

Sunday School Lesson

Lesson for September 22, 1946
THE PRACTICE OF NEIGHBORHOODNESS

Scripture Lesson: Exodus 22:21-23; Deuteronomy 24:14-15, 17-22; 2 Chronicles 6:32-33; Matthew 25:31-45; Galatians 3:26-29; Hebrews 13:2.

Golden Text: The King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Matthew 25:40.

Who is your neighbor? If someone asked you that question, what would you reply? Would you stop at the first dictionary definition given and say, "My neighbor is a person who lives near me," or would you give the other and greater reply, "My neighbor is my fellowman"?

How big is your neighborhood? Someone has said that the whole world is a neighborhood—that we each live in another's backyard because of the highly developed means of transportation and communication. Wendell Wilkie wrote a book called One World. Today, with embers from World War II still smoldering, with rumors of another war flying about, with an atom bomb and atomic energy on our hands, we realize that the statement, "one world or none" is an absolute truth.

The Old Testament "Good Neighbor Policy"

The "good neighbor policy" might be a rather recent expression, bringing to our minds recent associations with South America, but what it implies goes way back to the time of Moses. Two chapters beyond that which contains the Ten Commandments we find the law of the stranger in Exodus 22:21-23. In the records of antiquity, no trace of a law against oppression of foreigners may be found among the statutes of the Egyptians, Babylonians, and other contemporaries of the Israelites. While Israel was the first to glimpse the truth of one God, it was also the first nation to see that all men are equal before God. They had a "good neighbor policy" all their own. They were faithful to their friends. All Israelites were to be regarded as brothers and neighbors. They recognized the rights of hospitality and generosity. They were willing and eager to entertain strangers. An unwritten law of desert life was hospitality. The wanderer—even if he were an enemy—was fed. At their best, these people were willing to forgive injuries. Joseph forgave his brothers who had committed a great act of injustice to him. David spared Saul's life when he had an opportunity to kill him. In spite of this high moral code, however, the Israelites became cruelly impassioned as time went on. They should have learned justice and compassion toward the alien from their own sad and lengthy sojourn as slaves in the land of Egypt; but as is often the case, they learned cruelty from their oppressors. In the history of the early days of Christianity, we see them in all the ugliness of racial hatred in their attitude toward the Gentiles.

Discriminations

On a tombstone in a Pacific island there are supposed to be inscribed these words, "Here lies a black man, killed by a yellow man, for the white man's glory." Someone has said that race hatred digs the deepest chasm which separates man from man. The most pitiful aspect of racial discrimination is seen in what happens to the weaker member of an alien group, such as widows and orphans. A part of Isaiah's indictment was that "they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them." Jesus gave a terrific denunciation to the scribes and Pharisees for devouring widows' houses.

Throughout all history, the laboring man has had a struggle. Even in Bible times, certain professions were frowned upon, such as the one of tax collecting. There is discussion in the scriptures of when a man should be paid, and also a discussion of giving a man that which he deserves for his services. We cannot rightly say that either the Old Testament or New Testament endorses any particular economic system, but we can say that both Old and New Testaments uphold a righteous treatment of the laborer without discrimination as to class.

Practicing Neighborliness Today

Applying this lesson to ourselves, we turn to Jesus' teachings and find that a Christian's duty to his neighbor is found in three

words. (1) Justice—"Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." (2) Kindness—Jesus was kind to the lonely, to the down-hearted, to the poor and outcast, to the sick, to sinners, to little children. (3) Forgiveness—When asked by a disciple how many times a man should forgive, Jesus answered, "Seventy times seven," implying that man ought always to forgive one another.

The statement, "He is a good neighbor," in a rural community is high praise. For admittance into the Kingdom of God, the statement, "He is a good neighbor," is a necessity. With the spirit of Jesus in our hearts today, we will sacrifice in order that we might give to starving Europe; we will attempt to quell racial prejudice by our treatment of people of other races, and by our remarks concerning these people, we will attempt to put into action the Christian ideal that all men have equal rights; we will not be class conscious, but Christ conscious; we will stoop to do little things for all who need our aid, not caring for public recognition of our deeds, for Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me."

