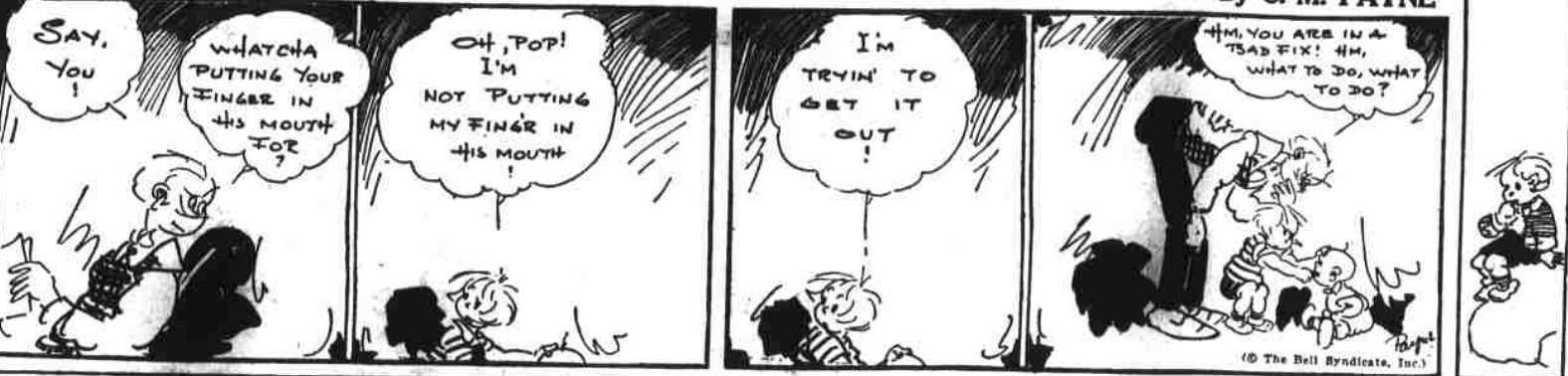


THE FEATHERHEADS



SMATTER POP— Yes, What to Do, What to Do?



MESCAL IKE



FINNEY OF THE FORCE



"REG'LAR FELLERS"



ADAMSON'S ADVENTURES



BRONC PEELER— Who's Shootin'?



STEP ALONG, BOY



WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT THE PERFECT GUM
THE FLAVOR LASTS

HOT SOUP



IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

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Lesson for December 22

MALACHI FORETELLS A NEW DAY

LESSON TEXT—Malachi 3:1-12. **GOLDEN TEXT**—Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me, Malachi 3:1. **PRIMARY TOPIC**—God's Best Promise Comes True. **JUNIOR TOPIC**—How God Kept His Best Promise. **INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC**—Bringing in a Better Day. **YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC**—Preparing the Way of the Lord.

(The lesson committee has provided as an alternative a Christmas lesson, using the text Matthew 2:1-12).

The subject of today's lesson is broader than the printed text. In order effectively to teach this lesson, the entire Book of Malachi should be surveyed. The prophet pointed out the sins of the corrupt priesthood, mixed marriages, and failure to pay tithes, with the portrayal of the coming judgment and glorious new day with Christ reigning in his glorious kingdom.

I. The Base Ingratitude of Israel (1:1-5).

God approached them with the tender affirmation, "I have loved thee." It was the burden of the prophet to declare this fact unto them (v. 1). So worldly were the people that they failed to discern God's good hand upon them. Israel's attitude toward God is shown in the skeptical question, "Wherein hast thou loved us?" (v. 2). Malachi answers this question by showing God's choice of Jacob and his passing by of Esau, his destruction of Edom and his saving of Israel.

II. God's Severe Indictment (1:6-2:17; 3:7-15).

1. Against the priests (1:6-2:9). They were guilty of:

a. Profanity (1:6). Their profanity consisted in despising the name of God. To fail to honor God is to be profane. To use his name in any unreal way is to be thus guilty.

b. Sacrilege (1:7,8). Their sacrilegious act was in offering polluted bread and blemished sacrifices.

c. Greed (1:10). They were not willing even to open the doors of God's house without pay. Service to God should be out of a heart of love for him.

d. Weariness (1:12,13). Because of the absence of love, the routine of priestly duties became irksome.

e. Not teaching the law to the people (2:1-9). Those set apart to teach God's law to the people have a great responsibility and God will most assuredly demand an accounting.

