SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON XII. September 22, 1918

Fruits of the Christian life.—Matt. 25; 14-30; 5; 1-12.

COMMENTARY.—I. Rewards for well-doing (25; 14-30). 14-19. The parable of the talents was spoken by our Lord during the last day of his public teaching. It was on the Tuesday before his trial and crucifixion. The great lesson which it emphasizes is that of faithfulness. This quality is illustrated in the conduct of two servants to whom the master, who was going into a far country, committed his property to be used for him while he was gone. To the first servant he committed five talents, or a sum variously estimated from five thousand dollars to ten thousand dollars, if the silver talent is meant or many times that sum if the talent intended was gold, for the talent was of Jewish weight. To a second servant was entrusted two talents and to a third servant one talent. The first two servants made use of their respective sums, but the third hid his money away in the earth. After a long absence the master returned and called upon his servants for an accounting of what he had entrusted to them. The talents here represent whatever of ability, time or property we have. These are entrusted to us to be used for God's glory, and we shall be brought to give an account to God for the use we have made of them. The day when the servants were called upon to render up their accounts to the master. 20. He that had received five talents came—The master began with the one who had received the largest sum. 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 only come through a consecrated, 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 in the world to come. 22. Thou deliveredst unto me two talents—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 the five talents, and his reward was just as comprehensive and satisfactory. His joy was full. 3. Into the joy of thy lord—Whatever this may mean, the servant was to share the joys of his master. He was to partake of the choice fruits of his own faithfulness. 24-30. The lesson of the rewards of faithfulness is made emphatic by the consideration of the treatment accorded the servant who failed to make use of the talent entrusted to him.

II. Blessings promised (5: 1-12). 1, 2. During the second year of Christ's earthly ministry he organized his kingdom by choosing twelve disciples and laying before them the principles upon which that kingdom is founded. These great truths are set forth in the Sermon on the Mount, which was delivered to his disciples and the multitudes in Galilee, probably on the Horns of Hattin, three miles west of the Sea of Galilee. 3. Blessed—The word happy is too weak to express the thought here. Blessed implies a joy that is spiritual, whose source is divine, "produced by God's sunshine in the soul." Poor in spirit—The spirit is the immortal nature in man; and especially the moral part wherewith a man is religious and receives and communes with the divine Spirit. —Whedon. The poor in spirit are those who realize their need and feel their spiritual poverty. They are penitent and hence are in a condition to receive the promised blessing. Those who are proud and self-satisfied are far from being poor in spirit. Those who humble themselves and repent of their sins are candidates for the blessing attached to this condition. Kingdom of heaven—There is a sharp contrast between temporal poverty and the possession of the kingdom of heaven. Christ comes into the heart and sets up his kingdom, which is "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost," and reigns there himself. 4. Mourn—Here is expressed a want, a longing. They mourn because they have sinned. This does not refer to worldly or temporal sorrow. It does not mean mourning for lost health, wealth or friends, but godly sorrow that "worketh repentance not to be repented of." Comforted—The Lord comforts by speaking the words of pardon and peace to their hearts. True joy is frequently the fruit of sorrow. This promise is positive, "shall be comforted." 5. Meek—"Of gentle and long-suffering disposition; of peaceable temper; submissive, compliant, yielding." When this due composure of mind has reference to God, it is termed "resignation"; when it is exerted toward men it is "mildness and gentleness"; when we consider it with regard to ourselves we style it "patience."—Wesley. Inherit the earth—The land; an expression frequently used by the prophets to signify the land of Canaan. Under this figure our Lord promises the abundance of spiritual good provided for in the gospel. The Canaan for perfect rest and joy and peace is the inheritance of those who are truly meek. 6. Hunger and thirst—These strong expressions set forth the longing of the soul for spiritual good.