I dare not slight the stranger at my door—

Threadbare of garb and sorrowful of lot—

Let it be Christ that stands; and goes His way

Because I, all unworthy, knew Him not.

I dare not miss one flash of kindling cheer

From alien souls, in challenge glad and high.

Ah, what if God be moving very near

And I, so blind, so deaf, had passed Him by?

—Laura Simmons.

Discussed by E. Shelton.

BAKERS IN PHILADELPHIA GET 18 1/2-CENT PAY HIKE

Philadelphia.—Announcement of a wage increase of 18 1/2 cents an hour for 1883 bakery employees in this city was made by Local 6, Bakery and Confectionery Workers. The new contract, described as "the best in many plants of the nation," covers the year ending July 31, 1947, and is retroactive to August 1. Bakers' wages are increased from \$1 to \$1.18 1/2 cents; unskilled male helpers from 77 1/2 to 96, and unskilled women workers from 56 to 74 1/2 cents. In addition the union members received \$10 each from the union strike fund as partial compensation for lost wages during the 14-day work stoppage which preceded the agreement.

UNIONISTS ATTEND MASS

New York City.—More than 2,000 trade unionists assembled at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Labor Day to hear an address by the Rev. Joseph M. Moody, professor of modern history at Cathedral College. He stated that the group represented the "only means of progress" toward a just social and economic system.

THE MARCH OF LABOR

THE WAR PRODUCTION RECORD OF AMERICAN LABOR:
246,845 PLANES
45,384,000 TONS OF MERCHANT SHIPPING
56,697 NAVAL VESSELS
between July 1940 and Feb. 1945

IN 1941 THE U.S. PUBLIC PUT ABOUT THREE BILLION DOLLARS INTO AUTOMOBILES.

350,000 AMERICAN WORKERS WERE PERMANENTLY DISABLED THRU INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS DURING THE WAR.

THE UNION LABEL UNDER THE SWEATBAND OF A HAT IS YOUR GUARANTEE OF UNION WORKMANSHIP!

Story of Labor

ORGANIZED LABOR HAS ALWAYS FUGHT FOR BETTER AND MORE ADEQUATE HOUSING. FOR MANY YEARS IT HAS DEMANDED GOVERNMENT AID TO GET RID OF CONGESTED, DISEASE-BREEDING SLUM AREAS WHERE ONE-THIRD OF THE NATION IS FORCED TO LIVE. IT VIGOROUSLY OPPOSES THE UNDEMOCRATIC PRACTICE OF SEGREGATION AND RACIAL RESTRICTING COVENANTS. EVERY AMERICAN HAS A RIGHT TO LIVE EVERYWHERE IN DEMOCRACY AND COMFORT... AND HE SHOULD NOT BE STOPPED FROM DOING SO BECAUSE OF HIS RACE, COLOR, RELIGION OR TYPE OF WORK HE PERFORMS.

THE PROBLEM IS MUCH WORSE TODAY. RETURNING VETERANS ARE LUCKY TO FIND QUONSETT HUTS AND HENCOCKS. FAMILIES DOUBLE UP. THE HEAT IS ON TO RAISE RENTS. MILLIONS OF NEW HOUSES ARE NEEDED, AND FEDERAL AID IS ESSENTIAL....

EVEN BEFORE THE WAR WE HAD SLUMS LIKE THIS...

WHY DO YOU LIVE IN THIS FACTORY DUMP? THERE ARE NICE HOUSES ACROSS THE TRACKS!

RAINT AFFORD TO DON'T MAKE ENOUGH!

SIDES, FOLKS THERE WON'T LET US!

ANOTHER THING, MR. JONES IF YOU BUY HERE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS. WE SELL ONLY TO WHITE PROTESTANTS WITH PROPER SOCIAL REFERENCES.

FIFTY A MONTH? GEE, FOXGLOVES WERE CHEAPER!

HERE'S YOUR DOUGH. I'LL TAKE IT!

