# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson X. June 6, 1915.

Nathan Rebukes David.—2 Samuel 11: 1-12:7. Print 11: 22-12: 7.

Commentary.—I. David's grievous fall (11: 1-21). 1-5. When we contemplate the splendid character of David, and the glory of his many triumphs; when we survey at a glance his exaltation from a humble shepherd boy to the widely-honored king of Jehovah's people, and think of his many unrivaled excellences of mind and heart, we are ready to wish that his life had closed before these crimes of adultery and blood-guiltiness had polluted his mighty soul and darkened his life history with an ineffaceable stain.—Whedon. The history here recorded may be regarded as a strong argument in support of the authenticity of the scriptures. The sacred biographer did not in any sense try to cover up David's sins, nor did he seek to shield him from blame. He tells the story with a simplicity and a candor that convince the reader of its truthfulness. A writer who would make a hero of David would speak of his sins in milder terms or would pass over them altogether. David was of mature age and must have known well the consequences in one's life and influence of such a course as he contemplated. He allowed his passions to run riot, and he was plunged into infamy. His sin shows that good men must remember their liability to fall, and must be constantly watchful lest they yield to temptation. Bath-sheba, who was partaker of his sin, did not exercise becoming prudence. She exposed herself to the view of David, and she later seems to have offered no resistance to his desires; thus she contributed to the downfall of both.

6-21. One sin led to another, as is usually the case. Uriah, the husband of Bath-sheba, was one of David's most faithful and capable warriors. So devoted was he that he would not leave the king's service in time of war to enjoy the comforts of his home, even when urged to do so by the king. David became desperate, for the death penalty, the punishment for adultery, was likely to be inflicted upon Bath-sheba and himself. Uriah must be put out of the way that David might take his wife for himself. He would not slay him, but he would give instructions to Joab, the general of his army, to place him where he would be almost certain to lose his life. He thus became guilty of shedding innocent blood to cover his own guilt. Uriah was slain in the battle, for Joab followed the directions given him by David, and thus apparently became in some degree involved with David in the crime of murder. Dr Clarke says, in summing up the whole affair: "For my own part, I must say that I pity David, I venerate Uriah, I detest Joab, and I think meanly of Bath-sheba"; but while David was to be pitied, he deserved also to be strongly condemned, for of what greater sin could he have been guilty?

II. Bath-Sheba becomes David's wife (11.22-27). 22. The messenger—Joab sent a messenger from Rabbah, a city of the Ammonites, twenty-two miles east of the Jordan, to David with word regarding the war which he was waging. The main purpose, however, in sending the messenger was to inform David that Uriah was dead. 23. Came out unto us—Joab with his army was besieging Rabbah and the men of the city made a sally against Joab's army. We were upon them—The army of Israel drove their assailants back to the gate of the city. 24. Shooters shot from off the wall—Joab appears to have shown poor military ability in sending his men so close to the walls of the city that they could be reached by the arrows of archers on the walls. Uriah....is dead—Joab had so carefully obeyed the king's orders that Uriah fell, and special mention is made of his death by the messenger. 25. Thus shalt thou say unto Joab—This message was dictated by an abominable hypocrisy. He would thus affect sorrow for the fall of the noble Uriah, and seek to cover his own guilt in the matter.—Whedon. One as well as another—Joab was thus approved by David, though David knew that a plot had been laid by him and Joab to have Uriah slain.

26. Mourned for her husband —How deeply Bath-sheba mourned for Uriah we can not know with certainty, but all the circumstances indicate that the mourning was mostly formal. Her infatuation had cost her her virtue and a noble husband. 27. When the mourning was past—The usual period of mourning was seven days. In the case of prominent persons it was thirty days. The length of time that widows should mourn for their husbands is nowhere stated. David sent....and she became his wife—The guilty pair were acting contrary to all sense of propriety. They seemed to think their sin was not known and they would enjoy themselves in their new relation. Displeased the Lord—David had not yet settled with God. This record shows God's mind regarding David's course. God's displeasure was about to find expression in so emphatic a way that David would keenly realize the enormity of his sins.

