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THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR TOPIC

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

Sept. 7. **In His Steps. 9. How Jesus Helped Sinners.** Luke 15: 1-7; 19: 1-10.

What a large part of the ministry of Jesus was given over to sinners! in fact, He came into the world "to seek and to save that which was lost." Sinners crowded Him at every turn in His life. There were all kinds and grades of them. There were those who were hardened in their iniquity. There were those who were bold and blatant in their sin, and other who put a gloss and a cloak over their sin. There were those who showed signs of repentance, while others kept on in their wicked course. But whoever they were and wherever He met them He sought to help them. It was in His treatment of sinners that Jesus was misunderstood by His friends. When He talked with a fallen woman the disciples marvelled that He "spake with the woman." They took offense because He ate with publicans and sinners. But Jesus never passed by sinful men, for He bore them upon His heart. He loved them not because of their sin but because they, too, were the children of His heavenly Father. He fellowshipped with them not because He wished to participate in their sin, but in order that He might properly understand them and do them good.

It is interesting to observe that in His treatment of sinners Jesus did not set up any big organization or devise any machinery. He had very little confidence in committees and conventions and programs and organization in dealing with sinners. Mechanism never commended itself to Jesus. It lacked vitality, it lacked the personal element and so Jesus in dealing with sinners adopted the method of person contact. He felt that it was only when soul touched soul, when life influenced life that real help could be imparted. In this He taught the world a great lesson. We think we can help the people who are "down and out" by passing resolutions of sympathy or by taking up a collection or organizing ourselves into a relief society. We deceive ourselves to believe that sinners can be reached by proxy while we are content to sit in our comfortable pews and sing ourselves away to everlasting bliss.

Jesus followed an entirely different course. He went where sinners were. He identified Himself with them. Thus He came to understand them and thus He knew how to help them. He did not chose the easiest but rather the hardest method of dealing with sinners. It is the personal contact which is most certain of the best results.

Jesus did not scold the sinners. He sympathized with them and pitied them. He appreciated their weakness. He recognized the circumstances under which they lived and the hard fight which they had to make. So He never humiliated the sinner but always imparted new hope and new strength into his soul. He never once made sinners feel that they were without hope. He always suggested a way out. He made them feel that it was worth while to aspire to something higher and better, and while He did a great deal for sinners, He always required that they should do something for themselves. The first thing He insisted upon was that they should repent. Now repentance is not an easy matter. It is more than simply to say, "I repent of all my sins." There are two elements which enter into it.

First, a heart-felt sorrow for sin. Jesus made sinners recognize the horror ad heinousness of sin. Sin had spoiled and soiled their lives. Sin had played havoc with God's beloved. Jesus led them to see this, to recognize it and to be heartily sorry for this. Without this sorrow for sin on their part Jesus could do very little for the sinners. There must be a prostration of soul, a penitence before there can come a "peace that passeth understanding." But the motive which Jesus insisted must actuate the sinner, was not to be delivered from the horrors of everlasting destruction, nor even the rewards of future blessedness. Jesus did not try to scare men from their sins, neither did He bribe them to do good. He wanted them to see sin in its ugliness and in its reality and then to hate it with all their might.

The second element that entered into repentance was a desire to do better. This Jesus always awakened in the sinner. The woman was told to "go and sin no more," and Jesus imparted strength to the individual to do better. He never makes a demand without granting the necessary power. When He says to the man with the withered hand, "Stretch forth thy hand," He gave an imperial command but with it He bestowed the ability on the man to obey. So when Jesus says to sinners, "Go and sin no more," He gives the power to fulfill that command.

In helping sinners Jesus does not render them spiritual weaklings. He puts a new life within them which works itself out in new forms of action. It is what Bushnell calls "the expulsive power of a new affection." This new life and spirit which Jesus imparts according to its own laws drives out the evil which is in men's souls. In this way the sinner is converted, his life is changed. There is still the basis of the old remaining, but it has now been transformed into the new life in Christ Jesus. There has been engrafted into it a new life which begins to bear fruit according to its new nature.