WHERE'RE THE CHICKENS GOING TO LIVE!

WHY DON'T YOU BUILD LOWER-PRICE HOUSES WORKERS CAN AFFORD?

I MAKE MORE MONEY ON THESE EXPENSIVE ONES!

THEN THE GOVERNMENT'LL HAVE TO DO IT!

BUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MOVES SLOW, AND...

I AGREE THE SITUATION IS VERY BAD! BUT THERE ARE CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO WANT... ER... RESTRICTED BUILDING.

YOU MEAN NO NEGROES OR RELIGIOUS MINORITIES NEED APPLY?

YES!

THEN LABOR'S GOING TO PUT THE HEAT ON CONGRESS! THIS IS A GOVERNMENT OF ALL, NOT JUST A FEW BIGOTS!

Jack Alderman

Many Southern Locals Report Contract Gains

MANY LOCALS REPORTING SUBSTANTIAL GAINS IN NEW CONTRACTS

Atlanta, Ga.—Spurred by their smashing victory over the CIO in the National Labor Relations Board election at the three Oak Ridge, Tenn., atomic energy plants, leaders of the American Federation of Labor's Southern campaign intensified their drive to seal their triumph at the approaching run-off elections.

The showdown at the atom plants was the first major contest between the two organizations since inauguration of the AFL campaign to enroll one million new members in the South. Approximately 10,000 men and women employed in the three plants are eligible to vote in the selection of a collective bargaining agent.

The Oak Ridge victory came as George L. Googe, director of the Southern Organizing campaign and chairman of the AFL's Southern Policy Board, reported the AFL in the Southern area is signing up 10 new members to every one enrolling in the CIO.

One notable reason for this overwhelming difference, Mr. Googe said, is the superiority of the AFL's bargaining techniques.

"Without strikes or other upheavals, and within the approvable price regulations, our unions are doing a mastery job of raising wage standards," he said. The prize achievement for a single week goes to the Hod Carriers' Building and Common Laborers' International Union.

"John S. Turner, general southern representative of this union, reports that he has received Wage Adjustment Board approval of hourly rate increases for Columbus,

Ga., Jackson, Tenn., and Mobile, Ala., laborers' locals."

The elections in the atom energy plants saw 3,622 votes cast for the AFL and 3,081 for the CIO. The run-off is necessitated because many workers voted against affiliation with any union and will be permitted now to vote yes or no for one of the two.

A simple majority of all the workers will be required in the next balloting. In view of the wide margin registered by the AFL over the CIO, AFL organizers expressed confidence of ultimate victory by even a more impressive majority than was scored in the initial vote.

The report of Mr. Turner on the success of the Hod Carriers' and Laborers' drive in the three Southern cities revealed the approved wage increases range from 10 to 30 cents an hour, and that the average raise will be 20 cents.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Teamsters' southern drive reported further notable gains in scattered sections.

In Chattanooga, Tenn., the Teamsters negotiated an agreement covering the city's street and sewage workers and providing wage increases ranging from 10 to 15 cents an hour, improved working conditions and holiday overtime. Approximately 160 workers are affected.

Teamsters in Arkansas reported gains over the entire state, both in signing of new contracts containing wage increases and in the winning of NLRB elections.

In Tampa, Fla., they signed a new contract with the National Biscuit Co., carrying a substantial pay raise, six holidays with pay and paid vacations, and in Paducah, Ky., an agreement was signed covering employees of the Federal Mineral Co., with a 10-cent-an-hour pay boost and other improvements.

11 PER CENT OF 40,000 EMPLOYERS VIOLATED LAW

Washington.—In a recent discussion Secretary of Labor Schwelbach announced that Wage and Hour inspectors found minimum wage violations in 11 per cent of the 40,000 business establishments visited during the past year. He urged that the present 40-cent hourly minimum should be increased.

Stating that 40 cents an hour "is only \$832 for a full year's work at 40 hours a week," Secretary Schwelbach contended that it was erroneous to assume, as many people do, that "wage earners no longer need the law's protection." He argued that even with the \$5 a month increase in old-age insurance grants recently put into effect, "these sums are wholly inadequate."

