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SECURITY SAVINGS SERVICE

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR TOPIC

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

November 27th—If I Were to Be a Home Missionary Where Should I Want to Work? Mark 1:35-45.

The field of Home Missions has gradually enlarged within the last decade or more. At one time to be a Home Missionary meant to be going as a pioneer into the frontier sections of our country. There is a great deal of interesting history in connection with those early Missionaries in the homeland who went forth into the wild and waste places of our country and there, with the first settlers, built Churches and characters whose influence for good is still felt in those communities and throughout the whole nation.

But conditions have greatly changed. There are no geographical frontiers in America today. There are scarcely any waste places. The day of the pioneer is past. The frontier is not on the Rocky Mountains nor on the Pacific Coast, but it is assuming a new character in moral, social and religious conditions in practically every community in our country. Instead, therefore, of speaking of fields or territories of work in the homeland, we are beginning to speak of phases of work, types of work, for those types of work are practically in every section of the country.

The phases of work under the general subject of Home Missions include work in the cities, in the suburbs, in rural communities, in the mountains, in canneries and in lumber camps and industrial communities; also work among different racial groups, among the immigrants, the colored people, the Indians, the Orientals, the Mormons. It includes also the work of Evangelism and of Social Service, of welfare and community work, of education, of recreation, of work among students in non-denominational schools, colleges and universities. Its program is even more inclusive than this. It takes in the work of Church building, of vitalizing and stimulating local congregations and bringing them to the highest possible state of efficiency. It includes the work of the deaconess and of the parish worker.

From this survey of the fields of work which offer themselves, one has a wide choice before him. Not everybody is qualified to engage in every one of these Home Mission enterprises. There are some people who have peculiar qualifications for city work, others for work in the country, others want to go into evangelistic work, and still others into education or social service; there are those who want to labor among the Immigrants or among the Indians or the colored people or the Orientals. It is largely a matter of aptitude and ability. One must know his own powers and limitations, tastes and temperament and then choose the field that is most appealing and where the need seems to be the greatest.

The motive that ought to actuate a Home Missionary should be unselfish service in the building of the Kingdom of God into the life of the nation. The first questions of the one who wants to be a Home Missionary should not be, "How much is the salary? What kind of people are they? Do they have a comfortable parsonage, an adequate equipment? Is there a heavy debt? Are there educational facilities for my children?" Most of these questions are not expressive of the highest motive which should actuate one to engage in Home Mission work. The Home Missionary should go to his or her task with the same unselfish spirit as the Foreign Missionary usually does. Moreover, the entering of the Home Mission field should not be regarded as a mere stepping-stone to something higher and more remunerative in course of time. Missionary workers should make Home Missions a career and enter it for life, just as our Foreign Missionaries do.

With these fundamental considerations in mind one would be prepared to choose his or her field of labor. The city offers a great challenge for the Home Missionary. The trend of life is from the country to the city. The growth of our modern cities is one of the outstanding phenomenon of our present age. But today Mission work in a big city is not an easy task. Here we have tremendous competition. Here the forces of life are moving at their height. Here the counter attractions are very strong. Here we have more of a floating population. Here it is necessary to put on a program that will meet the conditions as they present themselves. Churches that were once strong are practically abandoned because their constituency moved into other sections of the city and other elements of people live in the houses that were once occupied by the members who lived close by the Church. All this precipitates a very great and grave problem and only one who is willing to pay the price and make the sacrifice can go and be a successful Missionary in a large city.

Then there is the suburban community that offers a field for the Missionary. Our suburbs are types by themselves. They have a mind, a psychology of their own. The people of the suburbs are composed of those who commute to the city. Their interests really lie in the city, but their families live in the suburbs. Probably the suburban community today presents one of the most serious challenges for the Home Missionary. It will be necessary to put up buildings that are in harmony with the mansions and palaces which the rich have put up in these communities. It will be necessary to conform to the social life of these communities and often the Missionary will be obliged to work among those who do not wish to be disturbed in their personal comforts and who are perfectly satisfied with their round of social and recreational life, without the influence of the Church brought to bear upon them.