III. David reproved (12. 1-7). 1. The Lord sent Nathan—Nathan was the prophet of the Lord to Israel. For a year David had been undisturbed in his sin by the prophet, but if his conscience had been slumbering it was now to be awakened. Two men in one city—In the parable the men represented David and Uriah. 2. Many flocks and herds—A parable well suited to a pastoral people. 3. One little ewe lamb—In striking contrast to the rich man's wealth. With his children—It was a pet lamb. The poor man had a wealth of affection for his small possession. 4. Took the poor man's lamb—The prophet was speaking a parable that most impressively showed the hatefulness of selfishness and injustice. 5. David's anger was greatly kindled—He could readily see the wickedness of the rich man and was justly incensed at the greedy man. As the Lord liveth—A form of oath or strong affirmation. 6. Shall restore the lamb fourfold—The Jewish law required a fourfold restoration for a sheep that had been taken wrongfully (Exod. 22. 1). David did not suspect that he was thus strongly condemning himself. The parable was having the designed effect. "It fastens on the essential guilt of David's sin; not its sensuality or its impurity, so much as its meanness and selfishness."—Stanley. 7. Thou art the man—All the guilt that David declared attached to the rich man in the story, rested upon himself. The prophet was fearless in his application of the truth, even if it involved the great king of Israel. This is an instance of the directness with which God deals with men. As Nathan proceeded with his account of David's sin, the king was conscience- smitten and confessed to the prophet, "I have sinned against the Lord." David's life was spared, but four of his sons died,—the first son of David and Bath-sheba, Amnon, Absolom and Adonijah. David found forgiveness, but the stain upon the page of his life's history was ineffaceable.

Questions.—Over what enemies did David's army triumph? Of what sins did David become guilty? How is his course a warning to us? How did God regard his acts? Whom did the Lord send to David? State the parable. What effect did the story have upon David? How did Nathan apply the parable?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—Effectual reproof.

I. Revealed the man of sin.
II. Led to confession of sin.
III. Declared the effect of sin.

I. Revealed the man of sin. The moral and spiritual aim of Nathan's parable was to awaken in the king the general sense of outraged justice concerning his own conduct. David's sin was a breach of the commandment which guards human life, and was committed when God was prospering him in all his affairs, when his people were bravely risking their lives in defence of their country and after he had spent many years in fellowship with God. David's protracted labor of years had secured a compact kingdom with internal unity. Saul's family had been cared for. The government was organized and labor divided. The war with the Syrians was in the hands of a powerful force under a skilful general. David had leisure unknown in former years. In the exercise of his freedom and the abuse of his power, David disregarded the responsibilities of his office and fell from his moral elevation into the depths of sin to the verge of destruction. It was God's design that David's sin should be fully manifested to effect a perfect cure, therefore all his plans for concealment failed. David's endeavor to hide his transgression was a tacit acknowledgment of its disreputable character, beginning in lust and ending in murder. Nathan was not sent as a herald of vengeance, but to reprove and convince of sin. His parable touched upon the experience of David. He had known what it was to be poor. He knew what it was to possess and love the lambs. The wise prophet led David to pass unconscious verdict upon himself. The effect of the application of the parable is a remarkable illustration of the power of conscience. The force of truth came in the particular application of it. The wicked man upon the throne saw for the first time what his sin really involved. It was guilt calculated upon, persisted in, covered up by sophistry and self-excusing. He had accomplished the death of his faithful servant Uriah, a brave soldier, whom he had sent without warning to his doom, through the help of Joab, an able, but unscrupulous, general and a ready accomplice in David's sin. In that fatal letter to Joab, David signed away his liberty and surrendered himself to his accomplice, who served him that he might gain power over him. David seemed to have lost sight of the one Witness of the whole transaction of his guilt. The most potent element in Nathan's utterance was the direct charge of God. His words contained an inquiry and a statement. It was a time of conviction, of probing and heart-searching.

II. Led to confession of sin. It became evident to David that his long-kept secret was known to his most influential and incorruptible subject and friend and that God was speaking directly to his conscience. The eye of conscience, turned in upon himself, gave fresh life to the old suppressed loyalty to righteousness and God, and as a consequence full confession came of his sin against God. The purpose of the parable was reached. He was self-convicted, self-condemned. His sense of sin was the beginning of his salvation. David saw himself as Nathan saw him and as God saw him. It was divine favor that sent Nathan. David's great sin was met and mastered by God's great grace. A vision of divine love melted the hardened heart. It was a rapid transition of feeling through which David passed from indignation at another's supposed sin to the acknowledgment of his own actual crime.

