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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 DECEMBER 17

JESUS AMONG FRIENDS AND FOES

LESSON TEXT—Luke 10:38-42; 11:14-54.

GOLDEN TEXT—Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.—John 15:14.

REFERENCE MATERIAL—Luke 2:34, 35.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Jesus in the Home of Friends.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Jesus Among Friends and Foes.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Friends and Enemies of Jesus.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Christ's Methods of Dealing With People.

I. Jesus in the Home of Friends (Luke 10:38-42).

There is no place where true character is so clearly revealed as at home.

1. His Reception (v. 38). Martha was the head of the home, therefore she received him. It would be a fine thing if all homes were open to receive Jesus.

2. Mary Sitting at Jesus' Feet (v. 39). She, of fine spiritual discernment, knew that sitting at the Lord's feet and hearing His Word was that which would please him most.

3. Martha Cumbered About Much Serving (v. 40). Both sisters loved the Lord. It would be impossible to say which loved the more; but Martha was bent on providing a fine meal for Him. She was trying to do so many things that she was on the verge of distraction. This had so completely got on her nerves that she found fault with Jesus for permitting Mary to leave the kitchen to listen to His teaching. Not only did she criticize her sister and Jesus, but she assumed the authority to command Him to send Mary back to the kitchen to help.

4. Jesus' Answer (vv. 41, 42. (1) Rebuked Martha (v. 41). He did this tenderly, for He knew that she loved Him sincerely. (2) Defends Mary (v. 42). He declared that but one thing was needful, and that Mary had chosen that good part which could not be taken away from her.

II. Jesus Among Foes (11:14-28; 29-32; 37-54).

1. Charged With Being in League With the Devil (vv. 14-23). Being unwilling to receive Him as the Son of God, and yet unable to account for His mighty works, they declared He was casting out demons through Beelzebub, the chief of demons. Jesus exposed the fallacy of their reasoning by showing that in that case Satan would be arrayed against himself, and therefore would destroy his own kingdom.

2. Refused to Believe His Miracles (vv. 29-32). They asked for a sign, to which He replied that they would have a sign from heaven in His death and resurrection. He reminded them, however, that their request showed unbelief surpassing that of the heathen queen of the South, and the wicked people of Nineveh.

3. Wickedness Denounced (vv. 37-54). He pronounced six woes upon those who were opposing Him and seeking His destruction.

(1) The Pharisees (vv. 37-41). These He denounced for (a) punctilously observing some minute rites and at the same time breaking the Ten Commandments. They carefully tithed the small herbs of the garden while practicing injustice to their fellowmen and withholding love from God. He pointed out to them the folly of attending to these external acts while the heart was filled with wickedness. (b) Desiring public recognition (v. 43). This is a common sin today. (c) For feigning humility (v. 44). He compares their hypocrisy to graves which are on a level with the ground and may be stepped upon unconsciously by someone, and thus defiled. We can avoid those who make their vanity known by boasting, but some are filled with this same wickedness who do not thus make it known.

(2) The Lawyers (vv. 45-54). Jesus' strictures on the hypocritical Pharisees aroused the lawyers, one of whom indignantly declared: "You are insulting us also." In replying to this Christ pronounced three woes upon them; (a) for placing burdensome requirements upon the people to which they themselves would not sumbit (v. 46). (b) For the murder of God's prophets (vv. 47-51). He showed that their attitude toward Him was the same that was shown to the prophets by their fathers. (c) For keeping back the knowledge of God by false interpretation of the Scriptures (vv. 52-54). There is no wickedness perhaps so great as that of supposed teachers of God's Word who keep its precious truths from the people by perverting its meaning.

Seek Ye.

But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.—Matthew 6:33.

Reaping Iniquity.

Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies.—Hosea 10:13.

Final Permanence.

Character attains final permanence, and final permanence can come but once.—Joseph Cook.

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Good breeding stock, proper mating, and careful feeding of the brood sows are all important, but a point in hog raising that should receive more attention, because it is often neglected, is the necessity of keeping the young pigs growing continuously from the moment of birth to maturity.

Even before the pigs are weaned they should have access to corn in self-feeders as a supplement to the sow's milk. As soon as they are weaned the pigs should be kept on full feed, either by self-feeder or by hand. Approved types of self-feeders, hayracks, troughs, and watering fountains are shown in the exhibit. Proper feeds and excercise furnished to vigorous pigs of proper type result in hogs of market weight at about 8 months of age.

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How do God's promises bring joy?—Psalm 32:8-11

How should God be praised for his goodness?—Psalm 33:1-6

What will God do to those who bless and magnify his holy name?—Psalm 34:1-7

How can we insure ourselves against want?—Psalm 34:8-10

What should a man do who desires life and many days?—Psalm 34:12-14

What are some of the privlleges of the righteous?—Psalms 34:15-22

To what can we compare the faithfulness and righteousness of God?—Psalm 36:7-9

Lazy Larry

Larry hates to go to bed,
He frets and worries, so he said;
'Cause in the morning it's a bore
To wake and wash his face once more.

Writing Paper The American Union.

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