

Sunday School Lesson:

Lure Of The City Was Strong, Even When Lot Chose Sodom

DR. WILLIAM T. ELLIS and EARL L. DOUGLASS

Much of today is wrapped up in the long-ago yesterday of Abraham and Lot. We find the same dispute over territory; the ghastly consequences of wrong decisions; the brotherly attitude of one party to a dispute; and the lure of city life to a countryman.

Abraham and his nephew Lot had settled in Canaan. As their possessions increased, so did friction between their interests and their herdsman. The time came for an apportionment of territory.

By all the usages of the Orient, Lot should have deferred to his elder relative. But Lot was bad-mannered and selfish and unstable. So, instead of saying, "After you, Uncle Abraham. You choose first," he looked covetously at the lush green valley of the Jordan, with great cities near at hand and said, "This for me you may have the bare uplands."

Abraham was a spacious, tolerant character, rather inclined to have peace at any price. He thought more of family loyalty than of his own advantage. So he bade Lot follow his desires.

We find a key to Abraham's motives in his return from his unfortunate sojourn in Egypt, where he had resorted to a cowardly lie, calling his wife, the beautiful Sarah, his sister, to save his own life.

His shame and repentance for this sin are easily imagined; for this is the one blot against his godly character. Full of remorse and repentance, he left Egypt, and journeyed up to his first altar at Bethel, to renew relations with the God of a Second Chance. Thenceforth his life would be guided by the will of Jehovah, the merciful. This wandering, wicked world of our needs to make pilgrimage to Bethel. A return to old time religion will do more for this muddled era than all of the schemes of statesmen. Things will get right when men get right with God. It was a converted and consecrated Abraham who was made ready to deal with presumptuous Lot.

What wonderful things would happen to our world were Stalin suddenly to return to the Scriptural teachings he once learned as a theological student; and Churchill were to take his Prayer Book as his guide, and Truman were to stand utterly for the faith of his youth as a Baptist! The simplicities of religion would solve the complexities of statesmanship.

Our Lesson has advanced geo-

graphically from Mesopotamia to Canaan and Egypt, henceforth to be the man scene of the Bible Story. The Garden of Eden region, with its great cities and empires, is no longer central. Henceforth the little strip of hilly country, with few fat valleys, that lies east of the Jordan, is to be the middle scene of God's dealings with the Chosen People. There the Messiah was to come.

The Jordan Valley, which Lot chose, is the deepest rift in the earth's surface — 1300 feet below sea level, and of tropical richness.

The Sunday School Lesson for July 22 is, "Abraham's Practice of Brotherhood" — Genesis 13-15.

The Dead Sea, now being utilized by Great Britain as a source of immeasurable mineral riches, was bordered by luxurious and sinful cities. A French archaeologist has identified the site of Sodom and Gomorrah as on the northeastern shore of the Dead Sea. Dr. Melvin Kyle contended for a submerged site at the lower end of the lake. By the western shore are famous mineral springs, the healing properties of which have been used from remotest antiquity.

THE CITY MOOD Lot, a life-long dweller in tents, felt the lure of the cities. He liked the idea of going to town for his shopping. At first he only pitched his tent toward Sodom. Later he decided to leave tents and all they stood for and move into the city. Gradually, he made acquaintance with the bright lights. If there had been night clubs in Sodom, he would have made the rounds of them. His was not a deep culture. The glitter and sophistication of city life appealed to him. While his Uncle Abraham sat under the stars, communing with God, Lot lounged in the wine shops of Sodom.

Easy was the next step. Lot moved his family into the city — with tragic consequences. Only the intercession of Abraham saved him from destruction when Jehovah poured out His wrath upon the citadel of sin.

This old, old choice between city and country confronts myriads of returning soldiers. Pleasures innumerable, and quick prizes, await the young man in the city. But in the country, human roots strike deep, and character grows strong. Independence is there, and simple neighborly fellowship, and habits of worship and health for the family. To be close to the soil means, for most men, to be close to God. Not all cities are as Sodom and not all rural communities are paradise. But the lot who became entangled in a city's ways and fate would have been a different man had he abode by his flocks in the fields. He missed life's gold in grasping at its tinsel.

Production of dairy farm machinery and equipment in 1944 had a value of \$36,000,000 compared with \$23,000,000 in 1943, and \$22,000,000 in 1941.

Itching, Burning, Perspiring Feet

Go to any drugstore today and get an original bottle of Moore's Emerald Oil. Don't worry—this powerful penetrating oil brings such ease and comfort that you'll soon be able to go about your work again, happy and without that almost unbearable itching and soreness.

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The biggest dollar's worth we've seen this year!

Arrow Ties is the name—Arrow's newest tie! It comes in smart solid colors, trim stripes, and right-tho'-royal plaids. It's easy-knotting. Has the special Arrow lining that does the job, resists wrinkles too. Arrow Ties comes in 100% rayon; rayon and aralac mixture; and rayon and wool. See it today! Only \$1.

A. V. Wray & 6 Sons FOR ARROW TIES



James R. Neal In Koblenz, Germany

Pvt. James R. Neal, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Neal of Kings Mountain, has informed his parents he is now in Koblenz, Germany, with the 35th division. He has been in service three years and has been overseas for the past 12 months. He is a brother of Arthur Neal of Shelby.

Joseph Tarlton Back From European Area

Sgt. Joseph P. Tarlton, 25, of this place, has returned to the States after 16 months service as a machine gunner in the European theatre of operations. While there he was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat against the enemy, the combat infantryman's badge and the European campaign ribbon with four battle stars.

