

THE STORY THUS FAR: "You are lying, Martha," Bob Reynolds told Martha. "You did not kill her; your sister did." Martha's story was beaten down, and she admitted that Letty, the mental patient, had done it. "It's like a terrible drawn." Mar told You patient, had done it. "It's like a terrible dream," Meg told Larry. Tenderly Larry reminded her that Tom Fallon was a free man and loved her. She was too upset to know. But good came out of it, for Jim MacTavish, now humbled, decided to do something for himself. He announced that he was to become the editor of a nearby newspaper while its publisher was in the armed forces. "Carry asked for you." her father stated. ry asked for you," her father stated. She had not seen him for several days, and there was a tingle sent through her.

## CHAPTER XVII

Suddenly he broke off, and after a moment he said, "Oh, yes, I knew there was something I had forgotten. I saw Laurence while I was

Megan was startled to discover that her needle had slipped and pricked her finger, startled at the sudden tingle that ran through her at the mention of Laurence's name. She looked up, feeling her father's eyes upon her, and knew, by the sud den warmth of her face, that she was blushing. Which, she told her-

was busing. Which, she told her-self furiously, was pretty silly, any-way you looked at it. "He asked about you," said Jim when she did not speak. "He sent you his love."

Once more the needle slipped and Megan winced, but her voice was quite steady as she asked, "Are you

sure he said his love?"

Jim took his pipe out of his mouth and stared at her as though sur-prised. "Well, of course I'm sureprised. "Well, of course I'm sure-he said, 'How's Megan? Give her my love and tell her I'll see her

And Megan, a little warm something stirring in her heart, bent her head above her sewing, and a tiny, secret smile touched her mouth for

a moment. The busy, crowded days of early spring melted into the even busier days of late spring. Early sum-mer came and the crops stood lush and green in the fields, but Lau-

rence had not come. Jim was finding the newspaper business exciting, though he quar-reled with Mrs. Morgan and came home occasionally smarting with fury at some fancied slight or some contradiction she had given to one of his orders. But his editorials had

been well received. On a late June evening, when the whole world seemed locked in a golden haze of loveliness, Megan came up from the fields, intent on nothing more exciting than a brisk shower and fresh clothes, when she

saw a car standing at the gate. She came on into the kitchen and said, "Have we got company, An-

Annie's lower lip was thrust out, an indication that Annie was angry about something; but her tone was, as usual with Annie under such moods, almost expressionless, when she answered:

"Yessum-he waitin' in de settin'

Megan stripped the gaily figured scarf from her head, shook out her tumbled curls, and walked into the living room. The man who stood at the window turned to face her-and Megan was still, rigid with shock. Because the man who faced her was

He had aged, and his face was set and grim, his eyes those of the trag-ically lost. But as he looked at her, some of the haggard look vanished from his face and he said in a tone just above a whisper, "You're love-lier than ever."

"Please sit down," she said. "I've been offered the job of principal at the school again this year," he said.

Megan caught her breath.

"But-but surely-you wouldn't want to come back-here?" she gasped. He studied her for a moment, and

then he said quietly, "You can't pos-sibly imagine my being willing ever to return here, to Pleasant Grove, can you, Megan?"

"Well-no, I'm afraid I can't," Megan answered him quite honestly. "Because so much of tragedy hap-pened to me here?" he asked, and before she could answer he added gently, "But I had a very small and very perfect glimpse of Heaven, too, Megan. Perhaps one could cancel the other—or could it?"

Megan said huskily, "I-don't quite know what you are talking

"Let's not beat about the bush and tell polite lies, Megan," he said with a forthrightness that was rather staggering. "I know that it will be a long time before I can-speak to you of love, Megan. It would be the worst possible taste for me to do so now. But there was an evening, Megan, when we spoke our hearts for the briefest possible moment. I haven't forgotten. Have you?"

Megan felt the color rush to her face and she could not quite meet his eyes.

"So it's like that," he said very quietly, his tone tired and heavy and old. "I should have known that I was just seeing something that didn't really exist. You were emotionally upset and you were sorry for me—was that it, Megan?"

