

THE LESSON FOR SUNDAY

STORY OF ABRAHAM AND LOT

Sharing the Pleasures and Hardships of a Pilgrim's Life the Herdsman Becomes Wealthy—Lot's Character, Shines Resplendent—Lot's Selfishness Crops Out—Character of the Two Men Compared—Analysis and Key—The Teacher's Lantern.

Abram probably followed the great desert highway which still exists between the East and Damascus, the very same, probably, that his grandson Jacob took in his flight from his angry brother. To all outward appearances, Abram's company probably exactly resembled the caravan which the traveler in the East sees to-day. There were the camels, "ships of the desert," bearing their precious freight of women and children, beasts, provisions and merchandise. There were the flocks and herds and their attendants, besides the armed guard. The oak or oak grove of Moreh in Sichem is the first-mentioned camping-place of the patriarch within the bounds of the promised land. Abram's first recorded act is significant. Columbus, standing on the shore of the New World, unfurled the standard of Ferdinand. Abram, coming into Canaan, built an altar to God. So it became his custom.

When Abram had a tent, God had an altar. These became a series of "sermons in stone" to the idol-worshipping Canaanites. The first mention made of Abram on his return from his enforced sojourn in Egypt is concerning his wealth. The statement of the artist's narrative is simply, "Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold." God's promises of temporal blessings had an early fulfillment. Kitch's computations are curious rather than reliable. On the data of the possessions of Jacob and Job he estimates Abram as having between eight and nine thousand head of oxen, such immense herds and flocks would imply a correspondingly large number of attendants. From the incident of the equipment of three hundred and eighteen men for war it may be figured that there were something over a thousand men in the camp, not to mention women and children.

Up to this time Abraham and Lot had shared the pleasures and hardships of their pilgrim life. But now the herds of both had increased "so that the land was not able to bear them that they might dwell together." So, as sometimes occurs to this day, the herdsmen became rivals, and strove for pasturage and water. In this incident Abraham's character shines resplendent. Two thousand years before Christ he showed the Christian spirit when he said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen; for we are brethren." Nor are there mere words, Abraham backs them up. He waives his right. The land was his. It was all his. Yet in noble magnanimity he said to Lot: "Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me. If thou wilt take the left hand, then part to the right hand; if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left."

Lot's selfishness crops out. He took advantage of Abraham's generosity. He cast his eye on the well-watered plain of Jordan and chose it. He journeyed east. It was not long before he exchanged pastoral life for urban. He attempted the impossible. A double service—God and riches—met the inveterate and historic outcome.

- Another incident in the career of Lot is the occasion of the display of new traits in the admirable character of Abraham: decision, bravery, military skill. Lot is in trouble. The very wealth he coveted and the richness of the land he chose was the cause of it. A rumor brings tidings of a predatory incursion and of Lot's captivity. Abraham determines his course instantly. Lot must be rescued. Three companies of trained servants, born in his camp, are armed; and Abraham takes command in person. Strategy gains a victory. Generosity declines the spoils.

- ANALYSIS AND KEY. 1. Abraham's, a caravan extraordinary. Route and appearance. Significance of first act. An altar on arrival. 2. Abraham's wealth. Estimates. 3. Abraham and Lot. Relations. Effect of increased clans and herds. 4. Abraham's magnanimity and generosity. How shown. 5. Lot's selfishness. How shown. 6. Lot's danger. Abraham's rescue.

THE TEACHER'S LANTERN. Biography composes a large part of Scripture. God's Book has a deal by man in it. It is well it is so. Men of the Bible stand for ideas: Abel, innocence; Noah, obedience; Jacob, persistence; Moses, law; Aaron, worship; Joshua, courage; David, praise; Solomon, wisdom; Jeremiah, patriotism; Paul, zeal; John, love. Thus God teaches by example. Example is better than precept.

Want a boy to love his country, give him the life of a patriot; to be successful in business, give him the life of one of the "Captains of Industry." So God deals with His larger children: gives us examples. Good for imitation, bad for avoidance.

So, in studying Bible character, we are not to entertain ourselves with trivial incident, but find what they stand for, the virtue or the vice they incarnate.

Biography of the Bible reaches its highest note in the life of Jesus. Christianity, in final analysis, is the religion of a Person; not of a dogma, creed, or system of theology or ecclesiasticism. At heart of it is the Person. Truth is so shrined in Him that He could say, "I am Truth."

