

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL Sunday School 'Lesson'

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LESSON FOR MAY 13

DAVID, THE POET-KING

LESSON TEXT—1 Sam. 16-15.
GOLDEN TEXT—Surely, goodness and
mercy shall follow me all the days of my
life.—Ps. 23:6

REFERENCE MATERIAL—Ps. 51; Isa.
40:1-3; Jer. 31:25-26; Luke 1:1-2; Acts 2:20-24.
PRIMARY TOPIC—The Shepherd Boy
Chosen King.

JUNIOR TOPIC—God Calls a Boy to Be
King.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC
—David, as a Friend.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC
—Lessons From the Life of David.

I. Samuel Mourns for Saul (v. 1).
1. Why He Mourned. The death of
Saul was no doubt a personal loss to
Samuel, for Saul was a commanding
and lovable personality. Then, too,
the ruin of so promising a career
would deeply affect a soul like Sam-
uel. Finally the humiliation to God
and God's people grieved his heart.

2. Excessive Mourning Rebuked.
The fact that God had rejected Saul
should have lifted Samuel out of his
grief. Excessive grief over that which
God does is a reflection upon Him and
should be rebuked. In all God's acts
we should submit although it may
change our plans. When sorrow be-
comes a hindrance to the discharge
of duty, it merits rebuke.

II. Samuel Sent to Anoint David
(vv. 1-3).

1. Samuel's Fear (v. 2). Perhaps
by this time Saul was becoming a
desperate character. Samuel knew
that if Saul should hear that he was
taking steps to anoint a successor to
his throne, his own life would be in
danger. Samuel was wise in submit-
ting this difficult situation to the Lord.
God's servants are to be brave. But
even when going on errands for God
we should not court danger. We
should exercise the greatest caution
so that unnecessary dangers be
avoided.

2. The Lord's Direction (v. 2, 3).
The Lord smoothed the way for Sam-
uel. He showed him how to perform
his duty and escape the danger. Sam-
uel was to take a heifer and announce
that he was going to offer a sacrifice
unto the Lord and to call Jesse to the
sacrifice. The prophet was not told
all that would happen. This is usual
by God's way with us. He gives us
our work piece by piece and guides
us step by step. Samuel's purpose
was known only to him. It was to be
kept a secret so that the news would
not reach Saul. This was a shrewd
device but entirely legitimate. There
is not necessity for us to reveal all
our purposes.

III. Samuel's Obedience (vv. 4-13).

1. The Trembling Elders of Bethle-
hem (vv. 4, 5). It seems that the
whole nation was shot through with
fear because of Saul's sin. To the
elders' alarming inquiry Samuel re-
sponded with the assurance of peace,
inviting them to join him in worship-
ing the Lord.

2. Examination of Jesse's Sons (vv.
6-12). The Lord had revealed to Sam-
uel that one of Jesse's sons was to
be the new king, but not the particu-
lar one. The selection of the right
one was a most important matter as
destinies hung upon it. (1) Ellab
rejected (vv. 6, 7). Ellab was the
eldest son and therefore he was the
first presented as having first right to
the place of honor. Further, he was
a splendid specimen of a man, tall and
majestic in appearance so that even
Samuel was captivated by him as he
had been by Saul. (10:24). Outward
appearance was favorable but the
realities seen by God were against
him. God knows whom He can trust
with great responsibilities. We fre-
quently estimate men by their dress,
culture, wealth and position. These
are only surface manifestations and
frequently lead us astray, but God
looks into the heart. (2) David
chosen (vv. 8-12). All but one of
Jesse's sons had been looked upon
but still the Lord's choice had not ap-
peared. Jesse's reply to Samuel's
question as to whether all his children
had appeared seems to imply that
David was not of much importance.
He was considered good enough to
watch the sheep but not important
enough to be called to the feast. Be-
cause David was faithful as a shep-
herd boy, he was in line for promo-
tion when God's given time arrived.

3. David Anointed (v. 13). When
the shepherd lad appeared, the Lord
directed Samuel to anoint him. When
the oil was applied the Spirit of the
Lord came upon him. David was a
gifted and attractive lad but this
was of no avail without the Spirit
of God. Power must come from God.
Only as we are anointed by the Holy
Ghost can we truly do the Lord's will
and work.

Knowing When.
Next to knowing when to seize an
opportunity, the most important thing
in life is to know when to forego an
advantage.—Disraeli.

Indulgence.
It is only necessary to grow old to
become more indulgent. I see no fault
committed that I have not committed
myself.—Goethe.

Our Life.
We pass our life in deliberation, and
we die upon it.—Quassel.

THE EMPTY HOUSE.

Gaunt swaying branches against a
windy sky
An empty house an aching heart
and I
The sagging gate creaks as it slowly
swings
The falling shutters hang like broken
wings.
It looks so cold and old that empty
nest
And primal hate at fate fills all my
breast.
Oh! scudding clouds that race o'er
pale high moon
You seem as black winged bats at
noon.

Those vanished days that near can
be again
Causing blinding tears to scald and
fall as rain.
And tired and heartsick I lean upon
the gate,
And cease to sigh and rail at fate
For what has come I know must
come to all
Who lives and hears the urgent
call
That takes away the ones they love
the best
To dark oblivion and to endless
rest.

