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# 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 27

### AMOS AND HOSEA PLEADING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

(Temperance Lesson.)

LESSON TEXT—Amos 6:1-6; Hosea 6:1-6.

GOLDEN TEXT—"Hate the evil, and love the good."—Amos 5:15.

PRIMARY TOPIC—How Daniel Became Strong.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Amos Denounces Drunken Revelers.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The Sins Denounced by Amos and Hosea.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Sins That Destroyed Israel.

The kingdom of Israel reached a high state of prosperity in the time of Jeroboam II, and with it came a condition of luxury, corruption and wickedness. Our lesson is a temperance lesson and applies to other things as well as indulgence in intoxicating liquor. Our age and nation are intoxicated with pleasure, pursuit of gain and selfish ambition.

**I. The Sins Which Ruined Israel** (Amos 6:1-6).

1. Reckless Security (vv. 1,3). They were blind to the evils that surrounded them. They were living in a fool's paradise, closing their eyes to the approaching storm of judgment as predicted by Amos. They trusted in the mountains of Samaria for their protection. They regarded their city as impregnable. They no doubt regarded the utterances of Amos as the dreams of a fanatic. The chief ones of the nation were so puffed up with pride that they failed to read the signs of the times in the light of history (v. 2). To disregard the lessons of history by dismissing the thought of impending judgment is to bring near the seat of violence" (v. 3).

2. Luxury (vv. 4-6). Periods of prosperity are always characterized by corruption and luxury. The luxury of Samaria expressed itself in

(1) Extravagant Furniture (v. 4). They had beds of ivory, perhaps wood inlaid with ivory.

(2) Laziness (v. 4). They stretched themselves upon their couches—living lives of indolence.

(3) Feasted on delicacies (v. 4). The implication here is that they had their dainties out of season. This is what many pride themselves in. They buy what they desire regardless of what it costs. In many instances men and women are living in gluttony while others are destitute.

(4) Adorned their feasts with music (v. 5). They sang idle songs, even invented musical instruments for this purpose. They prostituted the noble art of music to their sensual feasts. How like the times in which we live.

(5) They drank wine (v. 6). They were not content with ordinary drinking vessels. They drank from bowls, indicating excessive drinking. They were so mastered by the intoxicating cup that their feasts, which were adorned with the refinements of music, ended in drunkenness.

3. Failure to Grieve for Joseph (v. 6). Joseph here stands for Ephraim and Manasseh, his two sons. Ephraim became the principal tribe of the northern kingdom, so Joseph is used as a synonym for the nation. Many are indulging in infamous luxury, entirely indifferent to the groanings of others. There is need of a modern Amos to thunder God's judgment upon all those who are living in luxury and who are at ease in Zion—the inevitable issue of such living, the prophet assures them, would be that they should go into captivity (v. 7) and their proud city be delivered up to their enemies (v. 8).

**II. The Remedy Proposed** (Hosea 6:1-6).

1. Turn Back to God (v. 1). The only way for sinning individuals and nations to escape the judgment of God is with heartbreaking sorrow to repent and return to God. Hosea assures them that though God had torn and smitten them He will heal and bind up if they repent.

2. Believe in His Power to Restore (v. 2). This power even extends to a national resurrection for Israel.

3. Obedience (v. 3). It is through the obedient walk and communication with the Lord that they were to know His forgiving mercy.

4. The Issue (vv. 3-6). Such penitence would make restoration absolutely certain. Grace is even more certain than the laws of nature. Just as showers result in fruitfulness in nature, conformity with the righteous commands of the Lord will result in blessings from Him, for His Supreme desire is not for man to bring offerings of sacrifice but to walk in the knowledge of God.

### The Bondage of Fear

Like the cellar-growing vine is the Christian who lives in the darkness and bondage of fear. But let him go forth, with the liberty of God, into the light of love, and he will be like the plant in the field, healthy, robust, and joyful.—W. H. Beecher.

### Think

The greatest events of an age are its best thoughts. It is the nature of thought to find its way into action.—Christian Cynosure.

# THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR TOPIC

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

April 27. **What Opportunities Do Missions Offer for Life Service? Acts 13: 1-3; 16: 9, 10; Mark 6: 7-13.**

Much emphasis is being laid these days upon the matter of life service. By that term we mean the dedication of one's life to the highest and most unselfish ends. One can engage in any legitimate calling and make it a real life service, but we usually restrict the phrase to work which is of a more distinctive Christian character and is done under the auspices of the Church. Persons who devote either their entire time or the major portion thereof to Church work in some form or other, are engaged in so-called life service. When one thinks of those who are thus engaged, one finds that their number is larger than would be supposed. In this group must be counted all ministers of the Gospel, all professors in our academies, colleges and theological seminaries, all Board Secretaries, heads and workers in benevolent institutions, editors of Church papers, departmental and field workers, all Evangelists, social workers, directors of religious education, deaconesses, nurses, missionaries at home and abroad. There are probably two thousand of such workers giving themselves exclusively to religious work under the auspices of the Reformed Church in the U. S. This number does not include the large number of volunteer workers in the local congregations, Sunday Schools, Christian Endeavor and Young People's Societies, and other organizations, who are giving part of their time to Christian work. The present situation throughout the Church calls for more workers. The fields are white unto the harvest, but the laborers are few. The losses which we sustain from year to year by death, retirement, disability and for other reasons need to be supplied with new recruits. There is not a sufficient number of young men and women preparing for definite life service to take the place of those who annually drop out of the work. Besides this, there is no provision to man the new fields which await to be occupied by the Church. Those who have made a thoroughgoing study of this situation and who claim to discern the future are greatly concerned about the situation which we may have to face within the next five or ten years. Many of our congregations are now vacant. Mission Churches in the home field have been without pastors for several years. Some of these congregations are slowly disintegrating because of lack of pastoral oversight. When a congregation becomes vacant it is almost impossible to find another minister except to take him from a charge he is serving, which simply means a shifting of the vacancy from one place to another. The situation is so acute, not only in the Reformed Church, but in other denominations as well, that the question is being seriously considered as to whether or not we shall have to ordain women into the gospel ministry as preachers. This is now being done in Great Britain. Women have already demonstrated their ability along these lines, and in the work of education, social service, nursing and other departments they have shown that they can render service of this character in a most satisfactory and helpful manner.

While there is a call for life workers in the Church in general, there are peculiar opportunities presenting themselves for life service in the missionary operations of the Church. In the Home field we need pastors and evangelists who will preach the everlasting Gospel. We need social workers, deaconesses, teachers, kindergarten workers. The departments of Home Mission work are so numerous as to afford a wide range of activities from which one may select. There is the work in the cities, in congested industrial communities, among migrants, in the open country, among the immigrants, among the Indians and Negroes, in the East, in the West, the North and the South. There are the Daily Vacation Bible Schools and the Week-day Religious Schools. In all these phases of Home Mission work there are abundant opportunities for leadership, executive ability, patient, persevering effort and consecration of the highest order. In some respects the work is similar to that carried on in a self-supporting congregation, but in others it differs. It does not have the force of large numbers or of an unlimited budget; sometimes not adequate equipment nor a highly organized and well articulated congregation. It generally means laying foundations. A missionary usually cannot build on what another has already wrought. He must frequently start de novo. He has not the inspiration of a big, waiting congregation to preach to, and he suffers the temptation of stooping to the ordinary and commonplace and sometimes he is unsuccessful because of this very fact. But there is no field that offers a bigger opportunity for the development of real leadership and of native abilities if one catches the inspiration of the task and the possibilities which it presents.

In the Foreign field there are opportunities of like proportions. Foreign Mission work is a diversified activity. Its principal fields of action are along evangelistic, educational, medical and industrial lines. Not all our Foreign Missionaries are preachers. In fact, the larger number of them in all of our Foreign fields are teachers in our respective schools and colleges. Some of them are directors of missionary work in certain areas, others are at the head of educational institutions; some are engaged in medical work as doctors and nurses, while still others are doing work along industrial lines. There is a loud call for more workers in the Foreign field. Some of the workers in Japan and China are there only for a limited period and others will have to take their places when they return. In the Survey made by the Forward Movement, the Board of Foreign Missions stated that it would need fifty-one new workers during the five-year period of the Movement.

