 pound of the latter per head daily, for each 100 pounds of gain was $5.86, a saving of 44 cents.

The addition of tankage increased the rate of gain from 1.2 pounds to 1.4 pounds daily and enabled the pigs to reach a market weight of 200 pounds twenty days sooner than pigs fed corn alone. This gain in time is important in the fall when the trend of prices is downward.

Strive for Pure Breds

Thirty-nine counties in Kentucky are planning an active campaign for reducing scrub bulls, boars, dams, and other inferior sires with good pure breds. The work is to be conducted by animal husbandry specialists and extension workers of the state in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture.

Start Pigs With Creep

Start pigs by building a creep that the sows cannot get into. Scatter some shelled corn around in this creep upon ground where there have been no hogs, or, better, put it in a self-feeder. Start these pigs upon a little slop made from middlings and milk. When they get around six weeks of age begin to feed some soaked ground oats. Gradually increase the oats and decrease the middlings until you have them eating about two-thirds oats and one-third middlings.

POULTRY

IMPORTANT FACTORS IN CARE OF CHICKS

The care of the baby chick is of greatest importance during the early part of the chick's life. Careless handling often results in loss of chicks and stunted growth, points out D. H. Hall, extension poultry specialist at Clemson college, who adds the following suggestions.

In caring for the baby chicks the first thing that should be done is to see that they have a good place to sleep at night. The coops or the house where the baby chicks sleep should be kept clean, dry, and sanitary, should be free from lice and mites, and should afford protection from cats and nocturnal vermin, such as rats, which prey upon chicks.

The mother of the baby chicks should be confined in a coop or house, and the baby chicks should be allowed free range. If the mother is confined, the baby chicks will range around the mother, but will remain within a limited area of her. In case of rain or hawks, the mother can call the baby chicks to her and protect them in the coop. When the mother is allowed free range, the weaker baby chicks will be lost or become so weak that they will die on the range. The mother will take the baby chicks out through damp grass and early morning dew, thereby chilling them and weakening their bodies down to where disease may easily overcome them.

The baby chicks should be confined in early morning, while the mother hen should be confined at all times, if best results are to be obtained from the care of the baby chick, and the house should be kept dry and clean.

Proper Amount of Feed for Flock of Chickens

As to how much to feed, a question frequently asked, we can do no better than refer to the advice offered by the United States Department of Agriculture: "The feeder must use his own judgment in deciding how much grain to give the hens, as the amount of feed which they will eat varies with the different pens and at different seasons of the year. They will eat more feed in the spring while laying heavily than in the summer and fall when laying fewer eggs. A fair general estimate is to feed about one quart of scratch grains and an equal weight of mash (about 1½ quarts) daily to 13 hens of the general purpose breeds, such as the Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds or Wyandottes, or to 16 hens of the smaller or egg breeds. This would be about 7½ pounds of scratch grains and mash daily to 100 Leghorns and about 9½ pounds each to general purpose fowls. If hens have free range or large runs containing green food a general purpose hen will eat about 75 pounds of feed a year and a Leghorn will eat about 55 pounds, in addition to the green stuff consumed."

Preventive Measures to Guard Against Diseases

Early in the spring, when everything else around the farm is being cleaned and put in shape for the summer, a coat of whitewash will add greatly to the appearance and sanitation of the interior of the poultry house. It is the cheapest of all paints and may be used on the exterior of the building, too, if so desired.

Whitewash is made by slaking about ten pounds of quicklime in a pail with two gallons of water, covering the pail with cloth or burlap and allowing it to slake for one hour. Water is then added to bring the whitewash to a consistency which may be applied readily.

A weatherproof whitewash for exterior surfaces may be made as follows: (1) Slake one bushel of quicklime in twelve gallons of hot water; (2) dissolve two pounds of common salt and one pound of sulphate of zinc in two gallons of boiling water; pour (2) into (1), then add two gallons of skim milk and mix thoroughly. Whitewash is spread lightly over the surface with a broad brush.

Poultry Hints

It seldom pays to keep a hen after her second laying season.

• • •

A young duck should begin to lay at about five months of age.

• • •

Leghorns can get along on three square feet of henhouse space; the larger breeds need four square feet.

• • •

How often the old litter should be removed and replaced by new depends on the number of birds in the house, and dryness of the floor.

• • •

Do not take all the eggs to market. Let the children have all they want for breakfast. It will pay you.

• • •

Give the little poults a fresh supply of clean water at least twice a day and thoroughly scald the water dishes twice a week.

• • •

Ducks will seldom eat enough grit from a box or hopper, hence many feeders mix coarse sand or fine grit in their mash feed in the proportion of about five per cent of the bulk by measure.

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