

International Sunday School Lesson

—for—

JULY 17, 1960

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WHAT IS TRUE SECURITY?

Memory Selection: "Let any one who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall." —(1 Corinthians 10:12.)

Lesson Text: Amos 6.

In our scriptural lesson for today we are concerned with the question: What is true security?

As we continue our study of Amos, we are discovering anew

that Amos was one of his cultivated virtues. In the chapter under study today we find Amos expressing a profound personal sorrow, for he was a part of the nation he felt called upon to scourge with God's truth — that decadence and a false sense of security would be their undoing. Amos recognized the false securities in which his people were trusting. He flung at them a spiritual challenge, which they scorned.

Today the same symptoms of social disease stalk our nation. We are vastly preoccupied with financial security. Amassing wealth has become a passion with us. Meanwhile, we teach our children little regarding hardihood and integrity. And the more we require of this world's goods, the more selfish we seem to become.

We are trapped into believing that prestige can be won and held by the exercise of national power. Like the northern kingdom of Israel, "we feel secure upon the mountain" of our national pride and eminence. We are

hopelessly tangled in the web of emotional disorders and indulgence; and we witness frantic attempts to achieve spiritual assurance. Amos observed that the people anointed themselves "with the finest oils" but were not "grieved over the sin of Joseph." The people, in the eyes of Amos, were light-hearted when they should have been solemn. They paraded superficial gladness when they should have been sick at heart. The moral decline of a great people is documented here.

Since these frantic efforts to find security can never satisfy the basic, fundamental longings of the human spirit, we must find an answer to this basic question: In what areas of life is true security to be found?

Firstly, we find security in a conscious relationship with God, and faith in Him. It matters not how lavishly God may reveal his love for us by lavishing bounty and blessings upon us, that love demands a response.

The second element in the development of security is confi-

dence in the people. One of the signs of insecurity is the domination by a few who measure themselves into commanding leadership that they are superior to the masses and are duty bound to enlighten the minds and neutralize the will of the people. No ruler sits on a shakier throne than the one who despises those whom he rules. The same principle applies to the church. In matters of finance, just as one example, a group responsible for the congregation will insist on keeping the rank and file of the church membership in the dark. A healthy balance in the treasury is kept secret. "If they know we have a balance, they will ease up in their giving," some sage will say. But good news heartens a people. When all the people are taken into confidence, this very principle lifts them to a nobler sense of their worth; and one achievement gives birth to another, and so on, ad infinitum. When those who live at the base of the human pyramid are held in ignorance no one is secure. The

rising tide of nationalism around the world is the surge of revolt on the part of millions of men and women who are, at long last, discovering that they are entitled to the rights that iron-fisted minorities have denied them.

Also, in the development of security we must not overlook that one of the vital factors is the creation of a vital fellowship with one's generation. Today — with lunar probes, man-made satellites, breakfast in New York and lunch in London, the world is getting smaller and smaller. We must be permeated with a sense of mission in the world, if we are to survive in harmony with our fellow-men. For Christians, how imperative is their sense of world mission? Today, world communism — only 43 years old — CLAIMS more adherents than Christianity, which was founded more than 2,000 years ago. Christians are never released from the timeless obligation to share Christ. The church's very life is in direct relation to its missionary passion. If your church has fal-

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Decoration

There will be a decoration at the Wilson Cemetery the third Sunday in this month, July 17. Decoration at 10 a. m., and preaching services at 11 o'clock. The cemetery is located just above Caney Fork church on Little Pine Creek.

MRS. MINNIE GOFORTH

Decorations

Decorations will be held at the Chapel Hill Baptist Church on Sunday, August 7, beginning at two o'clock. All singers, speakers and the public are invited.

James A. Rector, 79, Passes Thursday; Native Of County

James A. Rector, 79, of Phoenix, Ariz., a native of Madison County, died Thursday, July 7, 1960, about 10 a. m., in a veterans' hospital in Phoenix.

Mr. Rector was a veteran of the Spanish-American War and had resided in Phoenix for the past five years.

Services were held Saturday at 2 p. m., in Phoenix. Burial was in the National Cemetery there.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Mable Parker Rector; one daughter, Mrs. Janie Rector Cotter of Phoenix; two sons, James A. Rector III of California, and William of Phoenix; one sister, Mrs. Will Deaver of Marshall; and two brothers, Arthur of Weaverville, and Charlie of Marshall.

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