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THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR TOPIC

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

October 9th—How Can We Help Younger Boys and Girls? John 21: 15-17.

To help those who are younger than ourselves is not always an easy matter. Frequently in our well-meant efforts to help them we unconsciously do them harm. We may do too much for them, we may do everything for them and rob them of the power of initiative and they may grow up physical, mental and moral weaklings. Or we may do too little for them, ignore them altogether and they may miss the way and never amount to very much. Just how much or how little help we should give them, just exactly what we should do for them is not so easily determined. They can be readily spoiled for they are very tender plants of the Lord.

1. We should take them at their proper value. Perhaps it is best not to draw the line of distinction between the young and adults too sharply. The tendency in modern education is to divide folks into age and sex groups. We make such close distinctions that we separate these young people into groups varying in ages by about three years, viz., from 6 to 9, from 9 to 12, from 12 to 15, etc. Modern psychology tells us to approach these varied groups in entirely different ways and with different materials. We have one set of lessons for one group, another for another; we use one type of hymn for one group and another for another; we employ one form of language for one group and another for another. We are supposed to recognize the mental and spiritual status of each group. Now, much can be said in favor of such an arrangement. It is the method of modern psychology and pedagogy. But there is another side to it which must not be overlooked. We sometimes do not give full credit to the receptive powers of children in certain groups. The family affords us the best illustration. The family is the best school, the mother the best teacher. Now, in a family all the children assemble at the same table with the grown-ups. They may not eat everything the older folks eat, but they eat of that which the table supplies. How eagerly they enter into the family conversation! They may not understand everything that is spoken, but they get a great deal, even they do not always show it. They learn largely by absorption. Children's minds and souls are wide open and take in far more than we suppose. Unconsciously they grow into the thing which they do not fully understand at the first.

If we treat children as children they remain children. We teach them certain hymns, for instance, which are supposed to be suited for their age, and then when they get older we wonder that they do not relish the better and higher order of hymns. What we put late into a child's mind never lodges as deeply as that which we put there early. We stoop to a kind of "baby-talk" for children of certain age then expect them all of a sudden to be fully acquainted with the language of the mature mind. Would it not be better to do away with a lot of this diluted food for babes and in hymns and sermons of the finest and best, allow them to receive just as much as they have capacity to receive at a given stage? Else they must unlearn many things when they get into a more mature period of their lives. Younger folks are after all not so very different from their seniors. There is not one kind of sun and air and water for children and another kind for adults. The beauty of the flower, the majesty of the mountain, the glory of the heavens know no law of accommodation. They are there, they present themselves just as they are, and some folks get more than others out of them, but each one gets according to his capacity. Younger boys and girls, therefore, can best be helped not so much by us coming down to their level, as by bringing them up to ours.

II. We should set them a proper example. Young folks are by nature imitators. They have their ideals among those who are older. Their lives are tremendously influenced by the example of others. There isn't a boy or girl who doesn't at a certain stage in life have such an ideal. They talk like their ideals, they laugh like their ideals, they walk, even comb like their ideals. Sometimes the ideal one is altogether unconscious of this great influence he wields, but it exists nevertheless. Now we can help younger boys and girls by setting them the proper example. If they see what joy our religion brings us, if they see us strong in temptation, and faithful and diligent in our religious practices, in reading the Bible, in prayer and Church attendance, they will be wanting to do the same thing. What a terrible thing it is for older boys and girls by their conduct, or by their speech to put evil thoughts into the minds and wicked words upon the lips of those who are younger! How many young lives have been blighted, their minds perverted, their souls stained by the unwholesome words or deeds or suggestions of those who are older! The influence of example is a shield with two sides. It has the power to bless, but also to blight. "Whosoever causeth one of these little ones to stumble it were better that a millstone were hanged around his neck and he be drowned in the depths of the sea." Such are the terrific words of Jesus on this very point.