III. Declared the effect of sin. The change in David's moral condition had a pernicious influence ever after on his rule, in his court, on his private life and on the general prosperity of his kingdom. Loss of respect, loss of executive power, loss of influence was inevitable. His sin was the turning-point in his career, which was henceforth marked by a long series of calamities. Without giving the convicted king time to enlarge upon his confession, Nathan told of the retribution that was sure to come by the hand of God. He was to reap according to his sowing. Forgiveness established the restoration of favor and fellowship with God, which had been interrupted by sin, but its effects would be visited upon his family.—T. R. A.


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# Boots That Stood the Test

AMES HOLDEN McCREADY LIMITED, Canada's largest shoe manufacturers, supplied, within thirty-three days, 32,217 pairs of leather ankle boots and 30,000 pairs of canvas shoes for the outfitting of the First Canadian Contingent, the largest quantity supplied by any manufacturer.

These boots were worn by our soldiers on active service both in this country and in the training camps in England. They were subjected to the most severe usage that boots could be subjected to. They travelled over rough roads and smooth. They waded through mud and through slush past all description. They were soaked by the never-ceasing rains of an abnormally wet English winter. They were baked on hot stoves, grilled on steam radiators and roasted before open fires. Yet, THEY STOOD THE TEST.

Out of the entire 32,217 pairs of leather boots supplied by this company only a single pair was shown to be open to criticism when the Government enquiry was made six months later.

Experts employed by the Government examined 1365 pairs and 348 odd boots made by various manufacturers. Among the number were found only seven pairs of boots of Ames Holden McCready manufacture, of which five were found to be repairable, one pair unrepairable, and ONE PAIR HAD A SOLE UNDER GAUGE.

The best proof of the durability and serviceability of the Ames Holden McCready boots, however, was afforded by the sworn statements of soldiers who had worn these boots constantly from the time they were issued in September, 1914, right through to March, 1915. They swore that they had worn the boots through all the rough experiences at Valcartier and on Salisbury Plain and that they had given excellent service throughout. Sergeant Nussey, of Toronto, who had served twelve years in the British Army, appeared before the Committee with a pair of such boots still on his feet and submitted them to the committee's inspection.

The testimony of these witnesses has since been amply corroborated by numerous reports and letters received from officers and soldiers at the front all testifying to the good wearing qualities of the Ames Holden McCready boots.

* * * *

When the question was raised concerning the quality of the Canadian soldiers' boots, Ames Holden McCready Limited placed themselves IMMEDIATELY upon record, by writing to the Government, as desirous of having the most thorough investigation of the matter. The appointment of a Parliamentary Committee and the official enquiry followed. It occupied several weeks' time. The Committee stopped at nothing in their efforts to get at all the facts.

This Company purchased the best leather and supplies available in Canada and spared no expense in manufacturing the boots. All our invoices, and shop and manufacturing records were produced before the Parliamentary Committee for their inspection and information. We had nothing to hide and were proud of the boots which were furnished to the Government.

THE AMES HOLDEN McCREADY BOOTS CAME OUT OF THE ORDEAL UNSCATHED.

The Committee reported to Parliament that the boots supplied by this company substantially complied with the sample, that no paper or other fraudulent substances had been employed in their manufacture and that all charges involving the integrity of this company or of the boots supplied by them had been abundantly disproven by the sworn evidence taken before the Committee.

The report, which was adopted by Parliament, was A COMPLETE VINDICATION FOR AMES HOLDEN McCREADY LIMITED.

* * * *

In bringing these facts prominently before the people of the Dominion, Ames Holden McCready Limited are actuated by the desire not only to protect their own good name — which needs no vindication with the thousands of Canadians who are familiar with this company and its products — but also that of a notable and important Canadian industry, which has been unwarrantably aspersed.

