

Sunday School.

LESSON 11.—OCTOBER 9, 1910.

The Parable of the Talents.—Matt. 25: 14-30.

Commentary.—1. Talents distributed (vs. 14, 15). 14. Kingdom of heaven.—The kingdom of grace on earth is the preparation for the kingdom of glory in the world to come. The reward of faithfulness here is entrance into the heavenly kingdom. A man—Representing Christ. It was not uncommon in the East for men of wealth to entrust their property to servants, who in many cases were carefully trained and capable men, and to make extended journeys into distant lands. A far country—Christ is shown as going back to heaven and leaving his disciples with large responsibility upon them. His own servants.—The householders made his slaves his agents in his absence. Christ's servants are all of his followers of whatever social rank, intellectual or physical ability, or nation. They include all who devote themselves unconditionally and trustfully to his service. His goods.—He gave over to his servants the management of his property and business interests. They were to be his representatives in his absence. Christ's disciples are his representatives here on earth. "Ye are the light of the world" (Matt. 5: 14). 15. Five talents.—The silver talent is variously estimated at from \$1,000 to \$2,000, since there was the lightweight talent and the heavyweight and values vary at different periods. "Talents" has come to have the meaning of ability, and represents those capabilities which we possess in varying degrees, such as strength and skill, intellectual power, oratory, literary taste, musical ability, the artist's sense and business capacity. Two—one—We are not overlooked by the Father in his distribution of talents, and he distributed wisely. According to ability.—The householders knew his servants better than they knew themselves, and he committed his interests to them, not according to their choices, but according to his understanding of their power to care for them. Five, two, one, represent the varying talents with which we are endowed, and our responsibility is in proportion to them. Took his journey.—He left them to execute his plans and to exercise their power in the interest of their master. Christ has committed to us a sacred trust for which we are personally responsible.

16. Traded.—He employed the capital entrusted to him as his master would, or as would please his master, in buying and selling for a reasonable and just profit. Made five talents.—His ability, joined with the capital committed to him, produced legitimate and satisfactory results. His ability without a working capital would have been comparatively fruitless, and the capital without ability to use it would, at least, have been made no larger, if not diminished. Proper use increases both ability and results. 17. Likewise.—gained other two.—With smaller ability and smaller capital, using the same diligence, the servant accomplished proper results. "Other two" was not "other five," but the results were just as satisfactory. Both servants worked, but did no impossible thing. God requires of us service up to our capabilities, but not beyond.

18. But.—This word denotes a decided change in the subject. Received one.—Even he was entrusted with a large amount. Hid his lord's money.—He had ability to work with it, as the word "traded" really means, and gain another talent, but he simply used his ability to go to dig, and to hide the money. Thousands of people are expending more energy to hide their talents than would be necessary to make a profitable use of them.

19. Lord commended.—His going away was for "a long time." Christ was soon to leave his servants, but promised to return. He is coming again. Reckoneth.—In all business enterprises a day of reckoning is necessary to their proper management. Spiritually all of us must face the Master in the great day of final reckoning. There may seem to us to be "a long time" before that day and other interests may engage our attention, yet the day draws on.

20. I have gained five.—He had no hesitation in presenting his report, for he had been faithful to his trust. The talents had doubled and he was a better servant than when his master left him. The Christian acknowledges that gifts and opportunities come from God, but the improvement and increase come through a conscientious, trustful use of them. 21. Well done.—He received the master's approval. Faithful.—He had his master's interests at heart, hence he was diligent in his absence. A few things.—The absence of his lord was a testing time to show how he would look after his master's interests. Ruler over many things.—His ability had increased by use, and this fact together with his faithfulness assured him a place of greater responsibility and usefulness. Enter thou.—The faithful servant was admitted to the master's palace and became partaker of his joys. He enjoyed the master's confidence and fellowship. Three rewards are mentioned: 1. Approval. 2. Enlarged power and authority. 3. Participation in the master's joys. In a spiritual sense these all belong to the Christian in this life, but in a larger sense they are reserved for the day of the Lord. The servant was not responsible for the bestowment of the talents, but he was responsible for their faithful employment. His ability was less and the talents were less in number, but his faithfulness was just as great as that of the servant that received five talents, and his reward was just as comprehensive and satisfactory. His joy was full.

