

**International Sunday School Lesson for Sunday, July 19**  
**CHRISTIANS SHARING WITH OTHERS**  
 Printed Verses—Acts 4:32-35; Acts 6:1-4; 2 Cor. 9:1-7  
**GOLDEN TEXT: He Himself Said, It Is More Blessed To Give Than To Receive.**

*The Lesson*  
 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them said that aught of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things in common. And with great power gave the apostles their witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them all. For neither was there among them any that lacked; for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and distribution was made unto each, according as any one had need. Now in these days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a murmuring of the Grecian Jews against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. And the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, "It is not fit that we should forsake the word of God, and serve tables. Look ye out therefore, brethren, from among you seven men of good report, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will continue steadfastly in prayer, and in the ministry of the word." (Now it is Paul writing) For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you; for I know your readiness, of which I glory on your behalf to them of Macedonia, that Achaia hath been prepared for a year past; and your zeal hath stirred up very many of them. But I have sent the brethren, that our glorying on your behalf may not be made void in this respect; that, even as I said, ye may be prepared; lest by any means, if there come with me any of Macedonia, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be put to shame in this confidence. I thought it necessary therefore to entreat the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your apportioned bounty, that the same might be ready as a matter of bounty, and not of extortion. But this I say, He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Let each man do according as he hath purposed in his heart; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.

*Comments on the Lesson*  
 This lesson is extremely difficult to understand unless we re-enact the scenes upon which last Sunday's lesson was based, which leads into today's lesson. We must also read and study all those intervening portions of the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth chapters of The Acts not printed in the lesson. We recall that Peter and John had been before the council, as described in last Sunday's lesson, and the council feared to punish these preachers. Peter was reporting their experiences to the rest of the company of Christ, and then turned to prayer, asking the Lord to take note of the threatenings of the enemy and to grant unto the disciples a boldness to speak His word. Peter then asked the Lord to stretch forth His hand to heal, that signs and wonders might be done in His name. At the conclusion of the prayer, the place where they stood was shaken, and they all were filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spoke the word of the Lord with boldness.

Here it is that our lesson now opens, with the statement that all the people were of one heart and one soul, that is, all the people in the great assemblage, for they had just been filled with the Holy Spirit, and they gave evidence to the fact of the resurrection, for they were filled with power and grace. There were no salaries attached to the work being done by the apostles, nor was there any organized, regulated manner of raising money for defraying expenses. So these people, all filled with the Holy Spirit, were also possessors of houses, lands and money, for it is said here that there was none among them lacking. So they disclaimed absolute ownership of their possessions, and laid it all at the feet of the disciples, to be used as it was needed. While there is an instance recorded of one man selling all of his possessions, it is not so with others. It was the tender of their possessions to be used for the work of Christ that is conveyed here. As much as was necessary to carry on the work was taken. Continuing the study on through the Fifth chapter of the Acts, verses, there is found the case of Ananias, who sold his possessions, he and his wife,

and proceeded to the place where the disciples were, tendering an amount which Ananias said was all that he received for his property. He lied about it, as they had held back a portion of the sale money. Upon being exposed by the disciples in his effort to lie to the Lord and to man, Ananias fell dead in his tracks. A short time afterwards his wife came in, and, not knowing about her husband's tragic end, told the story that she and Ananias had concocted. Then she was informed that her husband had told the same lie, and was now dead, and the men who had buried his body were then entering the door. She fell dead, and was buried. These evidences of the dark doom to befall all who were false to their work for the Lord caused great fear to be felt among the people.

The apostles performed great wonders in the name of their God, healing many sick and afflicted, which were brought from the cities all about, and hauled in from the countryside. So great was this work that the high priest arose again, and all of his kind, and were most indignant. Once again the authorities sought to stop the work of Jesus Christ, and the apostles were imprisoned. The angel of the Lord came back and took them out of prison, and much consternation prevailed next morning when the authorities learned that the apostles were not only out of the prison, but were at that very moment in the temple, preaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Once again the authorities had the apostles brought before them, and another effort at intimidation was made, but old Peter just stood up there and told the old priest that the apostles were preaching the word, and furthermore, that they intended to keep on at it. "But you have this community all torn up," the priest said. That made no difference to these apostles, and they boldly declared their intention to keep on preaching. The authorities would have stopped them by force, even by assassination, but a lawyer by the name of Gamaliel, a Pharisee at that, advised against such procedure, advising the high priest that if the work of the apostles was the work of men, it would soon die out of its own accord, as many other movements of men had died out; but that if it were the work of God, then nothing these authorities could do about it would stop it.