Megan sat very still. Because that was it. She knew it now. She had

imagined herself in love with Tom because she had been caught by pity for his unhappy plight, and she had let herself be deceived into thinking that her pity for him was a stronger, more vital emotion. But now she saw clearly, in the light of the past few months' clarity of vision and peace of mind.

Tom stood up and said quietly, "Well, that's that. I didn't have a great deal of hope, of course. Maybe the reason why I even for a moment considered coming back to Pleasant Grove was because I did not want to face the facts, I wanted to go on believing that what we saw and felt that night was as real for you as for me. But, of course, I see now that I was a fool."

"I'm terribly sorry, truly—" she managed with tremulous lips, her eyes misted by tears.

He turned towards the door. Megan said swiftly, "Will you come back to Pleasant Grove?"

He shook his head. "There is nothing to come back for—ever now," he told her in that same quiet, almost toneless voice.

On Sunday morning, a glorious June morning with a brilliant sun lying like a benediction on green fields and gardens burgeoning with roses and zinnias and marigolds, Megan went again to the Ridge.

She had dreaded this return to the Ridge. She had avoided it all these weeks, pretending to herself that she was too busy, that there were tasks to be performed that made it impossible for her to make her favorite

walk. But now she knew that she had lied; she had been afraid. The sudden barking of Dixie warned her of the approach of some stranger. She turned sharply and looked across the meadow, and her heart stood up on tiptoe. She felt as though it, too, yelped with excitement. For even at this distance, the knew that fours. she knew that figure. It was Lau

She sat very still and watched him, while a new, sweet warmth spread throughout her body. Her heart shook a little and her hands closed themselves tightly in her lap. The sunlight glinted on Laurence's bare head as he walked with his hands in his pockets, his shoulders drooping a little.

And watching him as he plodded up the meadow slope and across the fence, she knew a contentment so deep, so warm, so sweet, that she was one with the June scene all

And then he was close enough to see Megan, and he said with a little quick, meaningless smile, "Hello! Mind if I intrude?"

"You're not intruding," she told him, and smiled and patted the rock beside her, inviting him to sit down.

Looking down at Megan he said quietly, "Annie thought I'd find you quietly, up here. Why did you want to see

Megan's eyes widened a little and she asked, "Why did I want to see you? That's a funny question—"
Laurence frowned. "Well, after

all, when Annie telephoned me—"
Megan gasped, and the hot color

flowed into her face as she stam-mered, "Annie telephoned you?" Laurence nodded. "She said you wanted to see me and that it was important, so I hitched a ride over. Why? What's the matter?"

Megan was scarlet. She could not

quite meet his eyes.
"Annie—Annie had no right to do anything of the sort. She's really getting beyond herself-" she stam-

Laurence's tired face hardened a little and his eyes were cool. "I take it, then, that you had nothing to do

with the call? That Annie was mistaken in saying you wanted to see

W.N.U. RELEASE

me—"
"I had nothing to do with the call," Megan cut in. "But of course, I always want to see you, Larry. Why wouldn't 1? You are my old-

why wouldn't I? You are my oldest and best friend."
"Thanks a lot," said Laurence dryly. "But that's not good enough, Megan. You know where I stand, where I've always stood, so far as you are concerned. But I made up my mind a good while ago that you were not for me and I'm not fond. were not for me, and I'm not fond of torturing myself, so I've kept away. I thought this morning when Annie telephoned me, that you were in some kind of—well, of a jam, and that you needed me. And of course, that would always be the one thing that would bring me as fast as I could travel. But if Annie was

"Look, Larry," said Megan husk-ily, "I've-well, there's something I have to tell you and it's not very pretty. I'm-ashamed-but you'll have to know it-"

"There's nothing I have to know about you, Meggie, that would be hard for you to tell me," he interrupted her swiftly, his eyes upon her, tired, somber, steady.

Megan caught her breath on a sob and burst out swiftly, "Oh, Larry, don't be humble! I don't deserve it. I've been an awful fool—but now that I can see clearly—now that I know what it's all about, you make me so ashamed!" Laurence stared at her, puzzled.

"Why should I make you ashamed, Megan? I think I resent that! You'd better explain," he said

a little resentful.

sharply.