7. Blessed are the merciful—Those who feel for the woes and distresses of others, whether friends or enemies, and open their hearts for their relief. "The merciful," says Erasmus, "are those who weep over the calamities of others, who feed the hungry and clothe the naked, admonish those in error and pardon the offending." Obtain mercy—He shall be dealt with in mercy by God and man. The exercise of mercy brings its own reward. "It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes." There is genuine satisfaction in being merciful to others, and God and our fellow men repay us in addition by being compassionate toward us. We are able by nature to extend mercy to others, though this ability is greatly enhanced by grace. 8. Blessed are the pure in heart—Paul says, "Now the end of the commandement is charity out of a pure heart" (1 Tim. 1: 5). The purpose of the gospel is to make the heart pure. To be more in heart is to have all sin removed, and John says, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1: 7). Man cannot make his heart pure, but God can. Shall see God—Only those who hearts are pure have correct spiritual eyesight. The pure in heart are like God, hence they are able to discern him. They see him in his word, in his providence, in their hearts. They see him because they desire him above every other object. 9. Blessed are the peacemakers—The peacemaker is one who is peaceable himself and seeks to promote peace wherever his influence extends. Jesus is the great example of this class. He came to bring peace to earth, yet he was always opposed to unrighteousness, and severely denounced hypocrisy and other forms of sin. Children of God—God is spoken of in the Bible as the God of peace. Those who "follow peace with all men" (Heb. 12: 14) are like him and are called his children. They become such by being born of the spirit and adopted into the family of God. 10. Persecuted for righteousness' sake—Pursued, cruelly hounded, because they maintain and practise righteous principles. They seek to make the world better and are hated by evil-doers. Theirs—They have the same blessing that is pronounced upon the poor in spirit in verse 3. 11, 12. A blessing is also promised to God's people when they are reviled, or slandered for Jesus' sake. They are exhorted to rejoice and be glad, for this was the treatment accorded to the Old Testament prophets.

Questions.—When was the parable of the talents spoken? How were the talents distributed? What can be said as to the money value of the talents? What did the master expect of his servants? What did the master do upon his return? What did the talents represent? What is the teaching of the parable? Upon what class of people does the Lord pronounce blessings?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—How Christ Blesses His Followers on Earth and in Heaven.

I. Christ the source of blessing.

II. Earthly blessings.

III. Heavenly benedictions.

I. Christ the source of blessing. There is no Christianity apart from Christ. It can not be perpetual, either as a system of religious faith, or as a personal experience apart from his vital, immanent presence. the gospel presents not a theory or creed, but a living person as the object of faith and affection. His indwelling is as essential to its continuance as the spirit is to the preservation and activities of physical life. Christ only accounts for Christianity, and Christianity is the only interpretation of Christ. "In him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily:" first, for the purpose of revelation; second, for the purpose of communication. "The only begotten Son. . . he hath declared him." Christ has revealed the fatherhood of God. Sin forfeited are relationship, and the term is unknown under the law. It belongs to the vocabulary of redemption. Christ is the only medium of approach to God, and as the High Priest of our Christian profession, transforms by his atonement and intercession, the throne of justice into the throne of grace. We come unto God by him.

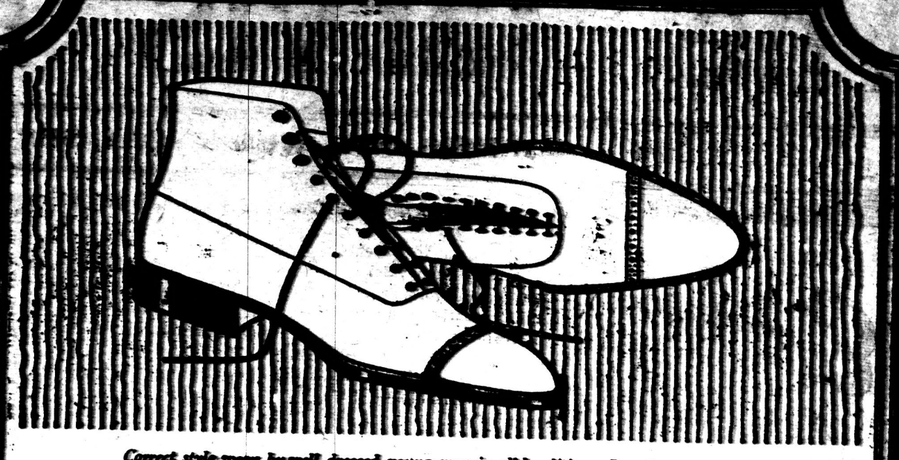
II. Earthly blessings. Godliness has a two-fold promise: 'the life that now is;" "that which is to come." In the greatest sermon ever preached, Jesus makes the birds and flowers the silent witnesses to divine care for the temporal needs of his followers, and tells us that to seek "first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness," is the surest way of securing needed blessings. All human efforts are but failures without his cooperation. We may will, but can not execute apart from divine permission.

