

Improved Uniform International SUNDAY SCHOOL

LESSON

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D. Dean of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. © Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for July 24

GIDEON: FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN

LESSON TEXT—Judges 7:4-7, 15-23. GOLDEN TEXT—Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage. Joshua 1:9. PRIMARY TOPIC—Why Gideon Won. JUNIOR TOPIC—Gideon's Band. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The Lord's Three Hundred. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—A Wise General.

Who is he? What are his connections? How large an organization does he represent? These are the measures of the greatness of a man which are common in the world. Even in religious circles there is a speaking for the men with "big names" when something is to be done. Our lesson for today reiterates the principle which we all know but which we practice so little, namely, that whatever is accomplished that is really worth while is done by God and that He uses only humble instruments—the "foolish things," the "weak things," the "base things," and "things which are despised" (I Cor. 1:26-29). No flesh is to have any opportunity to glory in His presence. If men who are accounted great by this world are useful to God it is only because they are themselves humble in spirit and in service.

Gideon came from an obscure family in a small tribe in Israel—and was astonished when God called him (Judges 6:15). He asked God for several signs to assure him that he was the chosen instrument of the Lord (read Judges 6), but once he was certain he went forward, nothing doubting.

I. An Insignificant Army (vv. 4-7). At first thought it seems almost foolish to comment on this story of repeated reductions in the size of Gideon's army in these hectic days when the nations of the earth are living for but one objective—to create a fighting machine bigger and more fully manned than that of any other nation.

But on second thought it is just the time for such comment, because what the nations are doing is a perfect example of the hopeless philosophy of men, while what Gideon did is a presentation of God's way. These notes are being prepared in a city distant from the writer's home, where he is attending a conference of national leaders in a field of great and international importance. A long session just concluded was addressed by a number of brilliant and capable men and women—and the conclusion they reached was that America was a badly befuddled nation, lost without a sense of direction in a wilderness of incoherent and inherently contradictory theories and about to lose its dearly bought freedom, unless someone points the way out. The only solutions offered were bigger and better human programs, and when a suggestion was made that our need might be spiritual the discussion was promptly directed in another direction.

We need the lesson today that it is by the seemingly insignificant Gideon's band that victory is to be obtained. Take courage, ye 300, rid yourselves of the 22,000 fearful ones. Let God sift out the 9,700 who are not alert to the danger of the enemy, and then, under some Gideon who is obedient to the command of God, go forward to victory. You are the hope, and the only hope of our nation. Do not fail God in this crucial hour.

II. Obedience to God's Command (vv. 15-23).

After the Lord had encouraged the heart of Gideon by the account of the dream of the Midianite (vv. 8-14), he and his band are sent forward with strange weapons and even stranger instructions.

It is not ours to question "Why?" when God tells us to move forward. When will we learn that He knows more than we do, and that obedience to all we need to render unto Him? It should, to obey is better than to sacrifice, and to hearken than the voice of rams" (I Sam. 15:22).

III. The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon (vv. 18, 20).

While some folk err in counting on the Lord out and making everything depend on man, there are a few who make the opposite error and become fatalistic in spirit and relatively useless to both God and man—because they hold an improper view of the manner in which the Lord works through human agencies.

A man who objected to soul-winning efforts, and especially personal work, said that he believed God could save a man if he were gone on the top of the Alps. Of course He could, but God does not ordinarily work that way. It is the sword of the Lord—yes, but do not forget that it is "the sword of the Lord and of Gideon." God has graciously condescended to do His work on earth through human agencies. Let us be ready and subservient instruments for His use, but let us at the same time be alert and active in His service. The two are not at all inconsistent, in fact the one whom God chooses to use is usually the one who is already busy about His work.

Church Directory

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Rev. Ben Gehring, Pastor 9:45 A. M.—Bible School G. M. Paul, Supt. 11:00 A. M.—Morning Worship. 6:30 P. M.—B.T.U. Meetings, U. E. Swann, Director. 7:30 P. M.—Evening Worsip.

ANN STREET METHODIST L. D. Hayman, Pastor

Church School every Sunday morning at 9:45. Morning Services at 11 o'clock Young People's Hour: Intermediates at 6:45 P. M. Senior Group 6:45 P. M. Evening Prelude each Sunday evening begins at 7:15. This is a 15-minute program of Organ Numbers played by Mrs. Virginia Hassell.

4-H Boys and Girls To Meet At College

Raleigh, July 20.—Farm boys and girls from practically every county in North Carolina will gather at State College next Monday to spend a week at the annual 4-H short course, July 25-30.

A well planned program of recreation and education has been arranged for the young people by L. R. Harvill and Miss Frances MacGregor, 4-H club leader at the college.