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## WELL TREATED

### Canadian Prisoner of War in Germany Writes of Usage.

London Cable—A Canadian Soldier, who is a prisoner at Geisson, writes quite favorably of the present conditions there. "We are being well treated," he says. Our health is looked after and everything has to be kept scrupulously clean. I hope our capture will not be considered a disgrace. Those of us who were left surrendered when the crowds of German infantry were on all sides of us. Sheets of lead from rifles and machine guns were sweeping over the parrapet of our trench, while sharpnel fired from our rear was bursting all over us. We were under heavy rifle, machine gun and shell fire for two nights and days. I had bullets through my haversack and cap and was struck in the back by a piece of split shrapnel without receiving any injury. So far as cleanliness and comfort are concerned, we are better off than at Salisbury Plain. We are getting three meals a day, coffee and bread for breakfast, and a litre of very good vegetable soup for dinner and supper. We can buy a few things here, such as butter and Sardines.

"You say you saw me kiss your sister last night? Don't you suppose you could be mistaken?" "Sure, I could—for a quarter. That's what the other fellers always give me!"—Chicago News.

## MARKET REPORTS

### TORONTO MARKETS.

FARMERS' MARKET.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Eggs, new laid, dozen | 0 23 | 0 25 |
| Butter, choice dairy | 0 30 | 0 34 |
| Spring chickens, dressed | 0 50 | 0 55 |
| Chickens, yearlings, dressed, lb. | 0 20 | 0 22 |
| Turkeys, dressed | 0 25 | 0 30 |
| Apples, Can., bbl. | 2 00 | 3 50 |
| Potatoes, bag | 0 50 | 0 60 |
| Onions, yellow, case | 1 85 | 0 00 |
| Do., Bermuda, case | 1 65 | 2 00 |
| Strawberries, box | 0 13 | 0 16 |

MEATS—WHOLESALE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Beef, forequarters, cwt | $10 00 | $11 50 |
| Do., hindquarters | 14 00 | 15 50 |
| Do., choice sides | 12 00 | 13 00 |
| Do., common, cwt. | 8 00 | 9 50 |
| Veals, common, cwt. | 7 00 | 9 00 |
| Do., prime | 12 00 | 14 00 |
| Shop Hogs | 11 50 | 12 00 |
| Do., heavy | 10 00 | 10 75 |
| Lambs | 16 00 | 19 00 |
| Mutton, light | 10 00 | 14 00 |

SUGAR MARKET.

Sugars are quoted as follows:—

| | per cwt. |
|---|---|
| Extra granulated, Redpath's | $6 71 |
| Do., 20-lb. bags | 6 81 |
| Do., St. Lawrence | 6 71 |
| Do., 20-lb. bags | 6 81 |
| Lantic, granulated, 100's | 6 71 |
| Do., 50 2-lb. cartons | 7 01 |
| Do., 20 5-lb. cartons | 7 01 |
| Do., 10 10's and 5 20's, gunnies | 6 81 |
| Do., brilliant yellow | 6 31 |
| St. Lawrence, No. 1 Yellow | 6 81 |
| Acadia | 6 61 |
| Dominion crystals | 6 55 |

LIVE STOCK.

Receipts:—221 cattle; 154 calves; 2,096
Total reserve increased 11,086,000; circu-

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Butcher cattle, choice | 8 00 | to | 8 30 |
| Do., medium | 6 75 | to | 7 25 |
| Do., common | 6 00 | to | 6 50 |
| Butcher cows, choice | 7 00 | to | 7 40 |
| Do., medium | 5 50 | to | 6 25 |
| Do., canners | 4 00 | to | 4 25 |
| Do., bulls | 7 00 | to | 7 60 |
| Feeding steers | 7 00 | to | 7 50 |
| Stockers choice | 6 75 | to | 7 25 |
| Do., light | 6 00 | to | 6 50 |
| Milkers, choice, each | 65 00 | to | 90 00 |
| Springers | 50 00 | to | 85 00 |
| Sheep, ewes | 6 75 | to | 7 50 |
| Bucks and culls | 5 50 | to | 6 00 |
| Lambs | 9 00 | to | 10 00 |
| Hogs, fed and watered | 9 50 | to | 9 65 |
| Hogs, f. o. b. | 9 25 | to | 9 30 |
| Calves | 2 00 | to | 9 50 |

### OTHER MARKETS.

WINNIPEG GRAIN OPTIONS.

