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THE SONG RENEWED

By Rev. Parley E. Zartmann,
D. D., Secretary of Extension
Department, Moody Bible
Institute, Chicago

TEXT—And when the burnt offering began the song of the Lord began also.—II Chron. 29:27.



This statement occurs in the midst of a dramatic incident in the history of the Children of Israel. Chapter 28 tells of Ahaz, the wicked king who caused the worship of Jehovah to cease in the temple in Jerusalem, who closed the doors of the temple, and who gave the sacred vessels of the temple as tribute to foreign kings whom he hoped to appease. Chapter 29 tells of Hezekiah, the good king, who required the priests to sanctify themselves and cleanse the temple, who brought back the sacred vessels, and who restored the customary routine of sacrifice and service within the temple. Chapter 30 describes the revival which took place throughout the entire land following the cleansing of the temple and the restoration of the sacrifice. The background is dark enough—a polluted temple, the service neglected, God forsaken by the people, the vessels of holiness given away for unholy purposes, and the song of the Lord having ceased in the courts of the temple.

Music was a prominent part in the temple service, and it is a prominent part of Christian life. No one has so much right to sing as the man or woman who has been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ; no one can know such joy as the one who has a sense of forgiveness.

There are two or three very plain and practical lessons which emerge from the reading of the chapters connected with the text.

1. God cannot use an unclean thing. So the vital question is, "Is my heart right with God?" God does not ask for golden vessels, God does not ask for silver vessels, but God does ask for clean vessels. Therefore, those of us who have named the name of Christ may well take the place of the Psalmist and say, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

2. God cannot give power to an unyielded life. The temple in Jerusalem, magnificent and costly though it was, did not have the visible manifestation of God's presence until it was entirely dedicated to him. There is a peculiar sense in which it is true; "He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away."

3. Power is to be claimed only upon the conditions of a clean heart and a yielded life.

Perhaps you have been a Christian many years, and yet for a long time there has been no song in your soul; prayer has been a burden, the word of God has had no meaning to you, and service has been irksome. Why? It may be:

1. Neglected prayer. God means prayer to be the greatest power in the spiritual world, and although Christians know how to do scores of other things, and although churches use numerous agencies for making the word successful, yet we have lost the secret of the church and the secret of victory in our Christian lives—we do not know how to pray.

2. Neglect of God's word. Many a man can find the first step in his career away from God in his neglect of the word of God which is meant, not only for his food, but for his guidance. So many of us object to the Bible, or neglect it because its teachings go contrary to some habit which we cherish, or some sin which we commit.

3. Lack of forgiveness or apology. If we are too stubborn to forgive people who have injured us, or too proud to ask forgiveness of those whom we have injured, God pity us, for there can be no song in the soul until we are right with God and right with our fellowmen.

4. Unconfessed and unforsaken sin. This may seem small to the sinner, but sin which is not confessed and forsaken, closes the eyes against the beauties of heaven, shuts the ears against the songs of heaven, and bars the way to the soul that would enter in. More than that, sin drives joy out of the Christian life.

5. Lack of complete surrender. This is the real meaning of the text, for the burnt offering indicated that everything was given up to God; and it is only as we make a complete abandonment of ourselves to God, that he fills us with joy in believing and happiness in Christian service. May it not be that the years of our Christian life have been unfruitful and joyless, and void of music, because we have kept back part of the price which we should have paid to God? Do we not know that there has been a lack of complete surrender, and complete abandonment to him?

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Director of Evening Department, The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

LESSON FOR MARCH 31.

REVIEW LESSON FIRST QUARTER.

Suggestions for Busy Teachers.

A good way in which to present a review of the lessons for the first quarter of the year 1912 would be to select the best person possible to act as leader and then to have either twelve classes, or that many selected groups (individuals may be utilized) and have each present the main thought of each of the twelve lessons.

Take the first lesson—let some elderly man speak for the character of Zacharias the priest—let him tell of the faithful discharge of his temple duties and while thus occupied of meeting the angel Gabriel with his startling message which was a challenge to Zacharias' faith. Then for the second lesson let some mother tell of the incidents of the birth of John the Baptist, of the rejoicing of friends and neighbors and the hymn of Zacharias who received his speech as soon as he had testified to God's will and showed his belief.

As for lesson three, let some child briefly state the facts only, or the birth of Jesus, i. e., read Luke 2:8-15, and this to be followed by some music suggestive of the angelic hosts.

In lesson four we revert to the temple service again at the dedication of Jesus. It would be very appropriate to have the superintendent of the Cradle Roll at this juncture to go through the service of receiving a baby for the Cradle Roll such as is frequently performed, keeping in mind the main fact of the lesson.

Now let three men enter the room, dressed in costume if desired, and recite either the necessary scripture verses or some poetry that will convey to all the idea of the visit of the wise men to Jerusalem in search of the child Jesus and that they found him not in Herod's palace, but in lowly Bethlehem and there presented their gifts and worshipped him.

For the sixth lesson, let a twelve-year-old boy having a good presence and strong speaking voice recite Luke 2:41-50.

Avoid Involved Questions.

Let the pastor of the church or some other clergyman tell of the prophecy of Isaiah and of John's fulfilling the same as he preached out in the country warning the people to avoid the wrath of God and to show by their righteous living the fruit of the lives that had repented of their evil ways. Emphasize, however, that John's greatest work (and our's as well) was to point men to Jesus the Lamb of the world.