At the first formal session Monday morning, Col. John W. Harrelson administrative dean of State College, and Dr. Jane S. McKimmon, assistant director of the extension service, will address the boys and girls. Dr. I. O. Schaub, dean of the school of agriculture and director of the extension service, will speak Monday evening.

Governor Clyde R. Hoey will

Evening Worship at 7:30 Wednesday evnning service 7:30 Choir meets for practice session every Thursday evening at 7:30.

NORTH RIVER CHURCH Church School first and third Sundays at 2 P. M. with preaching at 3 o'clock on these Sundays. Church School, only, on second and fourth Sundays at 10 A. M.

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS Highland Park, Beaufort Rev. T. O. Todd, Minister Sunday School at 9:45 A. M. Bible Study, Wednesday 7:30 P. M.; Prayer Service Sunday 7:30 P. M.; Preaching by Pastor on First Sundays; Saturday 7:30 P. M., Sunday 11 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. "Prove All Things," 1 Thess. 5:21

Dr. Frank P. Graham, president of the University of North Carolina, is scheduled for an address on Wednesday morning. Clyde R. Erwin, state superintendent of public instruction, will appear on Friday's program.

Class work will be given from 10 to 12:45 o'clock each morning. The courses will cover parliamentary procedure, good grooming, good manners, food and nutrition, home care of milk, food conservation, handicrafts, room improvement, clothing, adventures with books, home beautification, recreation, leadership, agricultural engineering, conservation of natural resources, plant diseases, crops, livestock, the farm shop, and horticulture.

Crowning of the State 4-H King and Queen of Health at the Health Pageant on Thursday evening and the candle-lighting ceremony Friday evening, will be two of the outstanding events of the short

course. The afternoon will be occupied with games, informal gettogethers, swimming, and sight-seeing tours. In addition to special programs, the evenings will feature community singing, vesper services, and recreation.

Terrace construction over most of the State was held up by rainy weather for several weeks, but as the ground began to dryout work has started again on fields where it would not interfere with growing crops.

J. H. Hardy, of Surry County, finds that corn on land that was subsoiled two years ago is at least one-third better than his other corn. He wants to sub-soil 50 more acres this fall.

What Others Say

WHAT OTHER EDITORS SAY... SHEESHEDING AT CAPE LOOKOUT.

A qualified member of the ancient and accepted order of Wal-tonians will tell another member where a good fishing hole has been found, but seldom sees occasion to have the bellman call the information through the streets. However, those who have proved it out we have heard testify that there is no object in maintaining reticence as to the sheepshead fishing at the Cape Lookout breakwater, seeing that everybody goes there anyway, and few ever seem to come away with more than a specimen or two of this particular fish.

The way to make a violinist is to start him at the age of six; same prescription for a master of golf. There is a sub-fraternity of anglers who had their initiation and early training from and with

the hornyheads of the little up-land creeks and branches. They got a peculiar technique of sensory perception and wrist action. Some of them were destined to make the discovery that sheepshead fishing is the apotheosis, or something like that of branch-hornyhead fishing, that a post-graduate course with the sheepshead is Real Fishing, and that the place of all places is Cape Lookout. That great mass of granite blocks ranging up to the size of a piano which Senator Simmons in his wisdom had the United States government dump, in the manner of a Gargantuan corn pile, out from the shore. These sheepshead anglers do not vaunt themselves as of superior caste, like the bonefishers or the inspired fly flingers, but they know what is what, they know what they like, and they are con-

tent. Now a marine officer, with gig and submarine equipment, has boldly invaded the element of the sheepshead and slain his hundreds of pounds. This looks serious, as well as sort of hoggish; but taking into consideration the slimy, treacherous surface of the rocks and the more than occasional roughness of the sea there, it may be doubted that he will have many persevering or successful imitators.—Greensboro Daily News.

SUCCESS AT THE START

The East Carolina Wild Life club, composed of nearly two hundred sportsmen interested in preserving game in this section, met decided success in its first action. On Monday of this week, the hunters and fishermen met in Beaufort, effected their organiza-

tion, and drew up requests to be presented to the State Board of Conservation and Development, then in session on the coast. One of their requests was for shorter quail and turkey seasons, to allow depleted covies and flocks to multiply. The old season, November 20 to February 15, was too long, they maintained, and asked for a December 1 to February 15 season, a 10-day decrease. The State board seeing that it had the cooperation of these representative sportsmen, set the season at December 15 to February 20, a 20-day decrease that should aid greatly in replenishing North Carolina's fields and forests with wild life.

The Eastern Carolina Wild Life club has begun a movement that should result in making North Carolina a better hunting state.—New Bern Tribune.



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