

# The Cherokee Scout

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## MEDITATION

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye land.  
 Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.  
 Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name.  
 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. —Psalm 100.

## Real Thanksgiving

Today we celebrate Thanksgiving, and all are reminded that thanks should be given for the many blessings that we enjoy. We repeat year after year that we are thankful for the gifts of the Four Freedoms, of being Americans, and for the material and spiritual blessings that surround us. We are sincere in the expression of our gratitude.

However, it is hard for a person who always has had all the clothes he wanted and to spare, to be thankful for them in the truest sense; it is hard for a person who has never known hunger to feel the deepest gratitude that he has sufficient food to eat; it is hard for one who always has walked in his community state and nation with utmost freedom to realize that in so doing he enjoys a blessing that much of the world is denied; it is hard for one to be the most deeply grateful for the privilege of worshipping as he

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pleases, visiting whatever church he desires and giving expression to his Christian beliefs, if from his birth he has known no other condition; it is hard for one who always has been surrounded by love of family and friends to fully appreciate that love.

Therefore, on this Thanksgiving day, a day of rejoicing and praise to a kind and loving and infinite Father, it will not be those that are most privileged and who have reason for the greatest thanksgiving that will be singing the most meaningful songs of thanks. It will be people who have seen the depths and been lifted to a better state in life because somebody was kind to them, or because they have a new-found freedom, or a new privilege of worship.

## N. C. Death Rate Is Below Average

WASHINGTON — The crude death rate in North Carolina rose last year over that of 1946, but both figures per one thousand population were below the national average, the National Office of Vital Statistics reported here today.

The rate in 1946 for North Carolina was 7.8 per one thousand estimated population, while the rate in 1947 was 8.2. The national average rate in 1947 was 10.1 and in the year preceding it was 10.0.

Figures released showed an increase in the number of deaths in North Carolina from 28,724 in 1946 to 30,187 in 1947. Crude death rates, the agency pointed out, represent the total number of deaths per one thousand estimated midyear population.

## WOMAN'S OLD PROBLEM RELIEVED BY 2-WAY HELP

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Saturday, November 27

### "Billy the Kid in Santa Fe"

With—BOB STEELE

### "Cinderella Swings It"

With—Gloria Warren - Guy Kibbee  
 Chapter 2 "Phantom Empire"  
 With Gene Autry and his famous horse Champion

Late Show 10:45

### "The Cobra Strikes"

With—Sheila Ryan-Richard Fraser

Sunday - Monday, Nov. 28-29

### "Raw Deal"

Starring—Dennis O'Keefe - Claire Trevor - Marsha Hunt  
 News—Short Subjects

Tues. - Wed., Nov. 30, Dec. 1

### "Sioux City Sue"

With—Gene Autry and his famous horse Champion  
 Short Subjects

Thursday - Friday, Dec. 2-3

### "Our Relations"

With—Stan Laurel-Oliver Hardy  
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### SKILLWORK PHOTOS

Murphy, North Carolina



SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 5:1-7; Matthew 12:31-32, 44-46; Luke 10:23-27; 15:3-32  
 DEVOTIONAL READING: Matthew 13:10-16, 31-32

## God's Story-Teller

Lesson for November 28, 1948

"TRUTH in a tale," it is said "will enter in at lowly doors." The greatest truth of the entire Bible does not come to us in the shape of an essay but of a story—the story of Jesus.

"The gospel did not appear on the editorial page but on the news pages." Many people can understand essays; millions more can understand a story. Jesus himself, when he gave the world his message, used stories to do it. We are told that he never made a talk to the people without using a parable. The parables of the Bible are simply stories, often no more than a sentence long.

They are all alike in this: Whatever the story may be, there is more in it than meets the eye. Parables were not a form of entertainment; they were a way of teaching.

## No Cause Is Lost

SOMETIMES the teller of a parable would explain what he meant, as Isaiah does with his little song of the vineyard. Sometimes, and most often in Jesus' case, the meaning is so plain that only a very stupid person could miss it.

Matthew arranges several of Jesus' parables in pairs; one of these is the twin story of the mustard seed and the yeast in the meal (Matt. 13:31-33). Both mean the same thing, and both are so obvious that Jesus did not think it necessary to explain them.

The Kingdom of Heaven—the ideal world, the world as God intends it to be—is a living thing, a growing thing, something at first small, almost invisible. But it will grow; you cannot stop it.

So the ideal world, the Kingdom of Heaven, (Jesus hints) is not an artificial thing, it cannot be constructed by blueprints. It has to follow the course of living things. It does not come all of a sudden, it grows very quietly. You might not see the seed in the ground, but the farmer knows it is there.

## Pearl of Great Price

SOMETIMES two or three of Jesus' parables are like a musical theme with variations. The twin stories of the pearl worth more than the jeweler's whole collection, and of the treasure hidden in the field, are very much alike, yet just a little different in meaning.

Both tell us that the Kingdom of God is more valuable than anything else on earth; indeed, it includes everything else of value. But the stories are different. One tells of a man who was looking for something, the other tells of a man who was surprised by finding something.

Once a Chinese gentleman became dissatisfied with his inherited Confucianism, and set out to find a better religion. For years he shopped around, never finding what he needed. He left Christianity to the last, for in his section of China only coolies and peasants were Christians. But when he began to make friends with some real Christians, he was overjoyed. This was what he had been looking for. This was the pearl of great price.

On the other hand, a drunken sailor, certainly not looking for religion, wandered one night into a Salvation Army meeting. They could do nothing with him, but before they dragged him off to the lodging-house one of them slipped a bit of paper into his pocket. The next morning, cold sober, wondering where he was, he put his hand into that pocket and pulled the paper out. On it were pencilled three words: God loves you. It hit him right between the eyes; and he became a Christian. That was the "treasure hid in the field."

## How Far Will Love Go?

JESUS' contemporaries told parables too, but they have all been forgotten. Jesus' parables are incomparable, unforgettable, immortal. If Jesus had been known for nothing else, he would have been remembered for the four stories of the Good Samaritan, the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, the Lost Son.

These all have much the same point. "Lost" does not mean hopelessly doomed. How many persons we give up as hopeless! But God never gives up any one. A "lost" person is one whom God is seeking.

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Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Franklin, Mrs. Jennie Howell, Miss Barrie Vaughn and Judy Fisher, visited Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fulmer and family in Sylva Sunday.

**Postell**  
 Mr. and Mrs. Burl Brown were Sunday guests of Mrs. J. R. Hamilton.  
 Mr. Ada Stiles and children were Sunday guests of Mrs. Sophie Jones.  
 Clyde Jory of Gastonia spent the week-end with his family in this section.  
 Clate Stiles, John Wendle, and S. D. Jones made a business trip to Copperhill, Tenn., recently.  
 Joe Burger of Isabella, Tenn., recently visited Sherman Montgomery.  
 N. A. Quinn was the Sunday guest of Mrs. J. R. Hamilton.

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