24. The one talent.—He was under the same obligation as the others to give an account of his work to his master. He thought the smallness of his capital would excuse him from using it, but he knew that he must reckon with his lord upon his return. I know thee.—He entered his complaint against his master in an effort to ward off the accusation

THIRD OPERATION PREVENTED

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Chicago, Ill. — "I want to tell you what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound did for me. I was so sick that two of the best doctors in Chicago said I would die if I did not have an operation. I had already had two operations, and they wanted me to go through a third one. I suffered day and night from inflammation and a small abscess, and never thought of seeing a well day again. A friend told me how Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound had helped her, and I tried it, and after the third bottle was cured." Mrs. ALYSSA SPERLING, 11 Langdon Street, Chicago, Ill.

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which he felt was due him. An hard man. Hard-hearted, exacting. Reaping, etc. The figure is that of gathering the grain from the threshing floor where others had separated it from the chaff with the winning fan. 25. Was afraid. His own guilty conscience and unfaithful deed had made him afraid. There is a real temptation that besets those of small ability, to neglect the service which they can render, because they are less talented than others. The servant who has feared to risk the money in trade lest he might lose it, yet in carrying out, according to his ability, his lord's design there would have been no failure. Hid thy talent. In that country at that time it was customary to bury valuables in the ground for safekeeping. Thine. The return of the talent to the master was a vain attempt to satisfy him. 26. Wicked and slothful. A twofold accusation is brought, dishonesty and idleness. Thou knowest. The servant could not plead ignorance. He knew his master's disposition, his business, thoroughness and his reasonable requirements. 27. Ex-changers.—Bankers.—R. V. Usury. This formerly meant "interest," as in the Revised Version, and not as now "unlawful interest."

28. Take from him. Talents neglected, decrease. Give. Opportunities which we neglect are given to those who will use them. 29. Shall be taken away. Those who make a right use of their ability shall increase that ability, but those who fail shall suffer the loss of the powers God has given them. 30. The unprofitable servant. What a vast army these words represent! Neglected opportunities, unused talents, buried gifts, groundless expenses, confront "the unprofitable servant." Outer darkness. In sad contrast to "enter over many things."

Questions. When, where, by whom and to whom was this parable spoken? What leading thought is emphasized? Whom does the man reckoning into a far country represent? What is meant by the far country? The servants? The goods? Why did not each servant receive the same amount? What did the servants do with the money when they? What is meant by this? What was the reward of faithfulness? What was the result of unfaithfulness? What should the wicked servant have done?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

The call. "Called his own servants" (v. 14). His bond slaves. His own possession. God calls the sinner to salvation; He calls the saint to service. To His own use. "Present your bodies" (Rom. 12: 1), your head and heart, your hands and feet, your lips and life, all you are, all you have, all you hope for, and "Ye shall receive the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you" (Acts 1: 8, margin). It is not enough that we have God. He must have us before He can empower us.

The capital. "Unto one he gave" (v. 15). With every call to service God gives the capital for service. Every commercial traveller goes out fully equipped; the firm provides all. God is not less generous than man. He does not send us out to trade without a fair start and a full stock.

The consequences. "He that had five talents" (v. 16). One April Sunday a superintendent gave the members of his school each five cents to be invested for missions. At Christmas time the children brought the money they had made and their reports. Here is one, "I invested my five cents in a package of squash seeds. Had four hills of plants from which I sold squashes amounting to ninety-eight cents. Expenses of selling nine cents, leaving eighty-nine cents. Then bought an article and sold it, clearing nine cents. In all ninety-eight cents." The commendation. "Well done, good and faithful servant" (vs. 21, 23). Faithfulness is the first requisite of a servant. Faithfulness is a "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal. 5: 22, R. V.). To be faithful is to be full of faith. That patriarch of whose faith we read most is called "faithful Abraham" (Gal. 3: 9). The commendation is, "Be faithful," never "Be successful." Moses was faithful in stewardship (Num. 12: 7; Heb. 3: 2, 6). Samuel was "faithful" (1 Sam. 3: 20,

margin). He spoke God's word "faithfully" (Jer. 23: 29). David was the most faithful of the servants of Saul. (1 Sam. 22: 14.) Daniel was faithful to his king and to his God (Dan. 6: 4). Paul's eulogy of his son in the gospel was, Timothy was "faithful in the Lord" (1 Cor. 4: 17). One of the names of Jesus is "The faithful witness" (Rev. 1: 5). To be faithful here is to be crowned hereafter (Rev. 2: 10). A son whose father lay dying said, "Father, give me one word of condensed wisdom that I can remember and treasure." The dying man whispered the word, "Faithful." "Thou hast been faithful over a few things" (vs. 21, 23). A missionary bishop of the Church of England in Africa was to speak at a missionary meeting in London; only three people attended and the chairman proposed to give it up, but Bishop Steere insisted on speaking. At the close one of the three said, "You little know what you have done for me to-night. I came here thinking that missionary bishops were humbugs, and I came to make sure; but you have taught me the power of Christian faith and self-denial. I ask your pardon, and I beg to offer you all I have in my purse for your work." It was two hundred and fifty dollars.