Jesus was interested in the last, the least and the lost, and He went after them until He found them. There is a world of meaning in that word "until." It speaks of patience and perseverance, of prayer and planning. Jesus never gives up. There are a thousand and more ways in which He seeks to save the lost. If the followers of Christ would show more zeal and faith and put forth similar efforts there would not be as many people outside of the fold of Christ as there are today. How He sought the sinners! What eyes He had! He saw them where others passed them by. He saw a little man in a tree and brought him down. He saw a woman who touched the hem of His garment in a great throng, and He healed her. He had eyes to see the sinners because His great heart went out for them. Should we not go where sinners are and seek them out for Christ? Are we not His eyes and hands and feet and voice today? Sinners will not crowd into our Churches and occupy the seats which saints leave vacant, but they will come if the saints go out and seek them and love them into fellowship with Christ.

Again, what great joy Jesus had in helping sinners. He was the Good Shepherd who put the lost lamb on His shoulder and came home rejoicing. He is the woman who swept her house and found her coin and said to her neighbors, "Rejoice with me." He is the father who receives the prodigal son into His arms and spreads a feast and says, "Let us eat and be merry." The joy that was set before Jesus was the joy of the lost soul won for Him. The joy of the cross was the victory of that cross over sinful men. In the High Priestly prayer of Jesus He rejoices before the Father because He accomplished the work which the Father gave Him to do and of those whom He gave to Him none were lost. There is joy in reclaiming sinners. Jesus expressed it and those who have never won people for Christ have never felt the joy of Heaven in their hearts.

"But none of the ransomed ever knew
How deep were the waters crossed;
Nor how dark was the night the Lord passed through,
Ere He found His sheep that was lost.
Out in the desert He heard its cry,
Sick and helpless, and ready to die.

And all through the mountains, thunder-riven,
And up from the rocky steep,
There arose a cry to the gate of Heaven,
'Rejoice! I have found My sheep.'
And the angels echoed around the Throne,
'Rejoice! for the Lord brings back His own.'"

Some of these people who can't drive an automobile until they have had a round of drinks, may be imbibing out of a jail bucket before long.

Gen. Dawes says he met President Coolidge to discuss the agricultural relief commission, but probably he would deny that the matter of plum culture was taken up.

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Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Dean of the Evening School, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

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Lesson for September 7

JESUS HEALS A NOBLEMAN'S SON

LESSON TEXT—John 4:46-54.

GOLDEN TEXT—"I am the way, the truth, and the life."—John 14:6.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Jesus Heals a Sick Boy.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Jesus Heals a Nobleman's Son.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Belief in Jesus—What It Has Done and Will Do.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—What Should We Expect From Faith?

The glorious revival among the Samaritans being over, Jesus, with heart yearning for His countrymen, goes back into Galilee. When He began His work there it was not appreciated as it should have been. His own testimony is that a prophet hath no honor in his own country. Having made a reputation elsewhere He now came back to them.

I. The Nobleman's Earnest Plea (vv. 46, 47). This father's heart was in deep anguish because of the critical illness of his son, but he had the good sense to go to Jesus in his distress. Parents should eagerly bring their children to the Great Physician. This affliction was used to bring him to Jesus. Many do not think of Jesus until overwhelmed with grief and distress. It is need that always brings men to Jesus. Even when human physicians fail the case is not hopeless, for there is no case too hard for Christ and there is no disease too difficult nor sorrow too great but relief can be found in Him. This is true of our physical ills, but it is pre-eminently true of our souls. We see here that a rich and influential man is in distress, showing that the rich and exalted are no more exempt from afflictions and anxiety than are the poor. Cares and trouble come to all alike. The young are liable to disease and death as are the old. This nobleman learned of Jesus through the testimony of another (v. 47). Had not some one told him about Jesus he would not have called upon Him. Before lost men can call upon the Lord some one must tell them about Him (Rom. 10:14, 15).

II. The Testing of the Nobleman's Faith (vv. 48, 49).

In his experience we find an illustration of the development of belief. He had faith, but not an intelligent faith. Before help could be given his attitude of mind must be changed. Jesus declared, "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe," showing that the nobleman's faith was such as was based upon signs nad wonders. The man needed something more than the healing of his son. He must needs know Christ as Savior as well as Healer. He did not allow himself to be put off, but insistently demanded, "Sir, come down ere my child die." This shows that he was now willing to make any experiment to save his boy. His very impotency forced him to lay hold upon the Lord. Jesus desired this man to possess a faith which was based upon His naked word, not mere signs and wonders. The way of Jesus is to first reveal Himself as a Savior and then as a Healer.

