

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

ELIJAH REBUKES AHAB

International Sunday School Lesson for May 16, 1954.

Memory Selection: "Thou shalt not covet." — Exodus 20:17.

Lesson Text: I Kings 21:1-20

Our lesson for this week gives us an excellent example of the lengths to which covetousness can go to attain its ends. Covetousness is such a rampant sin in our world today that the story of Ahab and Naboth still is apropos of our times.

It seems that near to the threshing floor of King Ahab was a beautiful, well-tended vineyard. So attractive was the vineyard to the King that he immediately decided that this particular piece of land would be more attractive as an addition to his estate. Of it he would make a beautiful garden and thus add to his own courtyard.

And so he made a proposition to Naboth, the owner of the vineyard. It was a very reasonable offer, as offers go: "Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house; and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it: or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money."

Looking on Naboth's vineyard, the king saw only a beautiful vineyard. However, he overlooked the fact that, to Naboth, this piece of land was more than a place to grow grapes—it was his land, inherited from his father—a piece of land which had been in Naboth's family probably since the children of Israel had settled in the Promised land, when the land had been divided among the twelve tribes and the tribes had divided their land among the people in the tribe.

But what was sentiment to Ahab. Here was a piece of land he wanted. That was all that was important to him. Naboth's reason for refusing to give or sell or trade the land to Ahab was foolish in the king's sight. Naboth placed his refusal on religious grounds: "Jehovah forbid it to me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to thee." Ahab, a worshipper of Baal, was not interested in such a basis for Naboth's refusal.

Therefore, although he knew Naboth was right in his refusal to give up his land, became angry. He went home and, like a bad little boy, went to bed, pouting. There his wife, Jezebel, found him. Discovering the reason for his sulking, she decided to take care of the matter for him.

So, we see that covetousness, unsatisfied, may lead to a worse sin—murder. After twitting the king about his frustration, she told him that she would take over and get the vineyard for him. So she engineered a plan to have a celebration in Jezreel, get Naboth in a prominent place and have two unscrupulous men charge him with blasphemy. Naboth could then be stoned to death.

The chief men of the city were willing to carry out Jezebel's plan. Little did it matter to them what happened to Naboth or his vineyard—more important was the Queen's favor. And so they helped carry out Jezebel's plan and Naboth and his family were killed and Ahab took possession of the vineyard.

Ahab reckoned without God, however. God's servant, Elijah, was not in Samaria at the time, but the word of God came to him, telling him to go down to meet Ahab, and deliver the warning of Jehovah to him, saying: "Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine."

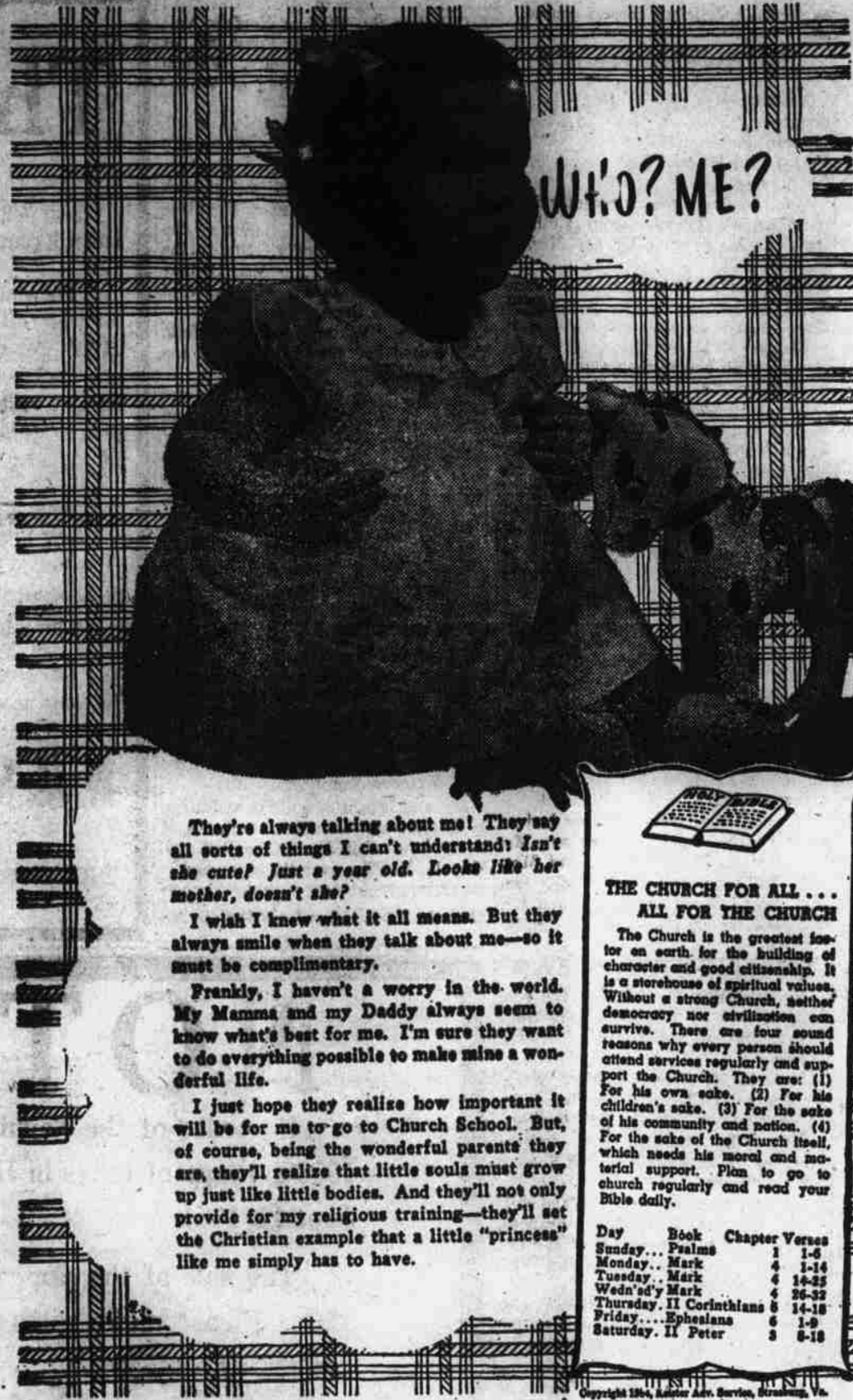
Ahab, conscience-stricken and frightened, said to Elijah, "Hast thou found me, O mine enemy?" And Elijah answered: "I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord."