The compensation. "I will make thee ruler over many things" (vs. 21, 23). "Who can tell what glory and honor await the faithful Christian, what vast limits of plans of benevolence God has in this vast universe of His which He is now training us to work out together with Him?"

The condemnation. "Wicked and slothful servant" (v. 26). God's servants, who in unbelief, misinterpret His providences, misunderstanding his commands, refuse to prove His promises, and neglect to use their talents for His glory, will in the hereafter have no reward.—A. C. M.



Claiborne says poultry manure is equal as a fertilizer to the best article of Peruvian guano, and if properly cared for under cover is worth as much as Pacific guano, which is usually worth from \$40 to \$50 per ton. Professor Norton says that 300 pounds of well kept hen manure are equal in value to 14 or 18 two-horse loads of stable manure. Science in Farming says 100 pounds of fresh droppings contains 32.8 pounds of nitrogen, 30.3 pounds of phosphoric acid and 17 pounds of potash.

That it pays to give cows on pasture supplementary food during the dry months of August and September has been demonstrated at the Kansas experimental station. Green corn, alfalfa, any of the sorghums can be more profitably used as soiling crops when pastures are short before the selling crops feed. Otis states that the selling crops feed a Kansas dairy herd brought in one year an income of \$18 per acre above the cost of the crop. In the western States alfalfa is probably the best soiling crop, but in the great corn-growing sections, where alfalfa does not grow readily, nothing is better than the ordinary field or sweet corn.

The Government estimates that rats alone do damage to crops, grain, food and other things to the amount of \$100,000,000 a year.

Dairymen will find that the most practical way for Guernsey or Jersey heifers to have the first calf is at about two years old. By following this practice they will develop into better cows and less none of their size, if properly fed and housed from the second year on. It is possible for them to go to three years old before dropping the first calf, if the owner will take great pains to see that they are not over-fed, and that their foods are almost entirely of the protein order. In a great many cases the beefy three-year-olds are obtained by feeding them heartily and heavily, when they have no use for their food, and therefore store it on their backs. In ordinary practice the greatest demand for milk products exists during the winter, and the heifer should be kept in the fall to meet that demand. The heifer should calve at that time. More milk is obtained by fall calving, and the expense of food and attention is lessened.

The secret of vigorous growth of ornamental trees lies in proper preparation of the soil before planting. Make the holes at least three feet across and of a like depth—you cannot make them large nor too deep. Do not dump old or large nor too deep. Do not dump in a lot of manure or trash of any kind, but first put back the surface soil, and, if possible, fill in the hole with nothing but surface soil from surrounding territory, leaving the other soil to be scattered where it may get aerated and enriched. If necessary to use manure, let it be well rotted and most thoroughly mixed with the soil before putting it around the tree.

The reason why there are so many pigs lost and so many small litters is that the breeding stock lacks constitutional vigor, by having descended from corn-fed stock. When the farmers of this country begin to feed their breeding stock on good blood and muscle-making feeds they will not have so much cholera nor so few pigs. The old razor-back sow that raised 10 pigs at a litter had a good constitution and very little fat on her ribs.

ARTIFICIAL INCUBATING AND BROODING.

(Canadian Poultry Review.)

One of the national problems in the poultry business just now is how to avoid the heavy loss in eggs between the producer and the consumer. There can be no doubt but that if the consumer can get eggs under a week old that are from hens getting wholesome food and the eggs are kept in cool, clean rooms, that the consumption will increase. When one visits almost any of the large dealers and sees the candles you are surprised at the poor quality of the eggs and their age. We must, if possible, get the eggs to their final destination more rapidly than heretofore. There is now, as I understand it, about seventeen per cent shrinkage on case counts. This is too large.

