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Sunday School Lesson

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LESSON FOR JANUARY 20

MOSES CALLED TO DELIVER ISRAEL

LESSON TEXT—Exod. 3:1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT—By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.—Heb. 11:24, 25.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Moses, the Liberator.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Moses and the Deliverance From Egyptian Bondage.

After Joseph was dead, there was a change of dynasty (Exod. 1:8). The new king, noting the rapid increase of the Israelites, counseled the exercise of prudence lest when war broke out they join the enemy and fight against the Egyptians. One of the methods to curtail this increase was to enslave the people. Failing in that, an edict was issued that every male child should be drowned. While the oppression of God's people was heading up, God was providing a deliverer. Moses, that deliverer, was first trained at his mother's knee, then at Pharaoh's court and finally under God's immediate hand in the desert.

I. The Lord Spoke to Moses From the Burning Bush (Exod. 3:1-6).

It was while keeping the flock of his father-in-law in the desert that the Lord appeared to Moses in the vision of the burning bush. This bush, enveloped in flames, yet unconsumed, symbolized the people of God enswathed in the very fire of God, or God dwelling in the midst of an elect people. Moses stepped aside to behold this strange sight and was taught the essential lesson of the proper approach to God. The Lord did not leave him long in suspense. He told him he was the God of his fathers, the Covenant God. As soon as he knew it was God speaking to him, he hid his face.

II. Moses Commissioned as the Deliverer of His People (Exod. 3:7-10).

1. God's Active Interest in His People (v. 7). In the preamble of this commission, God said to Moses, (1) "I have seen the affliction of my people"; (2) "I have heard their cry"; (3) "I know their sorrow."

2. God's Gracious Obligation to His People (vv. 8, 9). (1) To deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians. (2) To bring them up out of the land. (3) To bring them into a "good land and a large."

3. **God's Commission to Moses** (v. 10). "Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh that thou mayest bring forth my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." This call seems to have been a great surprise to Moses. At any rate, he realized his unfitness to undertake such a task.

III. Moses' Objections Patiently Heard and Removed (Exod. 3:11; 4:10).

1. Personal Unfitness (v. 11). He realized his insufficiency for this task. Moses did not refuse to go, but pled his difficulty before the Lord. God answered this difficulty by assuring him that He would be with him. The token of His presence would be His worship with the people of Israel on this mountain.

2. The Difficulty of the People to Understand Moses' Relationship to God (vv. 13, 14). Moses knew how unwilling they were to acknowledge him as their deliverer 40 years before. Since God reveals Himself under a new name as He assumes a new relationship to His people, Moses inquired as to what that new relationship would be, and His corresponding name. The Lord promptly met this difficulty revealing to him a name different in many respects from all others previously given. This new name is, "I Am." This name is from the Hebrew word, "to be." It indicates (1) God's self-existence—the One whose very nature it is to be—the cause of all being. (2) His self-sufficiency. He said, "I Am That I Am." Since God is the unique One, He could not go outside of Himself to explain Himself; (3) His unchangeableness. What He always was and is, He evermore shall be.

3. Unbelief on the Part of the People (Exod. 4:1). This difficulty the Lord met by supplying him with credentials which could not be gainsaid. He was given the power to perform supernatural wonders (Exod. 4:2).

4. Lack of Eloquence (Exod. 4:10). This difficulty the Lord met by providing an assistant in the person of his brother Aaron. Moses was to be in the place of God to Pharaoh and Aaron was to be his prophet (Exod. 7:1, 2).

Lasting Friendship.

The friendship of Jesus is one that lasts.—The Gospel Herald.

Perfect Peace.

The peace which the Savior gives His own is peace of heart and mind amid daily duties. It is that "central peace" which may subsist in the heart of endless agitation.—Boyd.

A Good Equipment.

Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tires, and a touch that never hurts.—Charles Dickens.

Be Courageous.

Shun not the struggle. Face it.—The Mennonite.

Keeping Accounts Is of Importance

Costs and Returns Must Be Carefully Studied if Business Is to Show Profit.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Analyzing cost records and farm management systems on 28,000 farms is one of the diverse roles played by the United States Department of Agriculture the past year. The purpose of the work is to discover the factors that make for an efficient, business-like agriculture, and then to spread the gospel of better farm management among the entire agricultural community.

Costs Are Higher.

Particularly in these times, department officials point out, when most farming costs are relatively higher than the prices of many farm products the keeping and analysis of farm accounts by farmers is of great importance. Costs and returns must be carefully studied if the business is to show a profit.