"Except the Lord conduct the plan,
The best concerted schemes are vain,
And never can succeed."

James sharply reproves independent planning. "Ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." Spiritual blessings are embraced in moral restoration. "He restoreth my soul." The result of sin is threefold: derangement of moral relationships; enslavement of moral faculties; pollution of moral nature. Restoration involves also a threefold process: justification, which restores relationship; regeneration, which releases from moral bondage, sanctification, which purifies from moral pollution. The result is the "fruit of the Spirit" in heart and life.

III. Heavenly benedictions. The Bible tells us much, and yet little concerning the future state. Its silences are as significant as its statements. There is enough for assurance and comfort, but nothing to gratify curiosity. What the unfoldings will be is determined by the character and conduct of the present. There are no gratuitous rewards of retributions. Heaven is both state and place; but is essentially the former. No place or conditions could produce it if the moral state were wanting. Three conditions must enter into its experience: completeness, congeniality, permanency. There will be the absence of all conditions resulting from the fall, and its effects. "There shall be no more curse." Hence, "no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

W. H. C.



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About the Crops and Live Stock

Timely Items and Practical Information to Be Put Into Effect This Month.

By September most of the grain in Ontario has been cut, and all that remains is the harvesting of the corn, potatoes and root crops. On account of the late maturing varieties of corn that have had of necessity to be grown in the province this year, it is probable that much of the corn will have to be cut before it is properly mature. The best time to cut corn for silage is when it is in the firm dough or glazed stage.

There is quite an art in making first-class silage. The best silage is made when no water is added, but, at the same time, we have seen very good silage when a large quantity of water has been added. It should be well tramped down, especially around the sides.

If the corn is very juicy and lacking in maturity when cut, it is best to let it lie a few days before putting it into the silo. The corn binder is a great help in harvesting the crop, and if a farmer does not feel like buying one himself, he might get one or two of his neighbors to go shares with him.

With a corn binder and three horses in corn that is standing well, three men, one to drive and two to shock, can harvest about twice as much as when cutting by hand. From seven to nine acres can be cut in a ten-hour day with a binder. The same three men could scarcely cover more than four acres in the same length of time when cutting by hand. With the binder they can cut and shock a forty-acre field of corn in a week or less, effecting a big saving in time.

The binder delivers the corn in bundles, which makes it considerably easier to handle, both in loading on wagons and at the ensilage cutter. If the corn is very dry when harvested or has been caught by the frost, it will be necessary to add some water to keep out the air and make the silage pack properly. Just how much water should be added will depend on circumstances. Experience is the best guide.

When corn is not put in the silo it should be stooked. Large stooks are best as the corn will keep better. Some farmers prefer dry fodder corn to silage. Robert Miller, of Stouffville, considers that silage is bad for bulls that are being used for service, and cuts his corns and leaves it out in the field and hauls it in as required. For the man who is feeding dairy cows or fattening cattle for the market the silo, however, is well nigh indispensible. Silage is cheaper to grow than roots, and experiments have shown that a cow will produce more milk and a steer will make better gains if the corn is made into silage rather than fed dry.

The work on the cultivated crops is practically over with this month. If the cultivation has been thorough during the early part of the season the crop should be free of weeds, and any weeds that may start to grow now will stand a poor chance against the crop which is already in possession of the land.

Now is a good time to go over the potato field and mark the hills that are to be used for seed next year. Hills should be selected that have made vigorous growth and that are free from blight or other diseases.

The potatoes that are marked to be used for seed should be dug earlier than the other potatoes, as experiments have shown that immature potatoes make the best seed. Unless a man cares to take the trouble and select his seed potatoes in this way, it will be best for him to buy his seed. Seed obtained from northern Ontario is highly recommended by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, but a bad frost a few weeks ago did considerable damage to the potato crop, so that seed potatoes from this section may be scarce next year. It pays to take no chances.

The fall is the best time to prepare the land for next season's crop. All the fall plowing should be done that can be undertaken. The fall, moreover, is the best time to kill weeds. Many men kill weeds by summer fallowing, and then put wheat in, in the fall. They will certainly kill the weeds if the work is done thoroughly, but it means the loss of a year's crop. A better way is to practice after harvest cultivation.