| | Open. | High. | Low | Close. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wheat— | | | | |
| May | 1 55⅝ | 1 55⅝ | 1 52⅞ | 1 53¾ |
| July | 1 54⅝ | 1 54⅞ | 1 52½ | 1 53⅝ |
| Oct. | 1 20¾ | 1 21½ | 1 20½ | 1 21½ |
| Oats— | | | | |
| May | 0 62⅝ | 0 62⅝ | 0 62½ | 0 62½ |
| July | 0 63½ | 0 63½ | 0 63⅛ | 0 63¼ |
| Flax— | | | | |
| May | | | | 1 77½ |
| July | 1 79 | 1 79⅝ | 1 78¾ | 1 79⅝ |
| Oct. | 1 82½ | 1 82⅝ | 1 82 | 1 82⅝ |

MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Wheat—No. 1 hard, $1.56⅞; No. 1 Northern, $1.50⅝ to $1.51⅞; No. 2 Northern, $1.46⅞ to $1.53⅛; July, $1.47⅝. Corn—No. 3 yellow, 72 to 72½c. Oats—No. 3 white, 52 to 52½c. Flour and bran unchanged.

DULUTH GRAIN MARKET.

Duluth—Wheat—No. 1 hard, $1.53⅝; No. 1 Northern, $1.52⅝; No. 2 Northern $1.47⅛ to $1.50⅝; July, $1.49⅝. Linseed, $1.95⅞; July, $1.97¾.

CHEESE MARKETS.

Kingston—At the meeting of the Frontenac Cheese Board here to-day 649 boxes offered. 169 boxes of white sold at 18 7-16c, and 580 boxes colored at 18 3-8c.

Vankleek Hill—There were 1,069 white and 106 boxes colored cheese boarded on Vankleek Hill Cheese Board here to-day. Price offered was 18 7-16c. All selling on board at above figure; six buyers present.

Brockville—At to-day's cheese board meeting the offerings were 2,271 white and 1,909 colored, the highest offer 18 1-8c was refused, and no sales were made.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Market steady.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Steers, native | 7 10 | to | 9 35 |
| Western steers | 6 75 | to | 8 20 |
| Cows and heifers | 3 35 | to | 8 85 |
| Calves | 7 00 | to | 9 75 |

Hogs receipts, 20,000.
Market strong.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Light | 7 50 | to | 7 85 |
| Mixed | 7 45 | to | 7 90 |
| Heavy | 7 20 | to | 7 75 |
| Rough | 7 20 | to | 7 35 |
| Pigs | 6 00 | to | 7 40 |
| Bulk of sales | 7 65 | to | 7 75 |

Sheep receipts, 8,000.
Market unsettled.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Native | 7 00 | to | 8 00 |
| Lambs, native | 7 75 | to | 10 65 |

BUFFALO LIVE STOCK.

East Buffalo, Despatch—Cattle receipts, 100; steady.

Veals—Receipts, 25; active; $4.50 to $9.25.

Hogs—Receipts, 1,600; active; heavy, $8.10 to $8.15; pigs, $8.20 to $8.25; roughs, $6.75 to $6.90; stags, $5 to $5.75.

Sheep and lambs—Receipts, 1,200; slow; lambs, $6 to $10.65; yearlings, $5.50 to $9.25; wethers, $7.75 to $8; ewes, $3 to $7; sheep, mixed, $7.25 to $7.50.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Receipts were: cattle, 350; cows and springers, 65 calves 1,000; sheep and lambs 350; hogs 1,085.

Prime beeves 8 1-4 to 8 3-4.
Medium 6 1-2 to 8 1-4.
Common 5 to 6 1-2.
Cows $50 to $80 each
Two short horn cows brought $200 and two large holstein cows $250.
Calves 5 to 8 1-2.
Sheep 5 to 7.
Lambs $4.50 to $6.50.
Hogs 9 1-2 to 9 3-4.

## KILLING FROST

### In Lake Region, Broke May Records of Many Years.

Washington, Des...—Killing frosts throughout the lake region and the middle Atlantic States broke May weather records of many years last night and promise unseasonably cold weather for the next 24 hours.

Reports to the Weather Bureau this morning indicate a heavy damage to fruits and vegetables throughout that section, particularly in the interior of New York.

In the parlance of the weather bureau experts, "a strong high area" over the lake region, which arose to block the path of a storm from western Canada, was responsible for the early summer phenomenon.

While ice was being formed on standing water, and crops were frozen in the east, warm showers were playing over the central valleys.

He was a bold man that first ate an oyster.—Swift.


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