III. We should afford them opportunity for self-expression. There was a time when the old adage prevailed: "Children should be seen, but not heard." We have largely departed from that today, and often the parents must keep quiet while the children do the talking. Proper self-expression is a step in true development. Younger folks should not be squelched, but properly directed. They should be given something to do. The period of greatest activity is the teen age and before. It is impossible for children to sit quiet. They are a bundle of activity. This native instinct must not be suppressed, but must be guided and directed. Consequently children must be given something to do, not something that is childish or silly or foolish, but something that is big and seems worth while. Children always want to do what grown folks do. They build houses, construct bridges and tunnels; they run automobiles and trains; they play baseball and football and strut across the field like their seniors. There isn't a child who doesn't want to be big and to do what big folks do. Children can be won and held for the Church if they are given the opportunity to do something that seems worthwhile to themselves. From the little they attempt to do and can do, they gradually develop into the doing of the larger thing for which they are unconsciously preparing themselves.

It is along lines such as these that we who are older can be of real practical help to those who are younger. We can teach them many things, but we must always make them feel that we are not doing something for them, but with them, that they live and grow not by anything that is forced upon them from without, but from within their own lives.

As We Grow Older

Proper Kidney Action Is More Than Ever Important.

As we grow older, there is apt to be a gradual slowing up of bodily functions. The kidneys are the blood filters. If their action becomes sluggish they do not thoroughly cleanse the blood of poisonous wastes. This tends to make one tired and achy, with often nagging backache, drowsy headaches and dizziness. A common symptom of imperfect kidney action is scanty or burning excretions. Elderly people recommend *Doan's Pills*. This tested diuretic is endorsed the country over. *Ask your neighbor!*

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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.

PUBLIC SALE

Public sale at Jordan Retreat of household goods, livestock and farming implements on October 15, 1927, at one o'clock.

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Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Dean Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
(©, 1927, by Western Newspaper Union.)

Lesson for October 9

ELIJAH HEARS GOD'S VOICE

LESSON TEXT—I Kings 19.

GOLDEN TEXT—Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart.

PRIMARY TOPIC — Elijah Hears God's Voice.

JUNIOR TOPIC — God Encourages Elijah.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Listening to God's Voice.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—How God Speaks to Men.

I. Elijah's Flight (vv. 1-14).

Upon Ahab's return from the excitement on Mount Carmel, he told his wife all that Elijah had done, that even all her prophets had been hewn to pieces by the sword. This so enraged her that she sent a message of death to Elijah, who seems to have been waiting at the gate (vv. 1, 2). Though Elijah had courageously stood before the king and the priests of Baal, he now cowered before this woman, and fled for his life. Let us beware lest when we think we stand, we fall (I Cor. 10:12).

1. Elijah under the juniper tree (vv. 3-7). The juniper tree was a shrub of the desert which afforded shelter and protection to travelers from the burning sun by day and the cold wind by night.

(1) His request (v. 4): This was that he might die. This was no doubt a foolish thing for him to say, but let us be as considerate toward him as was God. The discouragement, and even despondency, of Elijah, was due to the nervous strain of about four years of unusual service for God, which culminated on Mount Carmel. Such nervous reaction is to be expected, and surely the heart of this lesson will be missed unless we see it in that light, and see God's tenderness toward his overwrought servant.

(2) God's tender treatment (vv. 5-7). a. He gave him sleep (v. 5). "He giveth His beloved sleep" (Ps. 127:2). b. He sent an angel to cook Elijah's meal (vv. 6, 7). The angel of the Lord is usually understood to be the second member of the Holy Trinity. If this be correct, then we see Jehovah-Jesus preparing food for His servant Elijah, as He afterward did for His discouraged disciples by Galilee.

2. Elijah at Horeb (vv. 8-14). God had kindly ministered to His discouraged prophet so that he would be in a fit condition to receive the needed instruction and correction.

(1) God's interview with Elijah in the cave (vv. 9, 10). a. God's question, "What doest thou here, Elijah?" (v. 9). This was a stinging rebuke, though most kindly given. It implied that his appointed messenger was now far away from the field of duty. How blessed to know that "A God-forsaking saint is not a God-forsaken saint"! b. Elijah's answer (v. 10). Elijah tried to vindicate himself by asserting his jealous loyalty to God—that in spite of all this the people had not only rejected his message and dishonored God, but sought to destroy him.

