

**IMPROVED
UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL
SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson**

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Lesson for May 27

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THE RETURNED EXILES AND THEIR WORK

LESSON TEXT—Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5, 6, 8, 12, 9:1-3.
GOLDEN TEXT—Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.—Jeremiah 29:13.

God loves men and takes delight in blessing them and prospering them on their way. When He must punish them, it is a source of grief to His Father-heart.

That fact probably explains why the period of the captivity of the Jewish people is passed over in silence in the historical accounts of the Bible. We do know that prophets were sent to minister to them and to keep alive their hope of restoration to their own land.

When the Jewish captives were ready to return to their land, the silence of sacred history is broken, and we learn of their experiences in rebuilding the temple and the wall of Jerusalem from the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Many and varied were the obstacles, but in due time they were surmounted, and by God's help the work was accomplished. Now the time had come for a spiritual revival, and God had His man and His message ready for that hour.

Ezra, the scribe, was God's servant in bringing the Word of God to the people. The elements of success for any revival are found here.

I. An Open Book (8:1,2).
The Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12). That mighty weapon does not need any apology or defense. It needs use. The soldier in battle unsheathes his sword or fires his gun. He does not send pamphlets to his enemies telling them what an effective weapon he has—he uses it and gets results.

There is a place for discussion and instruction regarding the authenticity and dependability of the Bible, but if we make it a substitute for using the Word, we are on the wrong track.

Ezra brought out the law of God and opened it to all the people. That is what we need to do today. Open up God's Word and let it do its powerful work.

II. An Attentive People (8:3, 4a, 5, 6).

The Word must be heard as well as preached. Good listeners are as important as good preachers. The open ear and the open heart complete the ministry of the open Book.

Note the reverence of the people (v. 5). When the Book was opened, they stood up—a token of honor. We do not worship the Bible, but we should show far more reverence toward it and its message than is ordinarily the case. This is God's Word, and man should approach it reverently.

Note the spirit of worship in verse 6. Be sure that any people coming to God's Word in that spirit will receive a blessing. We shall see in a moment how wonderfully God met them, but first we shall note an additional reason for the splendid response of the people.

We have before us the open book and an attentive and reverent people. What more is needed?

III. An Intelligent Ministry (8:8, 12).

There is nothing that any man can add to God's Word, but he can, by the grace of God and the illumination of the Holy Spirit, be used in opening up the meaning of the Word.

That kind of an exposition of Scripture is the very essence of real preaching. Topical discussions have their value. There is a place for book reviews and the presentation of social problems. But the pulpit should be primarily and always the place where God's Word is expounded.

Note that the law of God was read "distinctly" (v. 7). How important! That calls for preparation and prayer. That precludes the casual selection of a Scripture passage in the last minute before service.

Then observe that "they gave the sense, so that they understood the reading" (v. 8). That takes more preparation and much prayer. The teacher or preacher needs illumination so that the truth may be clearly understood and presented.

Everything was now ready for:
IV. A Spiritual Response (8:12; 9:1-3).

Revival came—and what a revival! Tears and laughter mingled. There was sorrow because of sin, and joy because of God's forgiveness. There was both fasting and feasting. God was in their midst, working through His Word as it was given out by His messengers.

It makes one downright hungry to read an account like this, hungry for a similar manifestation in our day of spiritual deadness. God is giving this kind of revival here and there where people are ready to go His way. The writer of these notes has only recently been in such revivals. Why not have them everywhere in our land? Yes, in your town or city?

Fight Chinch Bugs With Dinitro Dust

Dinitro dust has been proven very toxic to chinch bugs and kills them on contact. When the bugs begin to migrate from the small grain to corn fields, a line of dust about one inch wide is put between the grain and the corn to kill the bugs before they can reach and damage the corn.