Then there is the work in the country field. While there is a large drift into the city, most of our Churches are still rural. In the Reformed Church about 70% are rural. In many sections the country Church is dying. It needs to be revived. A new spirit needs to be infused which will express itself in a new program of activity. Some of our rural Churches should be united. Probably we have too many of them. If this were done some of our rural Churches would not need to come to the various Boards of Home Missions for aid, but would release pastors who could be stationed elsewhere. The danger in the country Church today is just like that of the city, to lose itself in a lot of outward, physical, social conditions which are not fully expressive of the religion of Jesus Christ. The Missionary who goes into the rural community must teach the farmers not how to grow grain and make hay and raise cattle and chickens, but how to bring the spirit of Jesus Christ to bear upon all the relations and activities which are found in our rural communities. It is so much easier to tell a farmer how to raise cattle than it is how to bring the spirit of kindness and good-will into all of his life.

Then there are, of course, other phases of work that would be exceedingly interesting. If one wants to be a real Home Missionary one can find a field of work most anywhere. There are still some sixty millions of people in the United States outside of the Church of Jesus Christ. These need to be won. There are conditions in every community which need to be righted. Christ needs to be enthroned into every life and into all of life and until this great goal is achieved the work of the Home Missionary is not done. There comes a time when the work of the Foreign Missionary will cease. Then it is that the work of the Home Missionary will just begin. Never was there a time like today when the call is so clear and so strong for Missionaries to labor in our own land which we love so much.

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By order.

SAMUEL J. STONE,
Clerk.

Improved Uniform International

Sunday School Lesson

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

Lesson for November 27

ISAIAH TEACHES TRUE WORSHIP

LESSON TEST—Isa. 1:1-20.

GOLDEN TEXT—O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together. I saw the Lord and he heard me and delivered me from all my fears.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Worshiping God.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Worship That Pleases God.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Worship That Pleases God.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Nature of True Worship.

Isaiah had a long ministry, beginning in the days of Uzziah and extending through the reign of Jothan, Ahaz and Hezekiah. For a history of the nation in this time see II Kings, chapters 15 to 20. Isaiah's visions present the redemptive purpose of God through the consummation of Messiah's kingdom. Chapter 1 is the title to the whole book. It contains the great arraignment of the people for their sins.

I. The Moral State of the People (vv. 2-4).

1. Filial ingratitude (v. 2).

The universe is summoned to hear the Lord's complaint against Judah and Israel for their base ingratitude.

2. Brutal stupidity (v. 3).

The ox and the ass are proverbially stupid, but Israel's stupidity exceeded theirs. Israel would not recognize His right as sovereign, nor author of mercies.

3. Habitual evil doers (v. 4).

They were not sinners in act merely, but in nature and heart were laden with iniquity. By heredity they passed their vices from generation to generation.

II. Their Consequent Miseries (vv. 5-9).

1. Their perplexity (v. 5).

Chastisement only hardened them. Their afflictions were followed by deeper and more heinous sins.

2. Their awful confusion (v. 6).

The calamity which befell them extended to all classes. No one was able to minister to their comfort.

3. Desolations in the country (vv. 7, 8).

Revolts from within and invasions from without left their country desolate. Physical ruin always follows moral and spiritual decadence.

4. A saved remnant assured (v. 9).

God's purposes cannot fail. A remnant was saved in Israel—a remnant shall be saved in the church.

III. Formal Worship Rebuked (vv. 10-15).

Their awful calamities were not due to the neglect of religious rites and ceremonies. They punctiliously observed the forms of religion while indulging in iniquitous practices.

1. God does not need sacrifices (v. 11).

Worship and service are not for God's benefit, but for that of the worshipers themselves.

2. God's attitude toward formal worship (vv. 12-14).

The very rites and ceremonies which God ordained for the purpose of helping men to approach Him become disgusting and irksome to Him.

3. God's refusal (v. 15).

Every act of worship while the heart and life are steeped with iniquity only incites the anger of the Holy One.

IV. An Amended Life God's Requirement (vv. 16-20).

Though the nation had so grievously sinned, their case was not hopeless. In order to enjoy that mercy there must be:

1. A cleansing.

"Wash you, make you clean." The washing by water symbolized the cleansing by the blood of the Son of God.

2. "Put away the evil of your doings."

There could be no cleansing while continuing in sin.

3. "Cease to do evil."

4. "Learn to do well" (v. 17).

One can only cease to do evil by learning to do well.

5. "Seek judgment."

One must not only be upright himself but should protest against the wrongdoing of others. Burdens should be removed from the oppressed. Justice should be done to the fatherless and the widows should be befriended.