Throughout the denomination there are needed at least 259 young men and women who will enlist in definite Christian service. It is estimated that there are 200,000 young people in the homes of the Reformed Church who have not yet entered upon their life work. Out of this large army of youth there should be coming forward a sufficient number of recruits to supply the needs at home and abroad. This call comes to those who are standing upon the threshold of their careers, who may now be in school, in college or in seminary, but who have not yet made their decision as to a life's calling. The Student Volunteer Movement did much during these years of its existence to enlist young men and women for the Foreign fields, and the Student Fellowship for Life Work is doing much to direct young people into the work of the Church at home. These efforts need, however, to be reinforced by consecrated fathers and mothers who wish their children to be of largest possible service in the Kingdom of God, and by pastors and people and Church officials who are interested in the development of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Make the most of yourself in order that you may render the highest possible service. Give yourself to Christ and the Church and let your chief business be the work of His Kingdom. Your work is to build up the Kingdom of God, even though you may be doing something else to make a living. Henry Van Dyke has expressed it in these lines:

"Let me but do my work from day to day
In field or forest, at desk or loom;
In roaring market place or tranquil room
Let me but find it in my heart to say,
When vagrant wishes beckon me astray:
'This is my work; my blessing, not my doom;
Of all who live, I am the one by whom
This work can best be done in the right way.'

"Then shall I see it not too great, nor small,
To suit my spirit and to prove my powers;
Then shall I cheerful greet the laboring hours
And cheerful turn, when the long hours fall
At eventide, to play and love and rest,
Because I know for me my work is best."


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The scientists say that man's features are changing. Nothing new in that, as the women's often change they repair their make-up.

## Bulletin Discusses Brooding of Chicks

### Succers Depends on Skill and Care of Operator.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

On poultry farms one of the most difficult operations is the brooding of chicks, says the United States Department of Agriculture in a recent Farmers' Bulletin, "Natural and Artificial Brooding of Chickens," a revised edition by Alfred R. Lee. The bulletin considers in detail the brooding of chickens with hens and with artificial brooders. Attention is given to all the different kinds of equipment, such as brood coops, hovers, brooders and brooding systems, correct temperatures, care of purchased day-old chicks, feeding young chickens, toe punching and banding.

According to this bulletin, the successful brooding of chickens depends on the skill and care of the operator as well as the use of good vigorous chickens, which are free from disease. Poultry raisers are cautioned particularly against the danger of overfeeding, lack of exercise, overcrowding, overheating, and too little heat. The beginner cannot expect definite rules to carry him through to success, but he will find information which will enable him to know when there is something wrong and suggestions as to what sort of corrective is needed.

This bulletin, No. 1376, is a revision of and supersedes Farmers' Bulletin No. 624, and may be obtained free of charge, as long as the supply lasts, by addressing the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

## Number of Better-Sire Users Reaches Big Total

The systematic manner by which thousands of live stock owners in the United States are improving the quality of their animals is shown by a report just made public by the bureau of animal industry, United States Department of Agriculture. A total of 12,038 persons is shown to be using pure bred sires exclusively for all classes of breeding animals kept. This result, obtained under the "Better Sires—Better Stock" plan, involves close to 1,500,000 animals and fowls and a vastly larger number of offspring. There are also believed to be many indirect results.

The widespread operation of the better-sires activity is shown by an outline of progress during the last three months in 1923 and which is available on request. Applications for participation in the work were received from 696 live stock owners in 25 states and 97 counties. This is an increase of about 50 per cent over enrollments for the previous three months. Persons who thus co-operate with state extension services and with the United States Department of Agriculture by pledging to use pure bred sires exclusively, receive helpful publications, a suitable certificate of recognition, and a lithographed sign bearing the legend "Pure Bred Sires Exclusively Used on This Farm."

## Inventory Sheets Show Need for Better Plans

Filling out farm inventory sheets furnished them by the local extension agent convinced farmers in Rowan and Iredell counties, North Carolina, of their need for better planning and more businesslike methods in farming. As a result, according to reports to the United States Department of Agriculture, over 200 of these farmers have kept a record of the cost of producing their crops and a number have for the first time produced enough corn, meat and hay to supply them until next harvest. One farmer, who in previous years has produced no home supply of meat, this year grew five hogs for this purpose. Many grew gardens for the first time.

## FARM FACTS

A cat is hard to lose, but a good one is harder to find.

