THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 1—2.
DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalm 27:7-14.

Seeing God's Hand

Lesson for October 21, 1951

NOBODY is ever, in all his life, actually as wise as he thinks he is when he is about 17 years old. We have a remarkable case of this in the Bible, the story of a man whose viewpoint, between his 17th and 56th birthdays, completely changed. It is the story of Joseph.

Dr. Foreman

At the age of 17, Joseph was about as nearly insufferable as any one ever has a chance to be. He was the oldest son of the favorite wife of a wealthy cattle-owner named jacob. Old Jacob needed all the hands he could use, to look after his sheep and cattle; and he put all twelve of his sons to work. Eleven of them had real work; Joseph, though next to the youngest of them all, was a kind of boss or overseer. At least that is what his father intended.

He dressed the boy not in working clothes like the others but in fancy clothes, and used to send him around to see what the other boys were up to. Naturally Joseph's brothers did not take to all this; in fact they hated him so hard that they were on the point of murdering him.

On the very day of the proposed murder, however, the brothers discovered a chance to sell him as a slave. So Joseph was sold off to some traveling slave-traders, and for all his brothers knew or cared, he was off to a lingering death.

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Where Was the Hand of God?

JOSEPH expressed no opinion about this at the time. (He was probably gagged.) But judging from his general character and behavior at that time of his life, it is no trouble to guess his thoughts. He was "fit to be tied"; indeed, he must have been tied on a camel's back, for no slave-trader in his senses would make Joseph walk the 200 miles to Egypt.

The better his condition on arrival, the higher the price. (As it turned out, a very wealthy man bought him; perhaps only a wealthy man could afford him.)

If you had asked Joseph while he was being hauled down to Egypt and the slave-market, Where is God in all this? Joseph might well have answered: "Nowhere. The devil is in this, or my devilish brothers. Nobody means any good by it. The only reason they are selling me instead of killing me is that they are making a little by it; these slave-traders are certainly not in business for their health. I am the only son my father trusted, and now I shall die a wretched death in a strange land.

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The Wisdom of the Years

THAT was Joseph at seventeen. At the age of 56 he saw a different picture. Many strange years had passed; Joseph had been slave and then prisoner; then by a dramatic turn in his fortunes he had risen overnight to be the top food administrator, price controller and economic stabilizer, all in one, for the great empire of Egypt.

His brothers, driven by famine, had fled to Egypt for help, and Joseph, after playing cat-and-mouse with them for months, at last told them (to their great terror) who he was. But he had returned good for evil; had invited down his whole family, father, brothers and all, and given them refuge in a corner of Egypt. At last Jacob died.

The brothers, who made the mistake of thinking Joseph no better than themselves, had supposed that all Joseph was waiting for was his father's death. Now would be the time for Joseph's long-delayed vengeance. Possibly Joseph the boy had dreamed of just such an hour. But Joseph the man was wiser. To his brothers, cowering before him, he said a memorable thing: "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good." (Gen. 50:20.)

He still had no illusions about his brothers. They had been a bad lot. But God "meant it for good." That wicked act, selling him into slavery, had been the unintentional means of saving hundreds of lives. Joseph now, with the wisdom of his 56 years, can see the hand of God which his 17-year-old eyes could not see at all.

So in times of distress the thought should come to each of us: God's hand may just now be out of sight, but some day, looking back even on this distress we too shall see the hand of God.

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WOMAN'S WORLD

Bring Your Rooms Up-to-Date By Discarding Some Furniture

By Ertta Haley

MANY a room which was the height of good decoration a decade ago today has a cluttered look which is neither in good taste nor good design. The majority of people have acquired possessions, as most people have an aquisitive instinct, and they simply cannot bear to part with them, be they bad or indifferent.

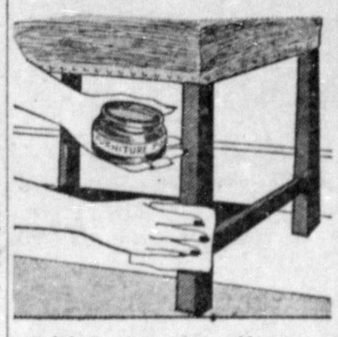
If you can bring yourself to parting with unnecessary pieces, or by substituting sleek, well-designed pieces for some you have, a new clean look is possible for your rooms.

Consider the advantages of an uncluttered room: a sense of luxury and freedom which comes when some space is released. You'll be able to breathe again!

Another freedom which every homemaker can appreciate is the ease of cleaning that comes when a room is freed of some of its trappings. In the first place, there is actually less furniture to clean, and good pieces are more readily done than those which are worn and battered by the years.