AFL WINS GOODYEAR ELECTION AT LINCOLN

Lincoln, Nebr.—The AFL registered a sweeping victory over the CIO in a recent National Labor Board election at the Goodyear plant here when 142 workers voted for the AFL union as its collective bargaining agent and only 64 cast ballots for the CIO. This was the first showdown between the two unions in this plant.

U. S. APPEALS TO POLAND FOR FREE LABOR PARTY

Washington, D. C.—The United States has called upon the Polish provisional government to give the Labor and Peasant parties, and all other democratic and anti-Nazi groups a free voice in their preparations for the elections slated for November and to remove recently imposed restrictions.

Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson said the note cited "administrative persecution" of the Polish Labor Party, which was not allowed to hold its party congress, and to steps taken to deprive the Polish Peasant Party of its right to assemble for normal party functions. It pointed out, also, the war suffering of the Polish people and their right to select the government under which they would live.

Britain, also, press dispatches reported, has filed a similar protest against "grave irregularities" by Polish leaders in tabulating ballots from a referendum held in Poland June 30.

COURT REJECTS RENT BOOST

New York City.—The United States Emergency Court of Appeals struck a major blow at rent-boosting landlords by rejecting a landlord's application for permission to raise his rentals 15 per cent. The court pointed out that according to OPA figures, landlords here are getting 2.3 per cent more profit under OPA control than they received in 1939, due to maximum apartment occupancy and the increase in competitive costs.

Lauds Firefighters For Contributions To Safety

Toledo, Ohio.—High praise for the firemen throughout the Nation and of the great contributions made by the International Association of Fire Fighters (AFL) to improvement of safety was expressed by President Truman as delegates to the annual convention of the association gathered here to review progress of the last year and chart a course for the next 12 months.

In a letter to John P. Redmond, acting president of the association since the death May 15 of President Fred M. Baer, Mr. Truman said:

"Please extend my felicitations to the delegates and members of the International Association of Fire Fighters meeting in Toledo, and my best wishes for a gathering that will be successful in every respect."

"I am certain the people of this Nation appreciate the outstanding work which the fire fighters did during the war and they also appreciate that fire fighters both on the home front and battle front have always exhibited real courage and high fidelity. I know that on this occasion my fellow Americans will join me in paying this tribute to the fire fighters of our Nation."

"The work of your Association in behalf of the members of the fire service of the Nation has been outstanding. I am aware of your organization's great contribution in the field of fire prevention and fire protection. The improvements that have been made for the members of the fire service are the direct result of the work of your Association."

here's report to the convention, detailed the progress made and the problems yet to be met on such issues as pensions, a shorter work week and a higher wage scale.

Secretary-Treasurer George J. Richardson told the convention 78 new locals have been chartered in cities during the last two years; several others which had dropped their affiliation were reinstated, and nine charters were issued to fire fighters employed in Federal agencies. He reported that the membership has been expanded by 11,380, and predicted a further increase as fire fighters who were drafted into the armed forces return to their original jobs. Salaries have been increased in a number of cities where the fire fighters have been increasing their strength he said.

Philadelphia, Pa.—At the annual pilgrimage to the grave of Peter J. McGuire, founder of Labor Day, labor spokesmen sounded an appeal for the rights of the workingman in the "atomic age."

Henry Iler, an associate of AFL President William Green and chairman of the Employees' Compensation Appeals Board of the Federal Security Agency, said that "the atomic age must make the human race a master of machines, not their slaves," adding that "labor insists that these great new discoveries must not be exploited for the benefit of the few."

LABOR JOINS TRIBUTE AT GRAVE OF M'GUIRE

Felt Hat Harvest.

Pluck your own fashionable hat from our harvest of style leaders. Perfect toppers for the crisp Fall days ahead... right to complement your suits and topcoats. Models with durable shape-holding qualities built in!

Brands include Capson, Coronet, Stack and Stetson.

\$6.50 to \$12.50

MEN'S STORE—STREET FLOOR

BELK BROS.