* * *

Pasture helps make swine profitable. Do you pasture yours?

* * *

The early garden depends largely on the early hotbed or cold-frame.

* * *

Let the grass get a good start before turning out the cows; both pasture and cows will benefit.

* * *

Where sugar beets can be grown this crop may well take the place of small grain that has not proved profitable.

* * *

When buying fertilizer remember that it isn't what you pay that counts as much as what you get for what you pay.

* * *

Time invested in community meetings and farmers' institutes ought to be credited to the profit side of the ledger.

* * *

Do not feed young chicks within 48 hours after they are hatched, and be sure that a little grit is in the first scratch feed.

* * *

Uncle Ab says that the man who can't find anything to do on the farm in winter doesn't deserve to be there in the summer.

* * *

If the same plot has been in garden for ten or twelve years, maybe it would pay to sow it in bluegrass for pasture and lay out a new patch for the garden.

## Multiple Bracelet Sets New Fashion

### Rich Decoration Favored in Jewel Wearing—Beads Are Popular.

The old order changeth—even in jewelry, where from time immemorial every conceivable stone could be worn in almost any manner. Today many of the jewelry fashions of earlier years have joined the oblivion of the past, and are quite as demode as the mid-Victorian chapeau, according to a writer in the New York Tribune.

Few women, for example, are wearing headdresses now, either jeweled or fantasy. Diadems and coronets have gone out of fashion. They are not in accord with the shingled bob or the sleek flat coiffure of the day. One never sees a jeweled dog collar now, except perhaps upon an English dowager, into whose toilette the present-day fashions never enter.

Flat jewels, set in gold or platinum, have also lost some of their ancient glamour. The modern woman prefers to wear her precious baubles in the form of beads strung on fine chains of platinum with circlets of brilliants mingling with the sparkling balls of fire and color. Sometimes a long string of faceted emeralds is worn between two matching strips of pearls. Again it is a chain of emeralds and brilliants, cut in graduated sizes and terminating with a marvelously jeweled tassel ornament.

A score of emeralds and diamond bracelets will often be worn on one arm. Sometimes the note of color is given by a pair of huge earrings—sometimes it is a large pendant or a brooch as big as one's hand that blazes from the shoulder or the front of the corsage.

Another jewelry fashion of the moment is the wearing of multiple bracelets in shaded tones to match the dress, or to accentuate some note of color in the fabric or trimming. These highly colored ombre bracelets are made of enameled metal. Developed in rainbow tones or in various shades of one color, they are worn in groups of dozens and placed on one arm, which they entirely cover from wrist to elbow.

## Organdie and Lace for This Collar-Cuff Set



Organdie and lace are combined in winsome manner to make this simple but charming collar and cuff set, which is liked by the majority of women.

## Inset Vest Is Shown in Sweater Models

As almost every dress, including those intended for afternoon wear, has some suggestion of the inset vest it is not surprising that we find the same idea in the sweater. A suit or dress, whichever one may chose to call it, is made of fine white jersey, the slipon blouse pulled over the plaited skirt is embroidered in brown and yellow, a large Egyptian motif used in the center of the shirt bosom vest is doubly noticeable bordered with a wide band of brown, with the design picked out in white and yellow. A narrow edge of the brown binds the skirt and the scarf has a wide border of the embroidery.

## Dyed Lace Is Liked for Afternoon Gowns

There is a craze for dyed lace. This forms an important part of the self-tones and semi-tones in many of the new models for softer gowns, the handsome afternoon and informal dinner gowns particularly. The laces are to be had in every possible color and shade, wide or narrow, the preference being for Spanish laces, some in the most lovely yellows, from pale gold to orange; some in violet, blue, rose and the lighter shades of brown, beige, champagne, cafe-au-lait, gray, taupe and smoke.

One of the most attractive tea gowns seen this season was made of light brown chiffon and wide lace, lighter in color, all over corn-colored satin, with touches of dull gilt.

### Of Cloudy Amber

Perfectly enormous beads of Chinese cloudy amber form a barbaric chain. The beads are irregular in shape, and except for their range in color from ruby to lemon look like chunks of wood.

### Flesh Slippers

Flesh satin makes up an attractive pair of the newest evening slippers, to be worn with nude hose.

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