

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

## PARABLES IN THE BIBLE

International Sunday School Lesson  
For November 28

Memory Text: "Never man spake like this man."—John 7:46.

Lesson Text: Matthew 13:31-33; 44-46; Luke 15:3-10.

We are prone to think of the parable as something that was peculiar to the teaching ministry of Jesus, but there are many examples of this type of teaching in the Old Testament, in the teachings of the Greek philosophers, and also in public speaking today. However, the master of this form of teaching was Jesus, the master Teacher. He stands as the supreme creator and narrator of simple stories and pithy sayings of great spiritual consequence.

The definition of "parable" that we like best is: "A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning." Jesus used this method of teaching to best advantage, wrapping up a portion of truth in a compact and understandable form, so that even if his hearers could not fully comprehend the implications of the story, they could remember the parable for future meditation.

There are parables and allegories in the Old Testament. Among them is the story which the prophet Nathan told to David the King, about the man who demanded the sacrifice of the owner's one lamb, with its pointed lesson, "Thou art the man." There is also the story of the vineyard told by Isaiah, these of Ezekiel about the two eagles and a vine and of the caldron.

More familiar to the average Bible student are the brief parables of Jesus, all dealing with various aspects of the Kingdom of God. The parable of the mustard seed contrasts the seeming insignificance of the Kingdom with its actual greatness and power. Men may deem it a beautiful but powerless ideal but in it are the creative forces of God himself.

The same theme is developed in the parable of the leaven, only here it is the working of the Kingdom as a power permeating life itself, constantly at work to bring it to the state for which it was intended.

The parable of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price emphasizes the supreme value of the Kingdom as the gift of God, so great that it exceeds the highest imagination and transcends all expectation. It is interesting to note that one man found the treasure almost by accident and the other found his by searching for it until he found it. Each recognized, however, the value of the treasure was willing to sacrifice every other treasure in order to possess this one.

While we are only given the parable of the lost sheep for our consideration in Luke 15:3-7, we find three parables, all emphasizing the unfailing care of our Heavenly Father for the single human soul, no matter how sinful and wayward he may be. While human society may give him up for lost, dismiss him as hopeless and proceed to forget him, God never forsakes or forgets him. We cannot help feeling that there is a gentle rebuke in the parables of the lost sheep and

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*These are the SCRUBS!*

They're warming the bench today. But next year most of these boys will be "regulars"—a few will become stars. They're waiting their chance.

And don't think that they spend most of their time on the sidelines. They see plenty of action at every practice—they come up against the "varsity" in every scrimmage. They're getting ready for their chance.

Have you ever thought of your youngster as one of today's "scrubs"? He has his dreams and hopes; he's waiting his chance to realize every childish ambition.

Are you helping him to get ready for tomorrow's opportunity? Are you giving him the advantage of religious training in the Church?

Now, while your youngster knows life only as a fascinating game, the Church can teach him the rules, can guide him toward the right goals, can develop his spiritual and moral strength.

For the Church there is no substitute!

### THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . . ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Sunday . . . Philippians 3:12-16  
Monday . . . I Corinthians 9:22-27  
Tuesday . . . Proverbs 15:26-33  
Wednesday . . . I Timothy 6:11-19  
Thursday . . . Mark 7:24-30  
Friday . . . Acts 9:1-19  
Saturday . . . I Corinthians 13:9-13

For schedule of yearly readings, write American Bible Society, 450 Park Ave., N. Y. 22, N. Y.

**Be a Better Citizen!  
Go to Some Church Next Sunday**

#### CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

A. H. Outlaw, Pastor  
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.  
Church Service 3 P. M. every first Sunday.  
Sunday School at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

#### BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Preston Cayton, Pastor  
Bible School 10:30 A. M., except fourth Sunday, at 10 A. M.  
Morning worship on fourth Sunday at 11 A. M.  
Evening worship fourth Sunday at 8 P. M.

#### HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

E. T. Jilson, Rector  
Holy Communion, 9:00 A. M.  
Every Sunday except first Sunday at 9:00 A. M.  
Church School, 10:00 A. M.  
Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11:00 o'clock.  
Holy Communion first Sunday at 11 A. M.

#### BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM

Coy S. Saunders, Pastor  
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Young People's Meeting, 6:30 P. M.  
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.  
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

# Go To Church -- Your Church -- Any Church -- But Go

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