6. Encouragement to come to God (v. 18).

Though their guilt was great and the judgment which befell them was awful, God's pardoning and cleansing grace were sufficient.

7. Conditional promise (v. 19).

This means that they could only enjoy good on God's terms.

8. Solemn warning (v. 20).

Rebellion against God brings ruin.

Religion

Trusting God with a sincere and open heart, ready to obey what He suggests, asking His guidance, and ready to take it, believing in Him and simply trusting life to Him—that is religion.—James Reid.

Cost of Discipleship

Christ tells us to count the cost of discipleship, but He never asks us to count the gain. He knew we could not; there is no arithmetic to compute that.—W. L. Watkinson.

FARM STOCK



CLEAN QUARTERS INSURE PROFITS

Cleanliness of farrowing quarters and fresh, new ground for the rearing of young pigs is one of the keynotes to successful pig raising, according to C. G. Elling, specialist in pork production at the Kansas State Agricultural college, who has completed a statewide study. Newly-born litters that suckle, sleep, eat and drink in insanitary quarters are usually unthrifty ,and the owner is subject to heavy losses, Mr. Elling states. He further contends that worms, lice, mange, scours, thumps and sores afflict the pigs and reduce their vitality, making them stupid and weak, fit subjects to be trampled to death or die from weather exposure.

"It is a well-known fact that thrifty pigs give good return on such practical rations as corn and tankage or corn, tankage, and skim milk," declares Elling. "But the basis for their thriftiness lies in their getting a good start from the very beginning, and clean quarters result in good thrifty litters at weaning time."

To cite an example of what can be done in the way of raising pork at the most economical cost to the producer, the pork specialist points out Willis Mosteller of Washington, Kan., who raised his pigs in the sanitary way from the time they were born until they were put on the market.

In the spring of 1926, Mosteller started with 10 gilts at $280. During the spring and summer, the total expense of feed, labor and material was $1,164.46. Added to this the initial cost of the 10 gilts, the entire cost was $1,444.46. The total sales of hogs on hand at the end of the year was $2,326.37. The difference between the total expense of $1,444.46 and the total receipts of $2,326.37 was $881.91. This summed up made a net profit of $88.19 per sow or a return of $1.51 per bushel for each bushel of corn fed the gilts.

The results obtained by Mosteller will be, on the average, an exceptional case, but it is indicative of the superior results that can be obtained and probably fairly illustrates the difference between the results in profits secured from thrifty and unthrifty stock.

Small Pastures and Pigs Always Found Together

Small hog pastures and runty pigs go together, judging from the results of the swine sanitation movement pushed throughout Illinois during the past few years by farm advisers and the extension service of the college of agriculture, University of Illinois. In addition to bringing out other valuable sidelights on profitable pork production these co-operative swine sanitation demonstrations staged by farmers have shown that pigs raised in large pastures do better than those kept in a small area.

The average area of pasture allowed for one sow and litter on 160 farms which reported was nine-tenths of an acre. Many sows and pigs were kept on a still smaller plot of ground.

Altogether 9,421 pigs were raised in pastures of less than one acre a litter. The number of runts in these small pastures averaged one runt to each 71 pigs. In pastures a little larger, ranging from one to two acres a litter, there were 2,827 pigs raised and the number of runts was one to each 77 pigs. In pastures of two or more acres a litter there were 1,204 pigs raised and the number of runts was only 1 to 100 pigs.

Fall-Farrowed Pigs

The raising of fall-farrowed pigs has not become a general practice on many farms in the Northern states. Many farmers who have at various times become interested in producing fall pigs have found that fall-farrowed pigs made slower gains, required more feed, and oftentimes looked very unthrifty. As a result of such experiences farmers generally came to the conclusion that the raising of fall-farrowed pigs was unprofitable.

Live Stock Squibs

Pigs which are to be used for breeding should not be fed from a self-feeder.

• • •

Alfalfa in a winter hog ration of corn and tankage will greatly increase its efficiency.

• • •

Pigs being grown for breeding purposes should not be allowed to become too fat.

• • •

The threat against an animal's life is greatest at birth or shortly afterwards.

• • •

Experiments show that lambs gain faster on rape and corn or on soybeans and corn than when turned into a cornfield without other forage.

• • •

For growth and development of strong-boned pigs, they must have plenty of protein, which can be furnished by tankage and dairy by-products, such as skim milk or buttermilk.

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