In a review such as we are now conducting we must avoid the involved questions and only present the great facts of the baptism of Jesus; the witness of John, the presence of the Holy Spirit and God's audible approval of those silent years in Nazareth. This is the eighth lesson.

The ninth lesson has to do with the call of the first disciples. For this five boys might be selected. Let the leader recite Mark 1:14, 15, "Andrew" verses 17 and 18. Now let "James" take verse 19 then one (Simon Peter) recite verse 16 and "John his brother" verse 20. The leader can recite verses 21 to 26 and all together verses 27 and 28.

A physician would be an appropriate person to present lesson ten. Let him sketch the picture briefly of "all the city" gathered about Peter's door at the end of the day, the sick being healed.

Some busy business man ought to depict the story of "Jesus teaching in Capernaum," lesson eleven.

Must Drill Carefully.

Of course care must be taken not to let any one lesson consume too much time else the whole will be much too long. This means careful drill and presentation before review Sunday.

If a written review is desired so frame the questions that the least efficient scholar may have an answer, i. e., let your question suggest the answer as far as possible. The success of a written review will depend upon the previous work of the teachers. If this suggested program is interspersed with singing, avoid singing all the verses and unnecessary instrumental preludes and interludes. At the close let the leader drill the school upon the twelve subjects.

1. The Birth of John the Baptist
2. The Birth of John the Baptist
3. The Birth of Jesus.
4. The Presentation in the Temple
5. The Wise Men Led by the Star.
6. The Boy Jesus in the Temple.
7. The Ministry of John the Baptist.
8. The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus.
9. The Call of the First Disciples.
10. Jesus the Healer.
11. The Paralytic Forgiven and Healed.
12. Feasting and Fasting.

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Most elderly people are more or less troubled with a chronic, persistent constipation, due largely to lack of sufficient exercise. They experience difficulty in digesting even light food, with a consequent belching of stomach gases, drowsiness after eating, headache and a feeling of lassitude and general discomfort.

Doctors advise against cathartics and violent purgatives of every kind, recommending a mild, gentle laxative tonic, like Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, to effect relief without disturbing the entire system.

Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin is the perfect laxative, easy in action, certain in effect and, without, pleasant to the taste. It possesses tonic properties that strengthen the stomach, liver and bowels and is a remedy that has been for years the great standby in thousands of families, and should be in every family medicine chest. It is equally as valuable for children as for older people.

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THE ETERNAL FEMINE.



Mr. Hound—I think I'll have to get a license—
Miss Kyooodle—Oh! this is so sudden!

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"So after hearing so much about the wonderful Cuticura Remedies, I purchased one complete set, and after using them three days my hands were much better. Today my hands are entirely well, one set being all I used." (Signed) Miss Etta Narber, R. F. D. 2, Spring Lake, Mich., Sept. 26, 1910.

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Nature's Remedy: is purely vegetable. As a cathartic, its action is easy, mild and effectual. No griping, no nausea, makes a sweet breath and pretty complexion. Teaches the liver to act. Sold by all medicine dealers, 25c.

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Even a wise man never gets over being a fool to a certain extent.

For constipation use a natural remedy. Gardfield Tea is composed of carefully selected herbs only. At all drugstores.

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It's difficult to discourage a girl who can't sing.

ITCH, ITCH relieved in 30 minutes by Woolford's Sanitary Lotion. At Druggists.

Some men haven't sense enough to stop borrowing before they strike oil.

Possibly Willing to Arise at It.

At a little party John T. McCutcheon consented to do a little impromptu talk, with the presidential possibilities for his subject. McCutcheon had made several hits. One of the party, chuckling, leaned over to another, a Democrat. "Pretty good, isn't it?" he asked. "What do you think of his execution?" "I think it would be a darned good thing," replied the Democrat.

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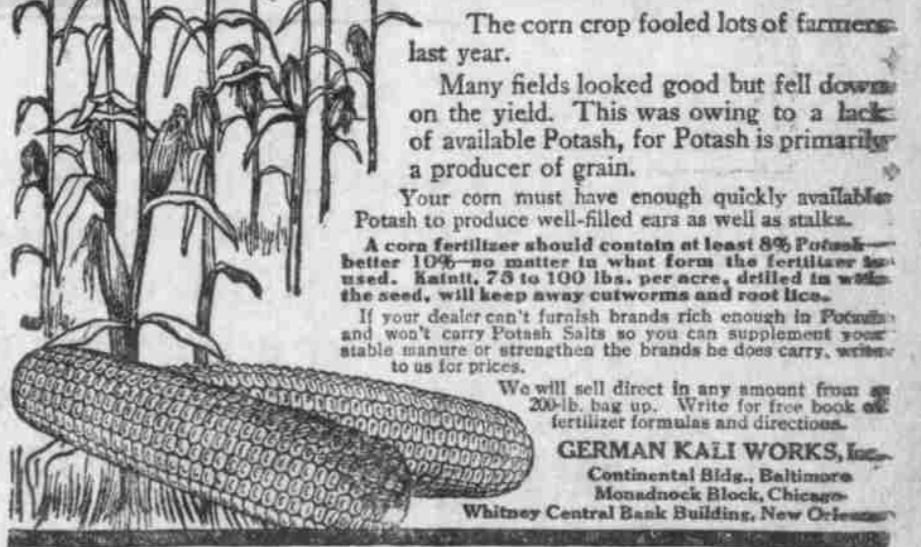
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