There is one little passage in the account of Abram's entrance to the promised land, it might escape the superficial reader, but is worthy of attention. "And the Canaanite was then in the land." The patriarch came into the land the Lord had indicated to him, only to find it preoccupied. He might have reasoned, "How can I ever, with my paltry band, drive out these warlike nations?" The incident seems not to have given him any concern. Fact is, he was not reasoning. He was trusting.

Again, there was something beside the Canaanites. There was a famine. What in the land which was to flow in milk and honey? Abraham did not fret. He did the wise thing. He went to Egypt on a visit.

THE FEDERAL PENSIONERS

Quite a number in Cumberland—For Greater Fayetteville—Mill Machinery Arriving—Death of a Non-American—News in Brief.

Fayetteville, Feb. 14.—There are 47 Federal pensioners in Cumberland, of the Mexican, civil and Spanish wars, of which 15 are white and 32 negroes. Their vouchers are signed by Magistrate Overby, and the warrants amount to \$423 a month, or a little over \$5,000 annually.

The proceedings of the citizens' meeting last Tuesday night, already sent to The Observer, are of great importance to Fayetteville. They may be embodied in two broad propositions: The issue of \$100,000 in bonds for street paving, excepting \$10,000 to go to sewerage; and the satisfaction of the corporate limits westward nearly two miles from the center of the city, Market Square, to take in the suburb of Haymount. There will be a fight on both propositions before the legislature by committee action, and afterwards should bills be passed, submitting these measures to a vote of the people. No one can deny that the needs are pressing for more sewers and paved streets, but the town property-owners fear more debt, and the Haymount property-owners fear more taxation.

The machinery is arriving as fast as the orders can be filled for the new cotton mill of the Victory Manufacturing Company. The mill will run 25,000 spindles and 400 looms. During the spring and summer a large part will be erected adjoining it, to take all the output derived of the Victory.

New capital, it is said, is to invest in the wholesale grocery business. This will be the second enterprise of the kind within the past few weeks. Messrs. Dunn, of Raleigh, having established themselves here recently. Fayetteville's position as a competitive freighting point makes it one of the best towns in the State for wholesaling of all kinds.

The death of Mrs. Rebecca Bryant, at her home, on Church street, lays to rest one of the oldest persons of either race in the city, her age being 95 years. She was the widow of the late Bartholomew Bryant, who died in the Confederate service.

The Cumberland Bar Association, acting with the county commissioners and the board of aldermen, will petition the Legislature for a special court for the trial of petty cases, minor misdemeanors, etc.

SOUTH'S NEED OF LABOR

The Washington Post Summarizes a Situation That is Fast Requiring an Adequate Remedy. Washington Post, February 11. "Two-thirds of the cotton mills of the South are running at 20 to 40 per cent. short of help. This condition has been brought about by the lack of native labor, and unless something is done by Congress to relieve the situation there will be a great many failures among the cotton mills of the South."

There is a clause in the immigration laws which says that in the event the necessary labor cannot be obtained in the United States the mill men may be permitted to go abroad and import help by contract. In my opinion something more than this will have to be done, for it is exceedingly difficult for the operators to prove that it is impossible to obtain the desired laborers in a big country like the United States.

There are at the present time several cotton mill proprietors on trial in North Carolina for an alleged violation of the anti-contract provision of the immigration laws in bringing to this country from England a few cotton mill operatives. If these men are convicted, the cotton mills of the South will be dealt a severe blow, which will, I am afraid, put many of them out of business.

BURGLARY AT LEXINGTON

Music Lovers of Asheboro to Present "Queen Esther." Special to The Observer.

High Point, Feb. 14.—The officers were notified here yesterday that a robbery had been committed in Lexington early that morning, when unknown parties entered the residence of the superintendent of the Lexington water-works. The officers here kept a sharp lookout, but failed to locate any suspicious character.

C. J. Field, secretary of the North Carolina Case-Workers' Association, has gone to Raleigh on business for the association. He will be absent several days, and he hopes to accomplish something for the betterment of his organization.

The musically inclined people of Asheboro will, on the 22d instant, present the pleasing cantata, "Queen Esther," which at one time was so well rendered here. Quite a number of High Point people will go down and witness the production.