(2) God's interview with Elijah on the mount (vv. 11-14). While standing before the Lord on the mount, God caused a mighty demonstration of wind, earthquake and fire to pass before him, to show unto him the nature of the work he had been doing for God, and to show him what was lacking in his work for the fullest attainment of success. Elijah had about him much of the whirlwind, earthquake and fire. His work had been terrifying and alarming, but it lacked in gentleness and love. This object lesson in the days of God's working is a needed message for this age, which is so wonderfully characterized by noise and clamor. The world is not "taken for Christ" by the fleshly energy and enthusiasms of conventions and committees, but by the quiet hearts who go forth proclaiming God's Word in the energy of the Holy Spirit.

II. Elijah's Return (vv. 15-18).

Though Elijah had erred, God brought him again into His service. How comforting to know that God does not reject His servants because of their failures in times of despondency! He deals with them after the motive of their hearts. Elijah was nourished and instructed by the Lord and then sent on a high mission. God took Elijah out of himself by giving him a new commission. Before God would come in His chariot to take Elijah home, he sent him upon a threefold ministry.

1. To anoint Hazael king over Syria (v. 15).

2. To anoint Jehu king over Israel (v 16).

3. To anoint Elisha as his own successor in the prophet's room (vv. 19-21).

Look Up to God

Dare to look up to God and say: Deal with me in the future as Thou wilt: I am of the same mind as Thou art; I am Thine; I refuse nothing that pleases Thee; lead me where Thou wilt; clothe me in any dress Thou choosest.—Epictetus.

One Vast Union

We behold all around us one vast union in which no man can labor for himself without laboring at the same time for all others.—Longfellow.

TELEPHONE HEALTH COURSE BENEFITS

The health course for women established by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company has been most beneficial, according to recent graduates in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, who have expressed their views in the Transmitter, employees' magazine of the company.

Miss V. Voracek, of Baltimore, says in part: "I thoroughly enjoyed the health course and I learned many useful things which I have been able to put into daily practice.

"The instruction in first aid in sickness and the care of the sick has been of value in rendering assistance to others."

Miss Madeline M. King, instructor in the Richmond operators' school, gained sufficient knowledge to render first aid and also to be able to nurse her mother through a severe illness.

"The health course has proved a wonderful benefit to me, not only in my own experience, but in helping to care for sick people and in rendering first aid," Miss King says.

The health course taught Miss Pauline McGraw, evening chief operator at Charleston, the importance of correct diet, the nutritive value of foods, and that a healthy body is conducive to a genial disposition.

A Wheeling operator, Miss Lila E. Grubb, advises every girl in the telephone organization to take the health course. It has been beneficial to her in many ways, she says.



Health course members doing their "daily dozen."

While on a picnic in the country several miles from a physician, a small boy, while climbing a tree, fell and fractured his arm. No one in the crowd seemed to know what to do, until Miss Grubb was called on, and using her knowledge of first aid gained in the health course, she placed a splint on the broken arm and relieved the pain. When the doctor arrived he complimented her on her prompt action.

Miss Laura M. Boyer, Washington long distance operator, has learned, from the health course, what to eat, how to exercise, and the amount of sleep necessary to keep herself fit.

WIRE SYSTEM AIDS MODERN NEWSPAPER

In the modern newspaper office much of the day's copy is received by telephone.



The Maryland Gazette, a weekly newspaper published in Annapolis, has recently celebrated its 200th anniversary. The first issue of this paper, published September 19, 1727, was a small, two-column, four-page edition. That in itself is a striking contrast with the modern sixteen-page, seven-column paper of today. In reading the bound volumes of this oldest paper in America, found in the files of the Maryland Historical Society, one cannot help being struck by the vast changes in transportation and communication.

When the Maryland Gazette was first issued, European news was sometimes six months old when printed in America. Today's happenings in almost any part of the globe are printed in today's paper.

During the existence of this newspaper the sailing vessel has been replaced by steamship; the covered wagon by the railroad; the telegraph has replaced the pony express; electricity has been harnessed and is now used as motive power and in lighting; the telephone has been invented, and is developed to a degree that has practically made a neighborhood of the nation and is the world's best-known means of person-to-person communication.

Radio communications are broadcast to the four corners of the globe, while television—seeing by telephone—has been demonstrated between distant points.

Miss Delree Bailey, toll telephone operator at Elberton, Ga., has just completed a five-year term of service without being absent a single day.

Nearly 73,000 Bell system employees own American Telephone and Telegraph Company stock outright and 200,000 are now paying for stock under the company's partial payment plan.

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