Once a room has been stripped to its essentials, it's easy to pick up and put in order. It looks clean, even without a thoroughgoing cleaning every day, say homemakers who have tried it.

An important thing in clearing a room of clutter is to have a place



Polish furniture thoroughly . . .

for everything. Some old pieces of furniture do not have the capacity for storage that new ones have, and consequently things which should be out of sight never have a place. This, naturally, clutters a room.

You may be very fond of a certain old chest, let's say, because it's an heirloom, but does it "pay for the space it takes" in the amount you can store in it in the way of magazines, sewing, snapshots, etc. which need a place?

Combine Traditional With Modern Furniture

Those who have traditional furniture need no longer worry about combining it with modern. Decorators realize that those with cherished pieces will never want to, or should they, discard them all. Now the contemporary furniture is so made that it can live happily with older pieces and their darker woods.

In fact, today's most liveable rooms are departing happily from the strictly period atmosphere which was the mark of the well decorated room for many decades.

You'll be seeing traditional sofas covered with fabrics in bold modern design, modern desk and chair in the same room with knotty pine chests.

use mitts for dusting quickly.

In dining rooms you'll see a good dark mahogany table and it may be teamed with light, modern chairs which are more comfortable than the ones which went with the table.

Secretaries of the dark wood with their many wonderful drawers for storage are part of many well furnished living rooms though chairs and sofas may be strictly modern.

If you're doing some reorganizing about the furnishings in your home, plan to discard those pieces which are no longer serviceable and replace them with pieces which are useful as well as attractive. Those things which need expensive reupholstering or refinishing may often be replaced with new at a saving.

It may be that you need no other pieces, if you will simply discard those pieces which add nothing attractive or useful to the room. It may be a wrench to part with some of the things but the comfort and beauty which comes from eliminating them will be well worth the effort.

Inexpensive Scatter Rugs May Replace Carpeting

Well polished floors with attractive scatter rugs are in many homes replacing overall carpeting which is expensive to replace. With waxing devices and waxes, it's easy to keep floors bright and shining with a minimum of effort.

Combined Periods

Here is an excellent example of how traditional and modern furniture can be combined. First wall-to-wall carpet was removed in favor of good wooden floors well polished and easily kept, and a single scatter rug. The traditional sofa was covered in modern fabric and the modern occasional chair and lamp are harmonious with an old pine table.

A well-worn rug can be removed from the floor if you're renovating a room. Before waxing, however, remove stains, blemishes and dirt which have accumulated on the floor with soap and water. Use only a little water at a time and wipe it as you progress over the floor, so it is not left to swell the wood. Stubborn spots can be removed usually with steel wool.

Make certain the floor is dry before waxing. Apply wax sparingly and evenly with a cloth or a long handled applier, working with the grain of the wood. Thin coats of wax will produce a perfect finish after a short time while thick applications of wax cannot be brought to a hard, dry polish and are apt to be smeary.

When wax has been applied, allow at least 30 minutes for the solvent to evaporate. The wax is ready to polish when it no longer feels damp. Run a polisher back and forth along the grain of the wood until the floor takes on a soft, satiny shine and the finish is smooth and glossy.

If no electric polisher is available a weighted brush may be your solution. Another is a brick wrapped in soft, clean rags.

With heavy traffic, surface dirt should be removed with liquid wax every six weeks or two months and the floor re-polished. On other areas less frequently used, two or three waxings a year should be sufficient.

Several waxings will give the floor a beautiful finish. If properly kept up, it will remain beautiful. Wooden floors, properly tended, grow more beautiful with age.

Decide Color Scheme Before Buying Rug

Choose a serviceable color when you're buying a rug for the room. Another tip to remember before buying is to select a rug which can be readily cleaned. Certain types of looped rugs, though handsome, may give difficulty when you attempt to run a sweeper or vacuum cleaner over them, while a shorter napped rug cleans much more readily.

The trend today is away from elaborate patterns in rugs, as they crowd the room and give it a cluttered look which you are attempting to banish. It's only reasonable that a pattern seems busier, and thus seems to take up more room than a plain color.

Particularly, if your rooms are small, you want to keep down the pattern as much as possible. Remember, too, that it's more difficult to work out a decorative scheme with a patterned rug than a plain one as a pattern in the rug makes it difficult to use patterns in drapery and upholstery materials.

It's best to choose the colors in your room, before rug choice is settled. Then you can choose exactly the right background for your desired draperies and upholstery, in cotton, wool, rayon or combinations of these.

