

Sunday School Lesson

SINCERE RELIGION
International Sunday School
Lesson for May 16, 1948
GOLDEN TEXT: "Why do you call me Lord and not do what I tell you?"—Luke 6: 46.
Lesson Text: Malachi 1: 1, 6-9; 2: 13, 14; 3: 7-12

The book of Malachi consists of four short chapters, and it is the last voice in a long and distinguished line of prophets. It was written probably about the middle of the fifth century B. C. and represented the last prophetic utterance prior to the coming of Christ.

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We do not know anything about the writer, nor are we certain of his home. The name of the book in Hebrew means, "my messenger," and it is not exactly certain whether or not this is the name of the author or whether the book was named thus because of the prominent passage in the first verse of chapter three. However, all other books of a similar character bear the names of their authors.

The book was written after the reestablishment of temple wor-

ship, following the return of the exiles from Babylon. The writer does not hesitate to condemn the practice of offering unworthy sacrifices to Jehovah. Nor does he fail to severely criticize the priests for their neglect in failing to follow the law of truth and genuinely represent Jehovah. Whereas, "the priest's lips should keep knowledge," Malachi tells those of his day that "ye have caused many to stumble." Malachi also, was unsparing in his criticisms of the people for their social sins, charging them especially with robbing God in the matter of offerings and of shattering their homes by their infidelity to the old marriage customs of their race.

There are germs of great teachings in this short book, however. For example, he urges that they offer God "offerings in righteousness" rather than the formal offerings of an insincere ceremony, reminding the Jews that in ancient years such ceremonial pretenses did not exist. In another passage, showing an advanced conception of Jehovah as the confident and daring prophetic; "From the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same, my name shall be great among the Gentiles." Malachi also recognize the common fatherhood of God, asking why should we deal treacherously against a brother.

The Jews were subject to a very definite and strict rule in regard to tithes, but one of the evils which Malachi denounced was the hypocrisy and deceit practiced in this matter. Speaking for God, he indicts his fellow citizens for robbing God by failing to offer the proper tithe and called upon them to prove God by accounting honestly in this matter of free will offerings. Malachi tried to show that if the people wished to advance materially, they must first set themselves right spiritually. The four chapters in his book is perhaps the greatest passage in the Bible on the relation of national spirituality to national prosperity. One of God's greatest promises to his people is made in this book and he challenges his people to try his plan for prosperity. The only condition for the successful working of the plan is that the people prove their honesty toward God in the matter of tithes

and offerings. Some Christians try to excuse themselves from giving a tenth of their income by arguing that tithing is a requirement of the Old Testament and that Christians are not obliged to tithe. Surely, a Christian owes far more to God because of the atonement of Christ than a Jew did because of a commandment of the law. When we realize the tremendous price which Jesus paid for our redemption and the obligation we assume when we accept that redemption from our sins, then a tenth is not too high a standard. Not only will the money we give willingly be a blessing to us, but this money will be used to further the interests of the kingdom of God. Consecrated wealth has built hospitals, schools, missions, churches, and has relieved suffering all over the world. Surely, every one who loves God wants to have a part in such worthy causes!

Rhododendron In Bloom On Roan

Bakersville—One of the heaviest crimson rhododendron blooms three will be at their best. Every year thousands of motorists drive up the Roan to see the blaze of color produced by the blooms. This year it is anticipated that even larger crowds will make the trip.

According to information received from the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Sandwich Shop at the Cumberland Knob Recreational Area will be placed in operation on May 15. Refreshments will be available seven days a week from 11:00 a. m. until 7:00 p. m. each day. The Flame Azalea on the Parkway is beginning to bloom, this flower should be particularly attractive during the period from May 15 through the 23. The Pink Azalea is now at its height of bloom and may be seen along many portions of the Parkway. For the benefit of those coming

after you please leave the flow-ers for others to enjoy.

Parkway Shop Being Opened

Estimated at 250 acres, the same as in 1947. The crop is reported to be in fair condition although about two weeks later than usual.

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MARKETING Marjorie

Now that spring is in full swing, you'll want to enjoy plenty of daytime playtime. And you can . . . if you plan easy-to-fix dinners. One of my favorites features spaghetti-meat casserole as the main course and delicious shortcake for dessert. Want the recipes? Read on!

FOOD FORTHOUGHT

An emergency food shelf simplifies cooking no end. And among the wife-savers I always keep on mine are A&P's tasty IONA TOMATOES. Like all A&P's IONABRAND CANNED GOODS, they're Grade C, which means they're just as nutritious as A&P and SULTANA (A&P's A and B grades), but cost less. The chief difference is in size and appearance, so they're ideal for use in dishes like the one below.

SHORTCAKE IN SHORT ORDER

This is shortcake season at my house, but that doesn't mean extra work for me. My recipe for shortcake is short and sweet—thanks to oven-fresh JANE PARKER POUND CAKE from the A&P. I simply cover thick slices of this light and luscious cake with strawberries or patches, and top them with whipped cream. Could anything be easier to make . . . or to take?

FAST FEAST FOR FIDO

When you're having a meatless meal or going out for dinner, don't be like Mother Hubbard! Keep DAILY DOG FOOD in your cupboard, and you won't have to disappoint your dog, come dinner-time. This nourishing canned dog food is ready to eat, and so good that the most particular pup will be ready to eat it at the drop of a can opener. It's available in Fish, Meat or Cheese flavor, and mighty attractively priced at the A&P.

CORNER-CUTTING CASSEROLE

Brown 1 1/2 lbs. hamburger and 1 large onion (chopped) in 1 tbsp. fat; add an 8 oz. package of A&P's ANN PAGE SPAGHETTI cooked according to package directions, 2 tps. salt, 1/2 tsp. pepper, 1 #2 1/2 can (3 1/2 cup) IONA TOMATOES and 1 can tomato soup. Pour into greased casserole; sprinkle with buttered crumbs, and bake 30 minutes in moderate oven, 350°F. Serves 6.

NOTICE

I have on hand HOTPOINT ELECTRIC STOVES, also APEX WASHERS, which have been on the market for more than thirty years—Guaranteed for one year; MAYTAG WASHERS with gasoline motors attached, HOT WATER HEATERS, table type; Also ELECTRIC MOTORS from one half horsepower to 15 horsepower and BELL HAMMER MILLS.

I am expecting a trailer load of Hot Point Electric Stoves and Washers on May 19th, also Electric Refrigerators.

See me at Boone Oil Company, located on East Main Street. I can save you from \$25 to \$40 on a stove, from \$10 to \$15 on a washer and quite a bit on a refrigerator. Mr. Storie will show you these at any time.

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