Rabbit Dog Killed to Death by Its Victim

Newbern, Feb. 14.—Mr. Eugene Land, a salesman in a grocery store here, was attacked by an apparently rabid dog this afternoon and sustained severe injuries. The animal fastened his fangs in the man's hand and it was with difficulty that he was shaken off. The dog attacked another dog and nearly killed it. The rabid dog was finally killed by Mr. Land, who jumped on it and kicked it to death.

Loss of Eye Caused Suicide

Lumberton, Feb. 14.—News reached here this afternoon that Mr. Zachariah Plumber, a farmer who lived near St. Paul's, this county, committed suicide yesterday by hanging himself to a tree. It is understood that the act was committed as a result of grief over the loss of an eye, which he sustained some time ago, while cutting wood. He is survived by a family.

FOR BILIOUSNESS AND SICK HEAD-ACHE

Take Orino Laxative Fruit Syrup. It sweetens the stomach, aids digestion and acts as a gentle stimulant on the liver and bowels without irritating these organs. Orino Laxative Fruit Syrup cures biliousness and habitual constipation. Does not nauseate or grip and is mild and pleasant to take. Remember the name Orino and refuse to accept any substitute. R. J. Jordan & Co.

MAY BUILD NEW COURT HOUSE

Present Quarters of Durham County's Official Un satisfactory. Special to The Observer.

Durham, Feb. 14.—It seems now more than probable that at an early date Durham county will abandon and sell the present court house site and move to better quarters and erect a building on a new site that will be a credit to the county and one that will be better in every way. At the last meeting of the board of county commissioners, the county attorney was instructed to prepare a bill and present to Representative Manning, asking for the authority to dispose of the present court house property and also authority to acquire by purchase or condemnation another site and erect there a court house building. County Attorney Delos Sorrell went to Raleigh yesterday, armed with the bill that is to be submitted to Mr. Manning.

A certified copy of the new law recently enacted giving the people of Durham county the right to vote on the question of \$300,000 for the purpose of building good roads in the county, will be held with Dannon Lodge, in this city, to-night. In addition to giving the county the right to issue bonds, for the bill provides for a highway commission to handle the road question.

PYTHIANS AT TWIN-CITY

Annual Meeting for the Eighth District Held Last Night—Five Years for Larceny. Special to The Observer.

Winston-Salem, Feb. 14.—Five years on the road was the sentence imposed upon John Miller, colored, by Judge Ferguson, in Forsyth Superior Court yesterday. The defendant was convicted of stealing clothes from Walter Baynes, a white man, residing just east of the city.

The annual meeting of the lodges in the eighth district, Knights of Pythias, will be held with Dannon Lodge, in this city, to-night. In this connection, District Deputy O. E. Eaton has arranged for a celebration of the "big night," instituted by the Pythians a few years ago, and to be observed by every lodge in the domain of north Carolina. Prominent speakers have been invited, and the district meeting with a celebration of "Big Night," promises to be largely attended and a most interesting occasion for the Pythians of the eighth district.

Mrs. John R. Myers Entertains

Special to The Observer. Thomasville, Feb. 14.—The Ladies' Afternoon Book Club held the regular meeting Tuesday afternoon at the magnificent home of Mrs. John R. Myers. The subject for study was "Joan of Arc," and Miss Mary Johnson read a most excellent paper on the subject.

Shoe Trees

preserve shape and add to life and appearance of your footwear. Shapes to Fit Stylab Shoes—Men's and Ladies' Sizes. Miller's Patent Extension Trees, price \$1.00. Our Improved Lever Trees, price 75c. In ordering, send outline of shape of shoe, with size and width, and add 25c. for express or mailing. Catalogue free.

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SCHEDULE IS ARRANGED

Manager Bell, of Presbyterian College, Sources in Game, Five of Which Will be Played at Clinton, S. C. Special to The Observer.