As soon as the crop is taken off, the land should be plowed shallow, say three or four inches, and then cultivated. This will germinate the weeds, and they should then be killed by further cultivation and harrowing. This should be kept up until just before the freeze up, when the land should be ridged up with the double mould board plow.

The great advantage of fall plowing is that it saves labor in the spring. For mangels an ideal way to do is to practice after-harvest cultivation in the way described above, and then give the land a good dressing of barnyard manure just before the land is ridged up.

Old pastures and meadows should be plowed up frequently. If land is seeded down to grass too long, it will become infested with wireworms and white grubs. The fall is the best time to break up old sod.

Many good corn growers prefer to plow the land for corn in the spring, but if the land is at all heavy we would prefer to plow it in the fall. The freezing and thawing in the winter will help to break up the clods and an ideal seed bed can be made which, if the plowing were left to spring, might be very lumpy and uneven.

Now is the time to put lime on the soil. Just because a soil is not acid it does not mean that it does not require lime. On a heavy, tenacious clay we would apply lime whether it was acid or not. The lime will make the clay loose and friable and more easily worked. Four tons per acre of ground limestone may be used as an initial application, and two tons per acre every five or six years after that.

Foals should not be weaned too soon. No colt should be separated from his dam until he is four months old, and if he can be left with her for a month or two longer all the better. Much will depend on the condition of the colt and whether it is necessary to use the mare for heavy fall work. The weaning process should be gradual, both for the sake of the colt and the mare. If the colt is weaned too suddenly, it will fret and worry, and as likely as not suffer from indigestion. The mare also will fret and be uneasy about the colt, and unless she is milked out a few times probably will develop udder trouble. If the colt has been accustomed to eating at his mother's box if he is weaned gradually little trouble should be experienced.

Many farmers prefer to have their mares foal in the fall. A pregnant mare may be worked up almost to the time she drops her foal, but the work should be light. If she is subjected to a heavy strain there is danger of her losing her foal. A week or two before the foal is due, the mare should be placed in a roomy box stall which has been thoroughly disinfected, and which is well bedded with straw. She may be still worked, but at night she should be kept in the box stall, so that she will become accustomed to her new surroundings.

Young mares should be gently handled all over and become accustomed to having their udder and their teats handled. This may prevent trouble and embarrassment. Some mares do not like to have people around them when they have their foal, and if they become accustomed to being handled in this way before the foal comes they will not be so resentful if assistance is required when the foal is born.

It is doubtful whether it will pay to feed grain to beef cattle on pasture this year. As a rule when the pasture becomes dry and pretty well eaten over, it is best to ship the cattle to market. In some cases ,however, it may pay to give a little green feed. Green corn is excellent for this purpose. A man who has some silage left over from the winter is to be envied. Rape is used by some men as a fall pasture when they wish to keep their cattle and market them nearer Christmas time.

Most lambs will have been weaned by this time. If not they should be weaned at once. Care must be taken that udder trouble does not develop in the ewes. The lambs should be placed on some good clover or rape pasture. Be careful in turning them in this for the first time, otherwise their heads may swell up or they may develop bloat. Turn them in in the afternoon when there is no rain on the pasture, and only leave them in a few hours at first. When rape is being pastured it is a good plan to allow them the run of another field as well.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