I bow my head upon the sagging
gate
And lo! a vision comes as there I
stand and wait
The far off moon has changed to
sun's farm rays
And o'er the shining windows glint
and plays
The great hall door swings slowly
wide
And with happy heart I see and go
inside
The dimpling curtains sway in soft
sweet breeze
That is filled with incense from dear
old apple trees.

They send down showers of rose and
pearly blooms
That carpet all the ground and
sweeten the old rooms
Those dear, dear rooms so filled
with treasure rare
Of long used things by hands so dear
and fair
The great wif's hearth with curling
flame
Made rosy when dreary winter
came
The small foot stood for dainty
feet.

I see her yet, so sweet, serene and
calm
A very heaven to shield from
harm
And when the children came to

nestle at her side
Ah! me the glory of it and the
pride
Where are now my treasurers I
ask the far off sky
And swaying branches against a win-
dy sky
For here's the empty house, an aching
heart and I.
—Mrs. William Dietl. In O. M. Page,
Charlotte Observer.

RELATIVE PURCHASING POWER

Using 1923 as a 100 per cent basis,
we find that the latest prices of farm
crops, in terms of all other commodi-
ties, are as follows: Cotton 134 per
cent, corn 76 per cent, wheat 85 per
cent, hay 73 per cent, potatoes 65
per cent. In terms of cloth, a unit
of cotton has the purchasing power
of 107 per cent, corn 61, hay 56, and
potatoes 51. To buy fuel, cotton will

secure only 36 per cent, corn 55,
wheat 61, hay 50, and potatoes 40
per cent of as much as in 1913. In
terms of house-furnishing goods, cot-
ton will buy 14 per cent more, corn
35 per cent less, wheat 28 per cent
less, hay 40 per cent, and potatoes
45 per cent less than ten years ago.
Beef cattle and swine show very low
purchasing power.

As a whole, the general index of
purchasing power of farm products
in terms of other commodities, as
worked out by the Bureau of Agri-
cultural Economics, stood at 68 per
cent, basis of 1923, for January,
which was the same as the previous
month. Cotton has the highest pur-
chasing power of the farm commodi-
ties.—Farm Forecaster.

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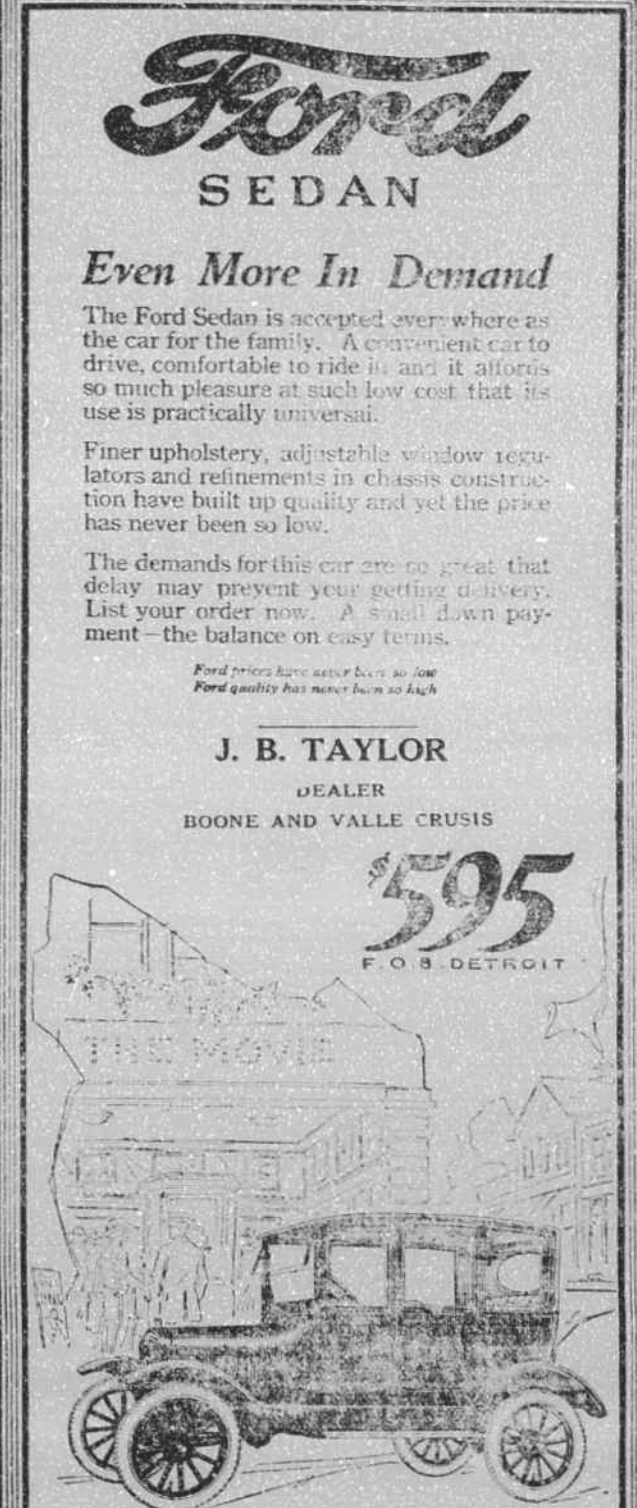
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