One of the large dealers has a trade for new laid eggs, but has so far been unable to supply this select trade. To meet his demand, he has been establishing co-operative egg circles, or co-operative egg associations. He requires

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of the farmers that they take the best care of the eggs, that is, eggs must not be put in from nests, no males are to run with hens after the breeding season. The eggs are to be clean, and further, must be kept in a cool, dry place. Each member is supplied with a stamp and each egg is marked with individual's number, so that the dealer knows from where the good or bad come. The eggs are gathered twice each week by the dealer and are tested before they are shipped. Should any poor, stale or bad eggs be found they are returned to the producer. The dealer, on his part, is paid from four to five cents per dozen above what the farmers have been receiving. This scheme should receive the encouragement of the fanciers, as it means that poultry on the farm will pay better, which in turn means better stock, better care of, and will stimulate the sale of strong, vigorous breeds.

The next great event to local poultrymen will be the Toronto exhibition, and then we will know at least partially whether there have been many early hatched chickens. I have seen a few recently ready to step in the show coop, well feathered and well grown, but it is possible and not improbable that some of the later ones during the next six weeks will come along and pass them.

This is one of the months when there is an ebb in many fanciers' enthusiasms. Do not get lazy, cheer up even if hatches were not as good as you expected, even though the chicks have grown as fast as you wished, or look like winners. The race is not over yet, and now is the time to keep down the lice, prevent crowding and supply green food and greens. It has been warm weather around here lately, and the chickens are not to be seen during the heat of the day. They all get under the colony houses, trees or bushes, anywhere out of the hot sun. Very early in the morning and late at night they run around after green food and insects. Please remember that as chickens grow in size they eat more food. If a quart was enough for the flock last week, it will take more next.

We have sold a number of Leghorn cockerels for broilers. Sometimes I wish I sold all of them, but one cannot find a bachelor's quarters for these chaps. This breed make fairly good broilers, but are not such as wasters, hence it pays better to take a dollar or a dollar and twenty-five cents for a hen next October. And, moreover, one's houses are not overcrowded. Many of the other breeds of cockerels have been shipped as broilers.

There has been an unusual demand this early in the season for utility cockerels and pullets. That is good, sturdy, well grown chickens, not necessarily fancy feathered.—W. R. G.

Florence Nightingale's Lover.

A romantic incident in the life of Florence Nightingale is mentioned in a recent telegram from Fox Lake, Wis. It states that Miss Nightingale in her girlhood was the sweetheart of William Shore, her cousin. As the church canon of consanguinity forbade them to marry they parted with mutual vows of constancy. Shore left England for America and settled in Fox Lake, Wis. He remained single there. He died in 1868 and was buried in Waukegan cemetery near the village. The Angel of the Crimea in her English home waited patiently for the messenger that has just taken her to her lover.—The Christian Herald.

Wheat, white	8 00	8 01
Do, red	0 90	0 91
Do, goose	0 85	0 80
Oats, new, bushel	0 39	0 40
Peas, bushel	0 76	0 78
Barley, bushel	0 39	0 40
Rye, Timothy, ton	17 00	16 00
Do, clover, ton	14 00	13 00
Alfalfa, clover	8 00	8 00
Hay, bushel, selling	7 50	8 00
No. 1, bushel	7 00	7 50
Pressed hogs	12 50	12 75
Butter, dairy	0 24	0 27
Do, inferior	0 20	0 22
Eggs, dozen	0 27	0 29
Chickens, lb.	0 14	0 15
Ducks, spring, lb.	0 14	0 16
Turkeys, lb.	0 17	0 19

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Fowl, lb.	0 10	0 12
Chickens, dozen	0 35	0 30
Killiflower, dozen	0 75	1 00
Potatoes, new, big	0 55	0 60
Beef, hindquarters	10 00	12 00
Do, forequarters	7 00	8 00
Do, choice, carcass	10 00	10 50
Do, medium, carcass	8 50	9 50
Mutton, prime, per cwt.	8 00	10 00
Veal, prime, per cwt.	10 00	12 00
Lamb, cwt.	11 00	12 00

THE FRUIT MARKET.

Oranges, case	\$4 50	\$5 00
Lemons, case	4 00	5 00
Bananas, bunch	1 50	1 75
Peaches, white, bkt	0 20	0 60
Do, choice	0 75	1 10
Pears, bkt	0 30	0 75
Plums, bkt	0 75	0 90
Apples, bbl	2 00	3 50
Watermelons, each	0 15	0 25
Grapes, bkt	0 10	0 15
Cantaloupes, crate	0 40	0 50
Potatoes, new, bbl	4 00	0 00
Tomatoes, bkt	0 25	0 30
Peppers, green	0 30	0 40
Do, red	0 60	0 75
Egg plant, bkt	0 25	0 00
Corn, dozen	0 06	0 00
Cranberries, Spanish large case	2 25	2 50
Cranberries, bbl	8 00	0 00

Trade was fairly active, with offerings liberal. Prices are unchanged.