Megan put out her hands in a lit-

megan put out her hands
the gesture of pleading.
"That's what I'm trying to do,
Larry," she told him unsteadily.
"I'm trying to explain that I was in fool enough to believe that I—was in love with Tom Fallon. And now I know that I wasn't—that I never was, really-"

Laurence stared at her, his brows drawn together. His hands made a little involuntary movement towards her, but he stopped himself just before he could touch her.

The deep, rich color poured into her face, but her eyes met his steadily. "Because I know now that—it's always been—you, Larry," she told him huskily.

He bent and swept her up into his arms and held her so close and hard against him that she could scarcely

His cheek was against hers, as he said, "I lost you once, Meggie, and it-well, it just about finished me. I thought everything was fine be-tween us and that we were going to be married, and then you kicked me out of my fool's paradise, by saying it was Fallon. I couldn't quite take It's got to be—well, final, this time, one way or the other."

There were tears in her eyes, as

she stood on tiptoe and framed his face between her hands, and set her mouth on his, her warm, soft mouth that was faintly tremulous and very sweet and that flowered beneath his kiss.

"Oh, Larry—darling Larry—I do love you! I'll always love you. For-give me?" she whispered unstead-ily.

For answer, his arms tightened and his lips found and claimed her

And Susie, the cat, was a wise cat and knew there were times when humans were interested only in each other. This, of course, was one of

(THE END)



IMPROVED " UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL CUNDAY JCHOOL Lesson

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.
Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for November 3

Lesson subjects ... ripture texts se-lected and copyrighted by International Council of Religious Education; used by

PAUL CHAMPIONS FREEDOM AND BROTHERHOOD

tians 5:13-18. EXT-Acts 15:230-29; Gala-SELECTION—But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.—Acts 15:11.

Fundamental doctrine must be sound and true or the church will go astray. A question had arisen at Antioch which had to be answered au-thoritatively, and once for all.

The early converts of the church were naturally from among the Jews, and they carried with them into their new-found faith the tradi-tions of their religion. Some of them did not recognize that the salvation they had in Christ was entirely by grace, apart from any works of the law. They not only felt that they must observe the law, but insisted that the Gentile believers must also fulfill the Jewish rite of circumci-sion. This promptly raised the question whether Christ alone could save, or if men were saved by grace plus works.

To settle this matter, Paul and Barnabas went up to the church at Jerusalem, and there a great council discussed it freely, and came to a decision which was then transmitted by letter and a committee.

That decision established an eter-

I. Principle—Believers Are Free from the Law (Acts 15:23b-29).

The believers at Antioch were to abstain from those things which would hinder their spiritual progress and harm their testimony. That was important and right, but it must not be allowed to confuse them regarding the basis of their salvation. They were not saved by works, not even though they were most commendable.

Salvation is by grace, through faith, "not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8, 9). That principle, which is absolutely foundational in all Christian thinking, was established then, and is valid and blessedly true for all time.

Is it not strange, then, that all through the church's history there has been a determined effort on the part of some in the church to add something to God's redeeming grace as a ground for salvation?

Observe the plain rebuke given to teachers of error in vers It is no light matter to trouble and mislead the souls of men by injecting our wordly wisdom or our opinions, when we should be teaching the truth of God's Word.

Salvation by grace and freedom from the law does not bring the be-liever into a place of license, but of liberty—and a liberty controlled by a new factor in his life. We note

II. Practice—Believers Are Bour by Love (Gal. 5:13-15).

The one who turns to Christ by falth is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and finds that, far from failing to keep the high moral principles of God's law, he is given grace to keep them more perfectly. This he does, not in order to be saved, but because he is saved.

He comes out of a bondage to legalism, which he could not bear, into a new bondage to the law of love, which his new nature in Christ delights to bear and in which it finds the fulfillment of its highest and holiest desires

Note that this shows itself in the church and in the world in loving service to others in the absence of strife; in a word, in the practice of the admonition: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (v. 14; Lev.

No one faces that life responsibility without realizing that he is evidently not able for it. God has pro-vided for that need, for we note next that there is

III. Power-Believers Are Led by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16-18).

Being saved does not set us free from the conflict with sin, for the old nature declares itself at enmity with the Spirit. We find it often to be in our hearts to do right, and in the decisive moment we find the

flesh taking control and we cannot do the things we would (v. 17).