Keep Furniture In Condition For Pleasing Appearance

All furniture does not have to be placed against the walls to give an uncluttered look, but it should be kept in an orderly arrangement that is determined in advance.

Tenderly cared-for furniture is an asset in any room and aids in giving the impression of pleasantness. Wooden pieces should be kept polished so they are smooth and satiny. If neglected they are harsh and dry, and hard to dust.

Small scratches, scars and scuff marks can be hidden with colored wax, which should be applied as soon as damage appears.

Daily dusting is a must, but often a chore. It can be done in double quick time if you have a pair of dusting mitts so that both hands can dust at one time.

Apply your wax and polishes with as much care as you do the floors and you'll be well repaid in both the appearance as well as the longer life the furniture will give you.

SHOPPER'S CORNER

By DOROTHY BARCLAY

COTTON TO COTTON

DO you cotton to cotton? Do you think cotton, like the last rose of summer, is a thing of the happy past? Cheer, lady, cheer, for now you can do yourself a favor, give yourself a break—and dress yourself and your family in cotton all year round.

A MAIN STREET FEATURE

It's right there for you—your store is filling up with fall and winter-weight cottons. And now's the time to buy 'em, either ready-made, or for your own home-made clothes, for yourself, your children, yet even for that man in your life.

Military needs at present are appropriating only about 10 per cent of the cotton supply, nothing to the quota during World War II. With possibly increasing demands for the military, cotton for civilian use, of course, will shrink in quantity—so buy now while you can.

Not only does cotton save you money—just compare the price of a wool dress with a corduroy for a test—but think of the cleaning expense you save, and the time, when you can launder your fall and winter clothes as easily as those summer things.

Broadcloth, velveteen and corduroy are the leading ladies in this fall and winter cotton drama. Dark-colored broadcloth, highlighted by pique collar and cuff-treatment, makes an ever-serviceable dress for high school girl, club woman, house wife or career miss. Velveteen, either solid color, or in the new prints, is glamorous and practical in any combination.

And corduroy—that's what it really means, of the king. Used for years for casual and sports wear, this rich material lends itself ideally to tailored dresses, suits, jackets, and jumpers, worn with crisp cotton blouses.

You'll find a wide variety of these new cotton fabrics on your store shelves, and many dresses, jackets, even suits, hanging temptingly on display. New weaves, colorful stripings, checks, plaids, even cotton tweeds, are all in the picture for fall and winter.

MOTHER'S PRAYER

Cotton for the children's clothes is the complete answer to a mother's prayer. A recent survey proved that a majority of mothers prefer cotton for seven out of ten items of children's clothing. This survey covered such items as winter baby shirts, crib blankets, girl's winter bathrobes and one-piece dresses, boys' knitted and woven school shirts and pants, and snowsuits for all. As a matter of record, cotton was the only material these women had ever heard of for these basic items.

And why do most mothers prefer cotton to other fibers? Because it costs less to begin with, costs nothing but a little time to launder, and lasts and lasts and lasts. So buy your cotton, either made up, or for your own home making!

Railroad Gives 47 Small Towns Bells for Churches

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—In the past year the L. & N. railroad has supplied 47 church bells to rural and small town churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, Alabama, Illinois, and Georgia. The bells, each of which weighed 300 pounds, were obtained from steam locomotives the road scrapped. The latest communities to receive bells are East Bernstadt, Ky., Morehead, Ky., Nonaburg, Tenn., Paris, Tenn.

SEWING CIRCLE PATTERNS

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Attractive Blouses

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Don't wait—send 25 cents today for your copy of the Fall and Winter STYLIST, our complete pattern magazine. It's filled with smart, practical sewing ideas; special features; gift patterns printed inside the book.

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A Tree Should Be Kept Within Bounds Always

Shade trees require trimming in the summer when they grow out of bounds.

Dense foliage of street trees create hazards by hiding traffic lights and obstructing views. Lush growth of lawn trees darkens the interiors of houses. A low hanging branch, bowed under the weight of leaves, restricts passage over doorways and can become annoying to pedestrians on sidewalks.

Corrective pruning will eliminate these faults.

There are few trees that cannot be improved, in beauty and health, by judicious pruning. Raising limbs by eliminating lower branches will prevent sidewalk obstructions. It also lets in more light to the turf beneath, which is highly desirable under lawn trees.

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Yes! Research has proved these medicines *thoroughly modern in action* ... has shown you where to look for relief from those distressing, nervous, "out of sorts" feelings of mid-life "change"!
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