Department records of county extension work show an increasing interest among farmers in the keeping of farm accounts, a larger number of accounts being kept and analyzed during the past year than in any preceding period. In many instances farmers found that they had received only one-half as much from their live stock as the feed consumed by the live stock was worth, even though their crop yields were good. Some farmers discovered an even worse condition, particularly where they had purchased additional feed.

Live Stock Big Factor.

The productivity of live stock is one of the most important factors in farm returns upon farms producing live stock, the department says. Losses may be due to poor stock or to improper feeding and care. Wide variations are also found in the use of man and horse labor. In other cases small income is the result of poor crop yields. Careful study of the various elements that make up the farm business indicate how any particular farm may be reorganized to show larger profit. To assist farmers in their bookkeeping, special farm account books have been prepared by the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the state agricultural colleges and may be obtained from the extension divisions of the colleges.

Heavy Pruning of Pears Reduces Average Yield

It has been found through experiments in the state college orchards in New York, that heavy pruning of young pear trees of such commercial varieties as Kieffer, Bosc, Seckel, Clapp, Favorite and Sheldon, reduced the average yield as much as 25 per cent by the time the trees were ten years old. In the experiment under discussion, the trees were treated alike and one group was then allowed to grow to its natural form with just enough pruning to avoid bad interference of branches, etc. Another group was pruned so that the trees assumed the more open head.

Of course the best way to prune pear trees, considering the entire life of the tree, is not known for certainty. Further experiment will be necessary to bring this out. Older trees, however, where the fruit is not of satisfactory size, will be benefited by moderate pruning, lowering very tall limbs and strong lateral branches and taking out the smaller branches near the top.

A point to remember in pruning a pear tree: Keep the trunks and base and main limbs free of spurs and sprouts. This will lessen the danger from fire blight and this sort of pruning followed persistently will be a first-class assurance against serious injury from this pear disease.

High Production Costs Necessitate Sound Seed

Production costs in farming have mounted to such a point that most farmers are finding it imperative to plant only the best of seed, in order that the utmost in first quality marketable produce may result. To aid in this work the experiment stations are constantly at work producing strains of field crops to yield more high quality produce. These strains are being multiplied by careful farmers under supervision of the agricultural colleges and the best of them designated as registered and certified seed. Such seeds carry registration or certification tags properly signed by the growers.

Farmers find that this registered and certified seed is the cheapest seed they can buy, measured by results secured. But they must protect themselves when purchasing seed, by demanding the registration or certification tag on each sack they buy. As with live stock, seed should not be considered as certified or registered unless the papers accompany the seed.

Area Plan for Testing Cattle Proves Popular

Testing cattle for tuberculosis under the area plan—that is, testing all the cattle at once in a county or other area—is proving very popular in many parts of the country. One reason is that a county freed of this disease is a center to which cattle buyers are attracted; another is that large numbers of cattle can be tested at a lower cost than when only a few herds or a single herd are tested.

POULTRY

Green Feed for Layers Needed During Winter

Green feed for hens in the winter will make them lay better, besides being one of the cheapest foods for the poultryman to use.

If possible, get some mangel beets. Cut them into pieces and put on a stick which is driven in the ground, or set up on the floor of the poultry house. This will give the chickens a chance to pick off the beet. One or two mangels, depending on the size, should be allowed every 25 birds. Mangels can be stored easily, so that they will keep throughout the entire winter.

Sprouted oats also supply green food which is very satisfactory. The one thing to remember is not to let the oats sprout too long. Best results have been found with young sprouts that are green and tender. Care must be taken not to let it become moldy, as this poisons chickens. If mold persists it can be overcome by sprinkling with the sprouting water ten drops of formaldehyde. Formaldehyde is not injurious to the chickens in this quantity.

Soaked oats will help out if the trouble of sprouting is too great. Alfalfa leaves which have been dried and then covered with boiling water to "green" them, are also good and palatable.

The use of these succulent feeds will increase the egg production and will reduce the feeding costs.

Sour Skim Milk Given as Cause of High Production

Some time ago the Missouri College of Agriculture through the department of poultry husbandry started an experiment to determine the cause of the high production secured from laying hens that were given an abundance of sour skim milk. A study of the analysis of sour skim milk showed it to contain 90.77 per cent water, 0.10 per cent fat, 3.93 per cent milk sugar (lactose), 0.56 per cent lactic acid, 3.65 per cent protein and 0.79 per cent milk ash or salts. It was assumed that water alone was not the stimulating factor. The fat content seemed too low, and the distribution of carbohydrates did not point to milk sugar as a possible source of the problem. A comparison was made of rations containing lactic acid, milk salts, protein—free sour skim milk and sour skim milk. The results showed conclusively that that lactic acid in the same solution as in sour skim milk is valueless for egg production. Besides both milk salts and ash entirely failed to stimulate increased egg production. The results all seem to indicate that it is the proteins or milk curd that is the valuable part of sour skim milk. For two years the protein-free sour skim milk has not given as satisfactory production as the sour skim milk.