What is the solution of that problem? An all-out attack on sin and sinful desires? That is commendable, but it somehow doesn't work. We need a superior power to work in and through us.

That's it! There is a power in us and ready to work through us—the matchless, victorious power of the Holy Spirit. He dwells in the heart of every believer (I Cor. 6:19) and only awaits our yielding to him that he may take control of our lives.

Walking in the Spirit (v. 16) is simply giving him the liberty to direct our lives after the will of God, day by day and moment by mo-ment. This puts us in the way of victory, for as we walk in the Lord's way we may call on him for not only his grace, but also his strength.

Saved by grace to a life of liberty and power—such is the inestimable privilege of the Christian.

Are we, are you, living up to it?

The House Town Reporter in WASHINGTON By Walter Shead WNU Correspondent

> WNU Washington Bureau 1616 Eye St., N. W

## Farm Organizations Split On Sec'y Anderson's Plan

REPRESENTATIVES of the big R farm organizations have re-turned from Buffalo where they held a four-day love feast and announced themselves in perfect agreement in the development of plans for co-operating in formulation of agricul

tural policies and programs and in major agricultural objectives. In the first meeting they held with Sec. Clinton Anderson of the department of agriculture, they split wideopen over reorganization of the Pro-duction and Marketing administra-

tion of the department.
Secretary Anderson explained that his reorganization plans an-nounced as effective October 1 have for their objective the elimination of "road blocks" and the formulation of a straight line of communication for the farmer and the farmer county committees direct to the department in Washington, giving the county and state committees more responsibility in the administration of their policies and decentralizing uthority in Washington.

The Farm Bureau federation and

the Farmers Union declare they are disturbed and fearful that just the reverse will be true under the reorganization plans, and that more power will be centralized in Wash-ington and that the Triple A will be

liquidated.
The National Grange and the National Council of Farm Co-operatives declare that the objectives of the secretary are their objectives, and how he brings about these objectives is the secretary's business; that if the reorganization plan as he outlined will do the job, they are for If it does not do it, they will

## Farm Bureau's Angle

As a matter of fact, this reporter sees in the attitude of the Farm Bureau in opposing the reorganization, signs that the plan may step on the toes of some Farm Bureau friends in the department of agriculture. For the Farm Bureau has spent much time and effort in placing its friends in high places in the old Triple A organization from the top Washington on down the line to the state and county com-mittees, with the Agricultural Extension service playing a major role.
As it looks to this reporter, the

secretary's reorganization plans, which follow identically the report of the Eisenhower committee, do not touch the county and state farmer committees, which are the sum and substance of the Triple A program. In transferring certain duties from Washington to newly-created commodity branches in specific areas of operation, direct lines of responsibility are fixed to which the farmer can go with all his problems, eliminating the "middle-man" or in-termediary which has proven ad-

ministratively unsound in the past, What the reorganization is intendwhat the reorganization is intend-ed to do is to develop the policy and planning organization in Washington after consultation with farmers, with sole responsibility for function and administration in the field.

The Farm Bureau announced that it had lodged a protest with the President over the proposed reor-ganization, and is seeking to hold off final adoption of the plan until it can consult with agricultural leaders in congress. As a matter of fact, however, the secretary already The Farm Bureau also contends that taking away some of the functions of the field offices separates the responsibility for formulating overall policies and the program of administration, which it seems is one of the objectives of the secretary. and the bureau doesn't like that on the theory that it will act to concentrate rather than decentralize power in Washington.

## Have Less 'Voice'?

The Farm Bureau declares that under the plan the farmers will have in determining their programs and that while somebody else formulates the program, the only service left for the old Triple A administration in the field.

On the contrary, the department contends, and the grange and the co-operatives agree, the average farmer in the county committees will be in closer and in more direct touch both with policy and administration than under the previous or present system of administration.

At any rate, the secretary has promised the farm organizations that the minute they prove to him that the plan of reorganization is that the plan of reorganization is not working out toward the objectives agreed upon, he will change the operation until it does. This seems a fair proposition. In the meantime, the reorganization will release several hundred employees by the elimination of duplication of effort in the various commedities. effort in the various commodity fields if and when the program is completed. And no one objects to the elimination of expense in any governmental program.





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