This leads us up to the second portion of the lesson, the verses found in the opening of the Sixth chapter of The Acts. Here we are told that the number of disciples had greatly increased. Of course it had. Such preaching, such courage, such faith, such performances, as had been manifested and demonstrated by the apostles could end in nothing less than great increase. Much mumbling and grumbling, kicking and knocking had arisen among the Greek Jews, that is, the Jews who spoke the Greek language. This group was fussing because, they charged, the apostles were not giving as much food to the widows of the Greek Jews as was being given to the Palestine Jews. Don't you see? Even back there in the very beginning of the church there was one group grumbling because the preacher was believed to be partial to another group. How well we can understand that jealousy, that harping criticism, because we have so much of it today that we are thoroughly familiar with it. The apostles could not be handicapped by such bickerings, however, so the first official board was brought into experience. The apostles called upon the people to elect seven deacons, men of good report and high standing, having the confidence of all the people, and to this board would be delegated the work of waiting upon the people, giving to each according to necessity. The seven were elected, and a description of the work would make a most interesting lesson in itself. Their faithful work lent dignity and effectiveness to the cause of Christ, and was the forerunner of all the work being done in the church today by the various officials, from the janitor to choir leader, or from the Sunday School teacher to the chairman of the official board.

The rest of the lesson is taken from one of Paul's letters to the Corinthians, which is so plainly stated that no comment is necessary. He had been collecting gifts from the Gentile Christians for the relief of the poor and sick in Jerusalem. Paul had proudly told of the ready spirit prompting these gifts, and so tells his friends of these things, urging them to be ready at all times with their bounty when the Lord and the Lord's people had need of their possessions. After all, Paul says, one makes his own bed upon which that one must lie. If one sows sparingly, then one must reap a scanty crop; if one sows abundantly, one is most certain of reaping an abundant crop. Let each one, he says, do that which

is in his own heart, not grudgingly, not because he thinks it is necessary, but do whatever he can do with cheerfulness. The reason, Paul says, is that God loves a cheerful giver, not a grouchy giver, not a giver who gives for the purpose of showing off before the neighbors, but simple giving of means and service for cheerful joy that it brings to the one who gives in this manner.

This entire lesson is a study of giving, giving of our means and our service, time and talent. You have your own opinion of these things, and each one of us, even as Paul said, must stand in our own harvest field. If we give sparingly of our means, time and talent, we shall most certainly reap sparingly. It is plainly stated here what the church is expected to do. The church is to be maintained; the gospel is to be spread unto all the peoples of the world, and the poor and needy must have the relief that only the church can give. Are we living up to these charges? Are we willing to admit, even to God, that our possessions belong to him, insofar as He has need of them? Or do we love too well to boast that these things are ours? Ananias and his wife denied just a portion of their possessions to the Lord, and both died. How many people do you know who have been rich, and big-headed, and proud, and selfish, and domineering, and today are poverty-stricken, their wealth gone, their power dead? It is a dangerous thing to do, this cheating the Lord.

America has been a proud and somewhat boastful nation, rich beyond the dreams of king or potentate in the days of old. Ananias also was rich. He failed to do his duty, however, and death came to him, suddenly. If this nation of ours survives, grows and prospers, it will be because it is builded firmly upon the foundation of Christianity. Unless it is implanted firmly upon that foundation, it is doomed to die just as surely as Ananias and his wife died on that fateful day when they conspired to cheat the Creator out of a portion of his creation. A Christian America is the only kind of an America that can endure. We worship Wall Street, and what it stands for—its power of money. Wall Street is in New York. What else have we in New York? A few city blocks in New York contain 800,000 people who do not speak the English language. Each Sunday there are 4,000 halls in that same New York rented and

used for the purpose of speakers spouting off their tirades against the government of the United States. These fire-brands are preaching communism—not the kind of communism as described in this lesson, where all the people stood at the feet of the apostles and offered their entire possessions for the church of Christ. But this communism being preached in this country today is that of Soviet Russia, which denies the Christ and defies the Father. Our church is doing but little work for Jesus Christ among the negroes of the South. But Soviet Russia is doing a whole lot of work among them. In the very opening verses of today's lesson it is shown that the men of wealth were rallying to the church of Christ, offering their all to Him, claiming none of it as their own. Today, in America, we have leaders who are segregating the wealth of the nation into the keeping of a very few people, who call it their own. We have, in one block, the richest people in the world, and in the next block, just around the corner, the poorest people in the world. This condition cannot exist. Jesus Christ did not suffer the agony of the cross and ignominy of another man's grave in order that less than one hundred men might control 95 per cent of the wealth in a nation of 122,000,000 souls. If the common cause of Christ, and the spirit and principle of communism of Christ's established church cannot rule our lives, then there is that other kind of communism which can lay our proud, boastful spirit in the dust of humility, even as it tore down the house of the Czar, and sent his noble offspring from the luxury of royalty's mansions into the kitchens of common people as maids and waitresses.