Guinea Quite Valuable Fowl to Have on Farm

So far, guineas occupy a back place in the poultry industry. Yet they are a valuable fowl.

When they are known they will come into their own with honor.

They are among the very best "bug rustlers" we have, living almost entirely on insects, doing very little damage to growing crops.

As for eating purposes, the guineas are claimed by some people to surpass the chicken in flavor and juiciness. Although having dark flesh, the young fowls are tender. The meat of the grown fowls is not as dry, when baked, as that of chicken or turkey.

The guinea hens are always known by their plaintive "potrack, potrack, potrack," while the rooster, when disturbed by a hawk or strange dog, lets forth such a shrill chatter that it puts one's nerves on edge.

Guineas begin laying the first of May and lay all through the summer, the eggs selling on the market for as much as hen eggs.

POULTRY NOTES

Do not feed the goslings until 48 hours old, but give them tender, finely cut grass and water.

* * *

Turkeys for breeding should be in good breeding condition; if fat the eggs are largely infertile.

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Some geese will hatch two broods of goslings in a season if well managed. Goose eggs require 28 to 31 days to hatch.

* * *

The young are chicks until their sex can be distinguished or possibly even a little longer. A brood is a collection of chicks cared for by one hen or in a single brooder.

* * *

A stewing chicken weighs about three pounds and a roaster four pounds or more.

* * *

A constitutionally strong bird, one that passes through the molt quickly and easily, is a better layer than one that develops all kinds of ailments during this period.

* * *

Individual hens with pale-colored shanks, in such breeds as the Rock, Wyandottes, Reds and Leghorns, are considered better layers than those with bright-yellow shanks.

SCHOOL DAYS



Has Anyone Laughed At You Because—

By ETHEL R. PEYSER

You Never Break a Date?

"You are really awfully common-place," "You are socially unengaged," "You seem to have little work to do." All these things have been fired at you, teasingly because you keep your dates! You are right to keep your dates! Why should you break this contract any more than any other kind of unwritten contract? To be sure, you often get "left," but you know you are right—and that's a help. Anyhow you don't have to keep "scarce" to keep rare.

SO

Your get-away here is:

You've done your best to make both ends meet and if they do not—it's up to the other feller.

(© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

His Choice.

Young Everbroke—Say, dad, what is a preferred creditor?

Old Everbroke—It's a matter of taste, my son. I prefer the easy, good-natured kind, with short memories.

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Something to Think About

By F. A. WALKER

RUNNING TIDES

WHERE the oceans, seas and rivers are, where happiness dwells, where progress wends its way among the nations, the tides are running day and night in perfect harmony with the mysterious force which is prompting, swaying, driving and compelling every animate creature to action.

Slowly we learn that these unforeseen tides which seem so irresistible, so destructive to our fondest dreams and aspirations, can be made subservient to our wishes, and how by a stroke or two we may swim strongly with their currents and reach our goal.

To some of us the very thought of the constant motion of these tides suggests that they are opposing us, seeking to sweep us under, when in reality they are intended to develop our prowess to keep our heads above the waters and carry us safely on to our destination in spite of ourselves.

We balk at doing this or that because of opposition. We lack the courage to breast the flood. In a moment of despair we feel that it is preferable to destroy our ambitions and forget them than to make the fight.

It is pleasanter to sit by the fire and picture castles in the air than it is to erect them on a substantial foundation. And frequently, while we are thus idly dreaming, the tides pick us up and whirl us off to some destitute island. If in our temporary isolation we regain our senses and see ourselves as we really are, we summon our spiritual and physical strength and strike out boldly for the main land.

Whatever our sensations may have been in the grip of such emotions, if we have within us the right qualities, we are likely later in our careers to become more earnest, capable and patient.

The old egotism, narrow selfishness and churlish temper, which were pulling us down beneath the waters, have scurried away.

We have become more charitable, more neighborly, more inclined to pull with the tides than to oppose them when opposition is of no avail. We heed cheerfully the advice of our superiors instead of rejecting it with ugly words of protestation or rising up in rebellion against well-meant authority.

And this is as it should be. The secret of success is to know when to buffet the tides and when to float complacently with them.

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