III. The Nobleman's Faith Victorious (vv. 50-54).

Through his testing he passed with good advantage. He is now ready to receive the Lord's own word. "Go thy way; thy son liveth." These words created true faith and the man stepped out upon them. Because he believed the words that Jesus spoke unto him he went his way. Faith increases in brightness the longer it is exercised. The foundation upon which he reposed his faith was the words of Jesus. On his return his faith met with confirmation. His servant met him and told him that his son was alive. Upon inquiry he found that the recovery of his son was from the very hour in which Jesus spake the words. This was such an unmistakable evidence of the deity of Jesus that not only the nobleman, but his household, was won for Christ. This affords us an example of the beauty of household religion. May we all learn that the words of Jesus are reliable. That which He promises is just as sure as though it had already come to pass. The salvation of the one who believes in Jesus is just as sure as though he had been in heaven and seen his name in the Book of Life. Anxiety for the son brought salvation to the whole house.

Evangelism

"Evangelism is not merely a work of love. It is the sheer law of self-preservation. The heathenism which is creeping along the fences of society is scattering its seeds on both sides. If Christians do not make the world better, the world will surely make the church worse."—Herald of Holiness.

Innocent Revenge

He that has learned with meekness and quietness to forgive injuries and pass them by, has found the best and surest way of baffling and defeating them; nay, it is a kind of innocent revenge.—Matthew Henry.

Only Two Choices

Said an old salt to the young apprentice: "Aboard a man o' war, my lad, there's only two choices. One's duty; t'other's mutiny."—Rev. A. S. Woodburne.

DAIRY HINTS

Dairyman's Formula for Milk of Good Quality

"Feed, weed and breed" is the dairyman's magic formula for good milk, according to M. H. Keeney, dairy specialist of the New Jersey State Agricultural college, in a statement stressing the present market demand for cheaper milk.

"The market will not pay a big price for milk," writes Mr. Keeney, "so we dairymen must cut our production costs. The two factors controlling the economical production of milk are the adaptability of the cow for giving milk, judged by her conformation, and by the milk scales and the Babcock test, and the amount and kind of food taken. The feed bill is the largest direct expense, and the dairyman's high road to success lies in producing a unit of clean, wholesome milk for the least possible cost.

"The first essential for good milk is good cows, the other is proper feed and care—it may be summarized briefly in three words, feed, weed and breed. Silage and alfalfa hay are the best for cheap milk, and they are the best and cheapest roughage feeds. Every dairyman should have them and should follow these directions:

"Feed all the roughage a cow will clean up. Part of it should be a legume, such as clover or alfalfa.

"Keep a balanced ration.

"Give sufficient feed, such as silage or roots.

"Feed grain in accordance with milk production—for a Holstein or Ayrshire, approximately one pound of grain for each three pounds of milk. A variety of grains in the mixture is desirable.

"Feed and milk regularly.

"Give plenty of fresh water at all times.

"Give access to salt daily.

"Buy grain feeds on the basis of their protein and energy, not simply by the hundredweight."

Bred Heifers Are Often Best Buy for Dairyman

What age of heifer is the best buy is a question frequently asked of the New York state college of agriculture at Ithaca.

The men there who are giving thought to herd improvement explain the advantages and disadvantages in the purchase at all three of the ages, as baby calves, as yearlings, and as bred heifers.

Baby calves are cheaper and more easily shipped. However, they are somewhat less likely to live than older stock; and further, there is more uncertainty as to how they will develop.

With yearlings, the chances of living are better, and the type is more likely to be fixed, yet a long time still remains before they will be productive. But since yearling heifers may sell at a disadvantage, they may be a good purchase.

Bred heifers are frequently the best buy. They are developed as to size, and the possibilities for milk production can be estimated. Their mortality rate should be low; and the cost of carrying to production is slight. They may even be worth a slight premium where there is a good market for milk, and it is desired to establish a herd promptly.

Timothy Is Not Favored as Feed for Dairy Cows

Timothy hay is all too frequently fed to dairy cows. There is only one occasion when its use for this purpose can be developed—when the cows are to be dried off. Where dairy cattle are being fed and timothy hay is the only dry roughage available, it should be sold and clover or alfalfa purchased. Timothy is generally quoted on the central markets as high or even higher than the legume hays, and the dairyman can well afford to make the exchange even though he has the hauling to pay. The improvement obtained in production will be remarkable, and will generally mean all the difference between paying to keep the cows and allowing the cows to aid in supporting you.

Cleanliness Important in Production of Milk

Cleanliness is the most important factor in the production of clean wholesome milk. Much of the dirt and filth that gets into milk and produces deterioration, comes from improper methods of handling after being drawn.