Clinton, S. C., Feb. 14.—The baseball prospects that have been fondled and caressed for, and much talked of at the Presbyterian College since last fall, have now begun to take on much form and, with the coming of Coach George Winters from his St. Louis home in a few days, to take charge of the candidates already working under the captain and manager, things will begin to look like spring and baseball. Much work is now being done on the park and in another day or so it will be in perfect condition for swatting and catching. Coach Winters is widely known throughout the South, as well as the North. Manager Bell announces his schedule as follows after having had to re-arrange several games on account of ineligibility of some of the contestants:

March 27—Clemson, at Clinton. March 31—Newberry, at Newberry. April 4—Eskine, at Clinton. April 6—Furman, at Greenville. April 8—Wofford, at Spartanburg. April 12—Charleston, at Clinton. April 13—Clemson, at Anderson. April 14—Eskine, at Due West. April 20—South Carolina, at Columbia. April 23—Wake Forest, at Raleigh. April 24—Trinity, at Durham. April —Wesley Neck, at Hartsville. May —Wofford, at Clinton. May 11—Newberry, at Clinton.

Large Audience Hears Mr. Edwin Wilson

Special to The Observer. Gaffney, S. C., Feb. 14.—A large and select audience greeted Mr. Edwin Wilson at Limestone College Auditorium Tuesday night. Mr. Wilson has a voice of wonderful compass, power and sweetness. It was a matter of surprise to those who heard him last night that a singer of his ability has not attained a national reputation. He is easily the best baritone that has ever been in Gaffney, and Gaffney has had some good singers. Mr. Wilson is the baritone soloist at the First Presbyterian church in New York City.

All headaches go When you grow wiser

And learn to use An "Early Riser." DeWitt's Little Early Riser, safe, sure pills. Hawley's Pharmacy.

WINTER

is right here. We have a Stove for you that will make your room or your house cozy and comfortable. A new arrival of Brooklyn Oil Heaters.

J. N. McCausland & Co.

Stove Dealers and Roofing Contractors, 221 S. Tryon Street.



STEAM AND HOT WATER HEATING for residences.

HACKNEY BROS. Plumbing and Heating Contractors. Jobbers in Supplies.

Are You Interested in DIAMONDS?

Our line is complete; each stone guaranteed as represented, or you get your money back. Any size from \$5.00 up. Brooches, any style desired. Number 7090 winning our \$50.00 prize is still out.

GARIBALDI & BRUNS

Mr. J. N. Cudd, of Spartanburg, has purchased a one-fourth interest in The Ledger building from J. Ebb Jefferies, Esq.

WANTED 3,000 Shares

IN THE

MECHANICS' PERPETUAL BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

The 48th series of the Mechanics' Perpetual Building & Loan Association, will commence March 1st. The books for which are now open. First payment, Saturday, March 2nd.

S. WITKOWSKY President R. E. COCHRANE Sec. & Treas.

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Who Makes the Cigars You Smoke

Perhaps you never thought the matter of very much importance—but considered it enough to know the retailer from whom you bought.

But when you are repeatedly stung with poor cigars you cannot always blame the retailer—that isn't the way to avoid unreliable brands. Because that very same retailer probably carries in stock the best brands of cigars made—if you only ask for them.

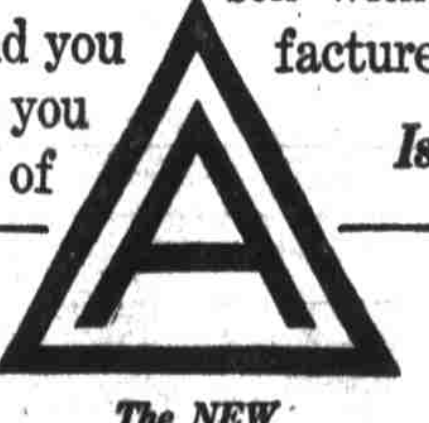
You ought to KNOW When you get a poor cigar—and you don't know who made it—how are you going to avoid the other brands of the same manufacture? Don't you see that there is no way to prevent dishonest or incompetent manufacturers from repeatedly imposing on you by offering you unidentified brands of different names?

The American Cigar Company stands back of its brands with a responsible guarantee of their quality. We stamp the boxes of our standard brands with our Triangle A merit mark so you can immediately distinguish them wherever you go.

Then we invite you—even urge you—to go to any store and ask for any one of our Triangle A brands—then judge it strictly on its merits in critical comparison with the cigars of any other manufacture sold you at the same price.

Isn't that a square deal?

Do you know any other cigar manufacturer who stands back of his product in the same unmistakable way and on the same responsible basis, with as plain a guarantee of value?



The NEW CREMO

is convincing evidence of the improved quality which the Triangle A guarantees. Every box is extra-wrapped in glassine paper to keep the cigars clean, fresh and in perfect smoking condition.

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