2. Against the people (2:10-17; 3:7-15).

a. For ungodly marriages (2:11, 12). God's purpose in the prohibition of mixed marriages was that he might raise up a holy seed (v. 15). Marriage with the heathen would frustrate this purpose. Marriage of the believer with the unbeliever today brings confusion into the fold of God and turns aside his purpose.

b. Divorce (2:13-16). Divorce in Israel was the source of great sorrow. Even the tears of the wronged women covered the altar (v. 13). The offerings of the man who had thus treated his wife would be an abomination to God.

c. Public wrongs (3:5, 6). (1) Sorcery or magical arts. This includes the practice of occult sciences, such as spiritism, necromancy, fortune telling.

(2) Adultery. This is a sin of wider extent than the direct parties concerned. It is a canker which gnaws in the very heart of society. Unfaithfulness to the marriage relation should be regarded as a public sin. Such sinners should be ostracized from society.

(3) False swearing.

(4) Oppression of the hireling, the widow, and the fatherless.

(5) Turning aside the stranger from his rights.

d. Withholding tithes from God (3:7-12). Failure to pay tithes is robbery of God. His claim upon Israel was a tenth, plus free will offerings. Our responsibility is to give as God prospers us (1 Cor. 16:1).

e. Blasphemy (3:13-15). They openly spake against God, saying that it was profitless and vain to serve him.

III. The Awful Judgment Which Shall Befall the Nation (3:15; 4:1-6).

1. By whom executed (v. 1). It is to be done by the Lord. All judgment hath been committed unto the Son of God (John 5:22, 30; cf. Acts 17:30, 31).

2. The time of (3:24:1). It will be at the second coming of Christ. John the Baptist was the forerunner of his first coming. Elijah will be the forerunner of his second coming.

3. The result (3:8, 4, 16-18; 4:1, 2). For the righteous it will be a day of healing and salvation; for the wicked it will be a day of burning and destruction.

A Mother's Love
If there be aught surpassing human deed or word or thought, it is a mother's love!—De Spardaro.

Well-Doing
There is no well-doing, no God-like doing, that is not patient doing.—J. G. Holland.

Justice
To give every man that to which he is entitled, is indeed supreme justice.—Cicero.

Household Questions

Soot water is excellent for plants. Put soot taken from chimneys, furnaces and stoves into a bag and suspend bag in a pail of water. Let stand for a week before using.

There is nothing like a beautiful piece of red lacquer to give the note of color that lifts a room from its state of former drabness.

It may be a magazine rack or a coffee table, but the lacquered pieces we have in mind are exquisitely done with a finish as smooth and suave as an eggshell. The designs in gold are fine and delicate and the appearance of these exceptionally lovely pieces is quite different from the average lacquered furniture.

If cake mixture has been made too stiff do not add more milk to it. Beat an egg and add gradually until mixture is of desired thickness.

Something quite different in the way of ash trays are charming little oak leaves made of hammered silver. And beside being extremely useful they have the added virtue of being in keeping with your table silver. So many ash trays look out of place if you want to put them on the table.

To prevent shoulder straps slipping off, cut a piece of tape long enough to hold straps. Sew one end of tape to inside of dress on shoulder seam. Then sew one-half of snap fastener onto shoulder seam and the other on the loose end of the tape.

To remove glass stoppers from bottles, take a piece of twine, double and put it around neck of bottle twice. Have someone hold bottle, then take ends of twine, one in each hand, and work back and forth until neck of bottle becomes warm. Stopper can then be removed.

If cake is to be baked a long time it is wise to line the bottom of pan with oiled paper.

Grease spots may be removed from tan shoes with gasoline. Wet sponge with gasoline (keep away from fire), rub over spots, dry and polish.

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