Gramulated, \$5.20 per cwt. in barrels; No. 1 golden, \$4.80 per cwt. in barrels; No. 1 heavier, \$5 per cwt. in bags. These prices are for delivery here. Car lots 5c less. In 100 pound bags prices are 5c less.

OTHER MARKETS.

BRITISH CATTLE MARKETS.
New York—London and Liverpool cables quote American cattle steady at 12 to 12c per pound, dressed weight; refrigerator beef at 10 1/2 to 11 1/4c per pound.

WINNIPEG WHEAT MARKET.
Wheat—October 97c, December 95 1/2c, May \$1.02.
Oats—October 34 1/2c, December 35 1/2c, May 39 1/2c.

THE CHEESE MARKETS.

Brookville, Ont.—At the regular weekly meeting of the Brookville Cheese Board to-day 2,870 boxes were registered, 2,885 colored, balanced white; all sold at 11 1/2c.

Vankleek Hill, Ont.—There were 1,338 boxes white and 275 colored, cheese boarded and sold on Vankleek Hill Cheese Board to-day. Price offered was 11 1/2c; all sold at this figure.

Kingston—At the Frontenac Cheese Board this forenoon, 200 boxes colored and 478 white were boarded; nearly all were sold at 11 1/2c.

Belleville—At the Cheese Board to-day 2,385 boxes were offered for sale. Mr. Lind, for Hodgson Bros., secured 1,700 boxes at 11 3/8c. Balance sold at 11 3/8c. Last week the price paid was 11 1/8c.

MONTREAL LIVE STOCK.

Montreal—Live stock receipts at the C. P. R. yard and market to-day were 1,100 cattle, 900 sheep and lambs, 1,500 hogs, and 300 calves. Choice steers were a little lower, and sold at \$5.50; while lower grades brought \$4 to \$4.50; cows, \$3.25 to \$5; bulls, \$2.75 to \$3.50. Sheep were steady at \$3.50 to \$4, and lambs at \$5 to \$5 1/2. Hogs were unchanged at \$9 to \$9.25, and sows at \$3 to \$3.25. Calves sold all the way from \$3 to \$15, according to quality. Receipts at the Montreal stockyards western market to-day were 500 cattle, 700 sheep and lambs, 600 hogs and 100 calves. Top steers brought \$5.50 to \$5.75; medium, \$4 to \$4.25; bulls, \$4. Hogs were steady at \$9.25, and sows, \$8.25. Lambs sold at \$5.50 to \$5.75, and sheep at \$4. Calves brought \$3 to \$12.

BRADSTREET'S TRADE REVIEW.

Montreal reports to Bradstreet's say general trade has had a much quieter tone than was reported last week. The thousands of visitors here for the Executive Congress have left for home, and the result of their presence is seen in the large number of good orders which associate business have from many country retailers who are returning to their homes. In this respect prospects are up to expectations. Some orders are beginning to arrive. As a business continues to show improvement and the likelihood for a good fall and a surplus was predicted for some parts of the West seems much more remote than a week ago.

Toronto reports to Bradstreet's say all lines of fall trade are now moving briskly, and indications are that the turn over will be considerably heavier than that of last year. Western shipments of general goods are particularly good, as like and rail freights and this year will continue until the close of navigation. Retail trade has been good and a good sorting up business in dry goods is noted. In clothing a particularly good season seems to be ahead. While the outlook for winter trade has never been anything but good, it also there has been improvement during the past week.

Winnipeg reports say that trade situation there continues exceedingly reassuring.

Vancouver and Victoria reports say there continues an excellent demand from interior points for all lines of commodities, and the seasons' trade will prove a record in volume.

Quebec reports to Bradstreet's say conditions show little change from those of the preceding week.

Hamilton reports say a good, steady trade is noted in all lines of retail business and wholesalers report a satisfactory volume of sorting up business in fall lines. Local factories are busy and it is stated this city is to be the home of another big steel company. Trade in the surrounding district is good.

London reports say the annual fair being over, trade has taken on a somewhat quieter tone, but country business has improved as travellers have returned to their routes and are beginning to send in good orders and up orders.

Ottawa reports say last week saw an excellent city trade, due to the large number of people visiting the annual Exhibition.

"My dear, the boys have been begging me to play poker with them again; won't you let me," he begged. "Not much," she answered. "N" one but an easy mark is no popular with poker players."—Buffalo Express.