This story illustrates the truth that God, who is moral and ethical and righteous, demands a high morality and righteousness in his people. It is well to remember, even today, that that which men gain through dishonesty and fraud, as well as by theft or violence, will, sooner or later, become a liability.

Whether one wants to admit it or not, conscience cannot be silenced. Some people live as though they had no conscience, but they do have. The consciousness of guilt is always present. One may fool the public, his intimate friends and even his family, but they can never escape God. Steal, and you pay for what you steal. Covet, and morally you die. Individuals can never get away from the law that

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GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY



They're always talking about me! They say all sorts of things I can't understand! Isn't she cute? Just a year old. Looks like her mother, doesn't she?

I wish I knew what it all means. But they always smile when they talk about me—so it must be complimentary.

Frankly, I haven't a worry in the world. My Mama and my Daddy always seem to know what's best for me. I'm sure they want to do everything possible to make mine a wonderful life.

I just hope they realize how important it will be for me to go to Church School. But, of course, being the wonderful parents they are, they'll realize that little souls must grow up just like little bodies. And they'll not only provide for my religious training—they'll set the Christian example that a little "princess" like me simply has to have.

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.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Psalms	1	1-6
Monday	Mark	4	1-14
Tuesday	Mark	4	14-25
Wednesday	Mark	4	26-32
Thursday	II Corinthians	5	14-18
Friday	Ephesians	5	1-9
Saturday	II Peter	2	8-18

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Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
C. W. Duling, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

BETHLEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor
First Sunday
11 A. M. and 8 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
W. E. Thompson, Pastor
Church services second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES
H. M. Jamieson, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 7:00 P. M.
Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.
Woodland Church, 7:00 P. M.
Third Sunday
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
New Hope Church, 7:00 P. M.
Fourth Sunday
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.
Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.
Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.

ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH
C. H. Beale, Pastor
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Harvey L. Coppidge, Pastor
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
First and Third Sundays at 7:45 P. M.
Sunday School 9:45 A. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH
James Rahenkamp, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services 11 A. M., - 7:30 P. M.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.
Prayer Service, Wednesday 7:30 P. M.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. D. Stoner, Pastor
Sunday School 10 A. M.
Morning Worship 11 A. M.
Evening service 8 P. M.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH
D. Virgil Pike, Pastor
Church School 10 A. M.
Morning Worship 11 A. M.
Young People's Meeting 7 P. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Caleb Goodwin, Jr., Pastor
Sunday School, 10:30 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 8 P. M.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
A. L. Chaplin, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. 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.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. Charles F. Wulf, Rector.
9:45 A. M., Church School, every Sunday.
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 1st Sunday.
8:30 A. M., Holy Communion, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday.
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
10:00 A. M., Holy Communion, Fridays and Saints' Days.

BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Walker Perry, Pastor
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Vivian Evans, Pastor
Sunday School second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
Preaching service at 8 o'clock every first and third Sundays.
Training Union at 7 P. M.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Do Go