Lt. Earl Meacham At London Office

Word has been received here that Lt. Earl Meacham of the Navy, husband of the former Miss Montrose Mull of this place, is now at a navy port office in England. These offices were operated during the war against Germany to handle problems of the armed guards. Lt. Meacham is on duty in the London headquarters of the port offices.

John Hawkins, Buddy Roberts Enter Navy

John Landrum Hawkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hawkins, and Buddy Roberts, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Roberts, went to Raleigh yesterday for their navy physical examinations, having previously volunteered for naval service. Hawkins, who will take a course in radar, went to Great Lakes, Ill., for immediate training, while Roberts returned to his home here for a short period before entering boot training school.

Charles Eskridge Gets Discharge From Navy

Charles R. Eskridge, who has been serving in the Navy for the past 15 months, has been granted an honorable discharge from service and is now at home with his wife and two children here. After training at Bainbridge, Md., and Norman, Okla., Eskridge was stationed at Norfolk, Va., where he was on duty until his recent discharge.

Harland Wright Wounded On Mindanao Island

Mrs. Myrtle Wright of route 5, Shelby, has been informed by the War Department that her son, Pfc. Harland P. Wright, was slightly wounded on Mindanao island on June 24. No further information was given in the telegram, which stated that a letter would follow.

Two From Here With Pacific Bomber Group

Word has been received here that two Cleveland county men are with the 13th army air force in the Philippines, serving with a B-24 Liberator group which has been awarded two distinguished unit citations for raids over Woleai island and Balikpapan. Pvt. George O. Moon of Kings Mountain and Chaplain (captain) J. C. Reichard of Shelby are members of the bomber group, which fought at

Planning for TELEPHONE PROGRESS in Rural DIXIE

To keep step with farm progress and to extend service to more farm families, the telephone industry is working on important new devices and methods.

Plans are already under way for resuming our rural telephone expansion program which was suspended in 1942 when equipment and materials became more urgently needed for the armed forces. Surveys are being made to determine the needs and to provide the facts from which we can carry out plans for expansion of farm telephone service in the South.

The goal is to bring the telephone to the greatest possible number of farm families.



NEWS OF OUR MEN and WOMEN IN UNIFORM

Pearl Harbor, Midway and in the Solomons. They have participated in the campaigns covering the South, Central and Southwest Pacific and the China-Burma-India zone.

FSA Supervisor Attends Two-Day Electric School

The use and care of home electrical appliances and efficient wiring were among the subjects discussed at a meeting of FSA home management supervisors from 30 counties who met with representatives of Duke Power company at Hickory, says Mrs. Lena W. McGill, home supervisor for Cleveland county, who was among the group.

Newman Condition Remains Critical

FORT WORTH TEXAS, July 20 —(AP)—The condition of Corp. James E. Newman, who contracted tuberculosis and other diseases during three years in a Jap prison camp, remained critical today.

London Lawyers Honor Eisenhower

LONDON, July 20 —(AP)—Gen. Eisenhower was elected an honorary member of the Lincoln's Inn Society today. A bencher is a member of the governing board of the society, which is one of London's legal organizations through which the practice of law is governed.

DIXON STORE NEARLY READY

FALLSTON — The new brick store building of W. J. Dixon and son is nearing completion. They continued business in the C. C. Falls building after the disastrous fire, and plan to be in their new building soon.

AUXILIARY MEETS

The Woman's Auxiliary of Friendship church met in the hut Wednesday afternoon. The devotional was given by Mrs. Evan Wilson. Mrs. Grier Martin had charge of the program. Those assisting were Mrs. Oscar Morgan, Mrs. Austin Royster, Mrs. Rob Wilson and Mrs. Fields Toney.

DRUG STORE OPENS

Fallston drug store is now ready for business with the exception of fountain drinks. Mrs. C. C. Falls returned home Wednesday after taking several days' treatment in the Charlotte Memorial hospital.

SKILL IS VITAL IN FILLING PRESCRIPTIONS

As vital as any ingredient written down by your doctor. You can bring your prescriptions here assured that they will be compounded accurately by a qualified registered pharmacist who uses only the highest quality drugs. You get exactly what your doctor orders.

NEXT TIME CALL US!

Shelby Drug Co.

"SHELBY'S FIRST RATE" DRUG STORE — PHONE 774 — PROFESSIONAL BUILDING

ATTENTION Farmers And Pulpwood Producers In Cleveland County

PINE AND HARDWOOD PULPWOOD IS URGENTLY NEEDED BY OUR MILL FOR WAR PURPOSES. More pulpwood must be cut to meet the growing demand of our armed forces for containers to ship foods, ammunition, and other supplies overseas. Supplies going into the Pacific war theater must be double and even triple wrapped for the long haul.

By cutting pulpwood now, farmers are helping to shorten the war and at the same time providing another source of cash income for themselves.

Be a soldier on the home front! Start cutting pulpwood now — a war job with a post war future.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT OUR FIELD MAN, MR. HOWARD S. WRIGHT P. O. BOX 983, STATESVILLE NORTH CAROLINA, OR WRITE

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PLYMOUTH, N. C.

REVIVAL ENDS AT KADESH

Daily Vacation Bible School On; Peeters In From Portsmouth

BELWOOD — Revival services were held at Kadesh church last week. Rev. J. S. Gibbs of Shelby did the preaching. There were 12 additions to the church.

John Hawkins, Buddy Roberts Enter Navy

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DILLON HEADS STATE'S BOARD

RALEIGH, July 20 —(AP)—C. A. Dillon of Raleigh was re-elected chairman of the state board of correction and training yesterday at a quarterly session of the board at Eastern Carolina Training school, Rocky Mount.

UPSET SKIN? BLACKHEADS - PIMPLES - 25c

SKIN SUCCESS SOAP and OINTMENT