The church of Christ is facing a crisis today. And as the Christian church in America stands, so stands America. This nation is no bigger than the church makes it. It was conceived in Christianity, born from the bonds of brave men and women who came here that they might serve God, and live for Him. But for a long time we have been living in adultery with the Devil, and our offspring from this unholy alliance is now about to throw us out of house and home.

Our leaders in America are spending sleepless nights in an effort to find a way out of difficulties facing this country. The diplomats of the world are holding daily sessions, last-

**BIG SALES RECORD MADE BY FIRESTONE**

Announcement by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company that more Firestone Tires were sold during the months of April, May and June than in any three-months period in history strikingly indicates the dominant position held by Firestone in the tire industry, says Carl McCrary, the local Firestone dealer.

"The tremendous increase in demand for Firestone Tires," points out the Firestone dealer, "necessitates the operation of Firestone factories 24 hours a day, 6 days a week, to fill the steadily mounting volume of orders.

"Mr. Firestone recognizes that this is the year the public wants greater values than ever before. This is particularly true of tires, and Mr. Firestone is passing on to car owners all of the tremendous savings he has achieved through greater manufacturer efficiency, purchase of raw materials at the source, and the most efficient and economical distributing system, by building the biggest, strongest and safest tires ever made, and selling them at the lowest prices in history.

"During the past year Firestone has placed tire buying on an entirely new basis by making it possible for car owners to see inside tire construction. Cross sections have been furnished so rubber volume, weight, width, thickness and plies at tread could be studied.

"In tires, as in their other purchases, the public wants to see the facts before they buy. They recognize that the only way to get the facts about tires is to examine cross sections and see how they are made. The result of this new plan of tire buying has been the establishment by Firestone of the greatest sales record in Firestone history."

ing far into the night, in an effort to find a way out. Stagnation is here, and starvation is being experienced everywhere on the globe. While all the time a book is lying on the bookshelf in practically every home in the civilized world, containing the simple laws as laid down in the immutable laws of God, which would, if followed, solve these problems.

**LITTLE TOTS GIVE CHURCH PROGRAM**

One of the most enjoyable programs given here in some time was that rendered Sunday evening at the Methodist church by students of the vacation Bible school, which has been in progress for the past two weeks at the church under the supervision of Mrs. J. F. Winton. As a fitting climax to the two weeks of Bible study, the little folks were given the evening hour to demonstrate to the congregation some of the things taught in the Bible school.

A pageant by the primary department depicting scenes in the early Bible times, and a study of the life of Christ by the juniors, together with appropriate songs and scripture recitations made the hour one of keen enjoyment. Many complimentary remarks were heard of the work done by Mrs. Winton and her efficient corps of assistants.

**NOTICE AND SUMMONS**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
 State of North Carolina  
 County of Transylvania  
 Aria Radford Fore, Plaintiff  
 vs  
 Wiley Fore, Defendant

The defendant above named will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Transylvania County to obtain an absolute divorce by said plaintiff from said defendant; the said defendant will further take notice that he is required to answer the complaint filed in this cause within thirty days from the completion of service of summons by publication, or file his demurrer to said complaint or plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

This 11 day of July 1931.  
 OTTO ALEXANDER  
 Clerk Superior Court  
 Ralph Fisher Attorney.  
 4 t July 16-23-30 Aug 6 pd.

**SOMETHING TO SELL? TRY OUR WANT ADS.**

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**With Harsh Irritants**

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"TOASTING" expels certain harsh irritants present in all raw tobaccos. These expelled irritants are not present in your LUCKY STRIKE—the modern cigarette. We sell these expelled irritants to manufacturers of chemical compounds. Everyone knows that sunshine mellows—that's why the "TOASTING" Process includes the use of Ultra Violet Rays. LUCKY STRIKE—made of the finest tobaccos—the Cream of the Crop—THEN—"IT'S TOASTED"—an extra, secret and exclusive heating process. It is this process that expels these harsh irritants. No wonder 20,679 American physicians have stated LUCKIES to be less irritating. No wonder LUCKIES are always kind to your throat. And so we say "Consider your Adam's Apple." Be careful in your choice of cigarettes.

TUNE IN—The Lucky Strike Dance Orchestra, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evening over N. B. C. networks.

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