However, brushing off the loose dirt and dust about the flanks and udder and wiping the udder with a dry cloth materially assists in lessening the danger of dirt getting into the milk at milking. Cows during the summer season, if stabled at night or confined to a yard, become more or less dirty about their rear quarters and should be well cleaned before being milked.

Calf Needs Much Care.

Very young dairy calves demand skillful attention in order to grow and develop to the best advantage. The three most important rules to observe in hand-feeding are: First, cleanliness; second, regularity; and third, proper proportioned ration.

Skim Milk for the Calf.

The skim milk should be continued until the calf is six months old, if possible; also provide the calf with pea-vine hay, or alfalfa hay after it is four weeks old.



LIVE STOCK

MINERAL FEED FOR HOGS MEETS FAVOR

Mineral feed for hogs getting the ordinary corn-belt swine rations has shown its dollars and cents value in experimental work done at the Iowa state college. Even where growing pigs had access to good pasture such as rape or bluegrass the benefits of minerals have been outstanding. The addition of 20 per cent of tankage to the ration of pigs on rape pasture was not sufficient to supply the necessary mineral matter. In case the protein supplement should be soy-bean or linseed oilmeal in place of tankage, the mineral deficiency would be still greater.

John Evvard, the man in charge of the investigation, recommends that a suitable mineral mixture be fed all classes and grades of swine. If possible, feed it in a self-feeder preferably inside and easily accessible. Such a mixture may be composed of the following: Common salt, 20 pounds; finely ground raw bonemeal or steamed bonemeal, 40 pounds, and finely ground high calcium limestone, wood ashes, finely ground oyster shells, clam shells or lime thoroughly air slaked, 40 pounds. To each 100 pounds of mixture add 10 pounds of sulphur, if it is desired, and from one-half to one-ounce of potassium iodide. Mix thoroughly.

Besides the immediate value realized from feeding minerals to hogs there has been found to be a cumulative value in the case of breeding stock. At the Iowa experiment station the first generation of sows fed minerals showed but slight advantage over gilts fed no minerals. The second generation showed some positive signs of benefit, chiefly in an increased height and length. In the third generation the advantages were plainly evident in added gains in weight. It appears that there is a tendency for the benefits of minerals to show up to greater degree as the generations unfold.

For breeding swine the following minerals mixed together are recommended: Common salt, spent bone-black, wood ashes, sulphur, high calcium limestone, glauber's salt, epsom salt, copperas and potassium iodide.

Vermin Discourage Hogs From Returning Profit

Vermin such as worms, lice, and the like, may keep the hogs from growing and cost the farmer in dollars and cents much more than the time and expense of fighting them, according to the New York State College of Agriculture at Ithaca.

In fact, the college goes further and says that most farms where hogs have been kept for any length of time on the same premises are infested with parasites which will give trouble if they are not controlled.

There are several kinds of worms that infest hogs, and each kind requires a different treatment. If hogs are suspected of being infested with worms, the owners should get in touch with a veterinarian, the college states.

One farmer of which the college learned had about 70 head of pigs averaging between 50 and 75 pounds. These pigs became stunted and made very little gains, and some of them died. Upon inspection they were found badly infested with round worms and with lice. They were then successfully treated as advised by a veterinarian.

These pigs were also treated for lice, a prepared dip in a large barrel being used. The pigs were small enough to be easily handled and were immersed in the barrel of dip. This treatment was repeated in a week's time to get the lice or nits that were left from the previous dipping.

They were then transferred to a fresh pasture where they were finished for the early fall market.

Live Stock Notes

Put spring lambs on the local markets.

* * *

Feed the spring lambs grain in a creep until they are marketed.

* * *

Avoid dust; it is almost as bad as mud wallows.

* * *

If spring pigs have not been inoculated for cholera, do it now.

* * *

Select animals for show and give special attention until show time.

* * *

Rape is an excellent supplementary pasture crop for the flock, especially when pastures are short in August and September. One acre is sufficient to "flush" 75 head of ewes for breeding.

* * *

When cholera starts in a herd it usually shows first on one or two hogs.

* * *

"Meat for Health" has been adopted as the official slogan of the live stock and meat industry of the United States.

* * *

"Many farmers saved by pigs, hens, cows, corn and legumes," is a line the one-crop farmer might read over carefully. The above is the heading of a recent circular sent out by the Department of Agriculture.

* * *

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