The soil where the dust is applied must be smooth and firm, and free of any trash. The dust is applied with special applicators or a coffee can. About 15 pounds of dust is required to make 100 yards of barrier. If light rains occur, the barrier line may be freshened by brushing lightly with a small broom or bunch of straw. When a heavy rain destroys the barrier, it must be re-established. All trash must be kept off the dust line, or the bugs may go over the line on the trash and not be killed.

The migration period lasts about one or two weeks, according to J. Myron Maxwell, Extension entomologist at State College. The dust barrier must be kept in good condition during this entire period and it is generally necessary to examine

the barrier each day to see that no breaks occur. Maxwell says that the dust stains the hands a bright yellow but it apparently is not harmful. The stain will wash out of cotton clothes but not out of woolen materials. The dust should not be allowed to get into the eyes and nose. The dust is not particularly harmful to livestock but it should not be handled carelessly. Growers needing dust to fight the chinch bug should get in touch with the county agent.

Old Carolina Records Tell Amazing Story

Dig a dollar bill, or maybe a five spot, out of your pocket and take a good look at it. Then read this story and weep. It's from an old ledger sheet, yellow and brittle with age, that was recently unearthed in the Seaboard Railway's station at Theima, N. C. The prize entry is as follows:

GASTON HOTEL, GASTON, N. C., March 31, 1940.—To Raleigh and Gaston Railway company, Dr., Captain, Engineer, Trainhand—breakfast and dinner for each—\$.75; Extra Engineer and Fireman—breakfast for each—\$.25, Total—\$1.00. Petersburg Railway company, Dr.,

Captain, Engineer, Fireman, Mail Clerk, Trainhand—dinner, supper and breakfast for each and two lodgings—\$1.88; Extra Engineer—supper, lodging and breakfast—\$.36, Total—\$2.26.

A grand total of \$3.26. We hate to rub it in, but that \$3.26 covered 24 robust meals and three lodgings! And rationing didn't mean a thing in these golden days.

Recorders Court

Liquor of stump-hole origin was the cause of most of the trouble leading to the court hearings here Tuesday. Ralph Lawrence, white, of Greenwood, S. C., paid \$50 and costs for driving drunk; Zig McLean drew 6 months, suspended on payment of \$25 and costs for operation of a still; Sam McRae paid \$100 and costs for selling liquor; Quincy Smith and Jeannette Morrison each paid costs for having illegal liquor; Dan Ray, possession of beer and still, paid \$25 and costs; Willie McLauhlin, possession beer and still, \$25 and costs, and he also paid costs for beating his wife; Willie Ray and Annie Mae Bennett each paid costs for fornication and adultery; and J. H. Myrick, white, paid costs for speeding.

Here's A Tip



From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

Advertisement

This Man Bain and His Six Years Work

"I see by the paper that North Carolina's beer industry is observing the sixth anniversary of its Self-Regulation program." Bill Webster remarked the other day. "The way those fellows have kept their business on a high plane is sensible and something to be proud of."

"True words, Bill," chimed in Officer Stebbins. "Colonel Bain, their state director, has certainly shown the beer dealers how to cooperate for their own good as well as the pub-

lic's. And believe me, they are right with him. I know. The public's with him, too."

That's just what lots of folks are saying. North Carolinians realize that the \$3,000,000 of revenue the beer industry pays to the state every year is a big help. We also appreciate the way the beer industry does business. The beer industry is a good citizen.

Joe Marsh

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**STRAIGHT TALK
ABOUT THE 7th WAR LOAN**

THE 7th WAR LOAN starts May 14. Americans, as individuals, are taking on their biggest quota to date—7 billion dollars, 4 billions in E Bonds alone.

You may be wondering, "Why this biggest of all individual quotas now? Haven't we already reached the peak?"

A fair question—requiring a straight answer.

The Money Is Needed for War

The Battle of Japan has just begun. It must be backed up, paid for, fought for by a free people, intent on sweeping the Pacific clear of fascist hate—forever.

With the war in the West our first and major concern, we have not yet been able to go all-out in the East. But neither has the Jap.