Dairy Produce—		
Butter, choice dairy	$ 0 45	0 48
Do., creamery	0 48	0 52
Margarine, lb.	0 35	0 37
Eggs, new laid, doz.	0 52	0 55
Cheese, lb.	....	0 30
Do., fancy, lb.	....	0 35
Dressed poultry—		
Turkeys, lb.	0 30	0 33
Fowl, lb.	0 36	0 40
Spring chickens	0 45	0 50
Roosters, lb.	0 23	0 25
Ducklings, lb.	....	0 35
Fruits—		
Apples, basket	0 25	0 50
Blueberries basket	1 50	2 00
Do., box	....	0 25
Lawton berries	0 28	0 30
Mushrooms, lb.	0 40	0 50
Pears, 6-qt. bkt.	0 50	0 75
Do., 11-qt. bkt.	0 75	1 00
Plums, 6-qt. bkt.	0 50	0 75
Do., 11-qt. bkt.	1 00	1 25
Peaches, 6-qt. bkt.	0 50	0 80
Do., 11-qt. bkt.	1 00	1 25
Melons, bkt.	0 70	1 00
Do., each	0 05	0 20
Vegetables—		
Beans, small measure	....	0 15
Beets, new dozen	....	0 25
Carrots, new doz.	....	0 25
Corn, doz.	0 15	0 20
Cucumbers, bkt.	0 40	0 50
Do., picking bkt.	0 75	1 50
Cucumbers, doz.	....	0 25
Cabbage, each	0 05	0 10
Cauliflower, each	0 10	0 20
Celery, head	0 05	0 10
Egg plant, each	0 05	0 10
Gherkins, basket	1 00	1 25
Lettuce, head, bunch	....	0 05
Onions, 75-lb. sacks	2 00	2 25
Do., green bunch	0 04	0 05
Parsley, bunch	....	0 10
Pumpkins, each	0 15	0 25
Potatoes, new bag	2 00	2 25
Radishes, 3 bunches	....	0 10
Rhubarb, 3 for	....	0 10
Sage, bunch	....	0 05
Savory, bunch	0 05	0 10
Squash, each	0 10	0 25
Tomatoes, basket	0 30	0 50
Veg. marrow, each	0 05	0 10
MEATS—WHOLESALE		
Beef, forequarters	$17 00	$19 00
Do., hindquarters	26 00	28 00
Carcasses, choice	22 00	24 00
Do., common	19 00	21 00
Veal, common, cwt.	13 00	15 00
Do., medium	16 50	19 00
Do., prime	23 50	25 00
Heavy hogs, cwt.	19 00	21 00
Shop hogs	26 50	28 00
Abattoir hogs	26 00	27 00
Mutton, cwt.	29 00	35 00
Lamb, cwt.	27 00	28 00
Do., Spring, lb.	0 27	0 29

SUGAR MARKET

Toronto wholesalers quote on refined sugars, Toronto delivery, as follows:

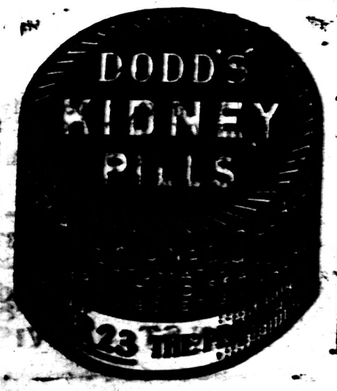
Redpath granulated	100 lbs.	$ 9 91
Do., No. 1 yellow	100 lbs.	$ 9 51
Do., No. 2 yellow	100 lbs.	$ 9 41
Do., No. 3 yellow	100 lbs.	$ 9 31
St. Lawrence granulated	100 lbs.	9 39
Do., No. 1 yellow	100 lbs.	9 09
Do., No. 2 yellow	100 lbs.	8 99
Do., No. 3 yellow	100 lbs.	8 89
Atlantic granulated	100 lbs.	9 74
Do., No. 1 yellow	100 lbs.	9 44
Do., No. 2 yellow	100 lbs.	9 34
Do., No. 3 yellow	100 lbs.	9 24

Barrels—20 5-lb. cartons, 60c. and 50 2-lb. cartons, 70c over bag. Gunnies, 5-20, 40c; 10-10-lb., 50c over bags.

Toronto Cattle Markets.

The market was strong for good steers and for veal calves, but weaker for heavies. Hogs were 25 cents higher; bacon hogs were in good demand; heavy hogs, 230 to 250 pounds, were not in demand. Lambs were unsettled, the best bringing $18. Sheep were steady.

Export cattle, choice	$14 00	$15 50
Do., medium	12 75	14 00
Export bulls	9 75	10 50
Butcher cattle, choice	10 50	11 50
Do., medium	9 50	10 50
Do., common	7 25	8 00
Butcher cows, choice	9 50	10 75
Do., medium	8 50	9 50
Do., canners	5 50	6 00
Butcher bulls	7 75	8 50
Feeding steers	8 75	9 25
Stockers, choice	8 25	8 50
Stockers, light	6 75	7 00
Milkers, choice	75 00	100 00
Springers, choice	85 00	[illegible]
Sheep, ewes	14 00	15 00
Bucks and culls	8 00	10 00
Lambs	17 50	18 00
Hogs, fed and watred	19 50	19 75
Hogs, f.o.b.	18 50	



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