The war to crush Japan will be bigger, tougher, and longer than most Americans expect. The Allied Military Command has estimated that it will take years, not months.

The destruction of Japan's armies has not yet reached the annual rate of normal replacements—between 200,000 and 250,000 men a year. And the Jap, as our men in the Pacific know, fights to the death.

As far as Japan is concerned, the outer Empire—and the men who defend it—are expendables. The Jap will fight the Battle of Japan from inside the inner Empire, of which Iwo Jima was an outpost. And Iwo Jima, according to Admiral Nimitz, was a pattern of the resistance our forces may expect to meet in future offensives.

New Tasks, New Needs

The single greatest obstacle to our crushing of Japan is distance. While in the Battle of Europe supply ships from our bases in England had only an overnight run to make, ships in the Pacific have long-reach round trips taking up to 5 months to make.

To crush Japan will take time, heroic and back-breaking effort, overpowering equipment.

Millions of fighting men—freshly outfitted and equipped—will have to be moved from

Europe halfway around the globe and supplied day-in, day-out by hundreds of new ships now building.

More of everything will be needed. More B-29's. More tanks, half-tracks, jeeps, and trucks. More rockets, mortars, airborne radar.

A whole new air force is in creation—huge new bombers dwarfing the Superfortress—fast new jet-propelled combat planes, the P-80 or "Shooting Star," coming off the lines by thousands.

These are just some of the 101 ways in which your dollars are needed more than ever to bring America's might to its full strength—so that we may crush our foe the faster, make an end of killing, and bring our men back home.

And Lest We Forget

The sick, wounded, and disabled will require medical attention and care.

Many millions of dollars will be required for mustering-out pay and benefits voted by Congress to help our veterans get started again in civilian life.

That's the least we can do in return for what they've done for us.

Winning the Peace

There are other weighty reasons for supporting the 7th War Loan—reasons that take us from the present to the future.

By investing in the 7th War Loan, the patriotic American is safeguarding his own future, his country's future.

By putting every dollar over rock-bottom expenses into the purchase of War Bonds, he is delivering a body blow to wartime inflation—thus putting a lid on the cost of living and maintaining intact the purchasing power of the dollar. At the same time, too, he is insuring the country and himself against the catastrophe of a possible postwar deflation—with its depression, unemployment, misery, and heartache.



So save for your country—save for yourself. In helping your country, you are also helping yourself! Come peace, we'll all need money for education, replacements, retirement, new homes, a new start—and we'll need a lot of it. And there isn't a better or safer highroad to your goal than United States Saving Bonds.

Making 2 = 3

This year there will be only two War Loan Drives, not three. But in those two drives the Government will have to raise almost as much money from individuals as in the three drives last year. That means bigger extra bonds in the 7th. Because only by buying more can we make 2 take the place of 3.

The 26 million Americans who buy bonds on payroll savings are already off to a flying start! These patriotic men and women began their buying in April. And they will keep on buying extra bonds through May and June!

It's now up to the rest of us. It's our turn to swing in line. To raise the vast sum needed, every American will have to dig deeper into current income—dig deeper into cash reserves. Only by buying bigger extra bonds can we stretch 2 into 3!

Let all Americans do their part—for their own sake, for their country's.

If you have an income—whether from work, land, or capital—you have a quota in the 7th War Loan. Find out what that quota is—and make it!

FIND YOUR QUOTA . . . AND MAKE IT!		
IF YOUR AVERAGE INCOME PER MONTH IS:	YOUR PERSONAL WAR BOND QUOTA IS: (CASH VALUE)	MATURITY VALUE OF 7th WAR LOAN BONDS BOUGHT
\$250	\$187.50	\$250
225-250	150.00	200
210-225	131.25	175
200-210	112.50	150
180-200	93.75	125
140-180	75.00	100
100-140	37.50	50
Under \$100	18.75	25

ALL OUT FOR THE MIGHTY 7th WAR LOAN