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No Special Home Canning Sugar

There will be no special home canning sugar stamps this year and use from the new 10-pound stamps to be validated April 1 must be so planned as to fill all needs, OPA said today in Atlanta.

Changing the value of stamps from 5 to 10 pounds does not mean that consumers will get twice as much sugar, OPA said, it simply means that in order to make present supply of stamps last longer.

Department of Agriculture spokesmen have said they expect our 1947 allocation of sugar to be a little larger than in 1946. But no one yet knows exactly what it will be.

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LESSON FOR MARCH 9

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JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES' FEET

LESSON TEXT—John 13:3-15, 34, 35.
MEMORY SELECTION—A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another: as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.—John 13:34.

On the eve of his crucifixion our Lord gave to his followers a striking example of how true humility shows itself in service to others.

Almost in the shadow of the cross the disciples had fallen into an argument about which of them should be greatest. Christ showed them the way of true greatness by an act of menial service, giving them an example for their own lives, a pattern of love.

I. Action (vv. 3-11).
He who was about to wash his disciples feet was fully conscious who he was, whence he came, what his power was, and where he was going.

Verse 3 gives us a clear view of our Lord's knowledge of himself as divine, sent by the Father and to return to him. He was conscious that he was King of kings and Lord of lords—all things had been put into his hands.

What followed would seem to be a mistake—a misfit in the pattern of the life of a being so great as the one described in verse 3—except for the fact that it was Jesus of whom it was said.

He knew that real greatness proves itself in the ability to stoop if need be to minister to the humblest need. It was just like Jesus to take the place of the servant. It is just like him to do the loving, thoughtful, compassionate thing for us today.

Peter's impulsive refusal to be washed enabled the Lord to teach him, and us, a needed lesson. The one who had come clean and well-groomed to the feast needed only to have the dust of the road cleansed from his sandaled feet.

Just so the one who has been cleansed from his sins by the blood of Christ returns daily for the cleansing of the stains and soil of the journey through this wicked world. We must remember that this constant cleansing (I John 1:7) is necessary. It is not enough to make a decision for Christ and receive salvation; we need his daily grace for daily living.

II. Example (vv. 12-15).
When he resumed his place at the table, Jesus faced a humbled and ashamed group of men ready to have driven home to their hearts the powerful meaning of the example which had been set before them.

They called him Lord and Master, and he agreed that they were right. Now he had set them a pattern of lowly service. They had already sensed the rebuke involved, so he stressed only the positive side, the need for them to do what he had done.

It is one thing to understand what has been taught, it is another thing to put it into practice. Jesus conditioned his blessing on the doing, rather than the hearing (see vv. 16, 17).

We are told in James 1:22 that the one who is a hearer of the Word and not a doer of it is self-deceived. He is fooling himself about his supposed spiritual progress. God is not deceived by it, and usually his fellow men are not deceived by his profession of what he does not have. How sad then to go on deceiving himself and how foolish.

III. Command (vv. 34, 35).
It is really not a matter of choice for the believer whether he will live in the light of this great example—it is a commandment of God. Oh, yes, it is a commandment of love, but that makes it not less but more binding on us who believe in Christ.

By act and example he set before his disciples the great and new commandment of love, expressing itself in loving service.

The measure of our love for our brethren is the love of Christ Jesus. That love, we all agree, was without limit, unbelievably great, inexpressibly tender, infinite in its purpose and power.

We cannot measure up to it. What then shall we do? Surely we must give to our very limit and beyond that limit by God's grace, of our love for one another. Nothing less will do, if we are to keep his commandment.

Such love between Christian brethren has always been the most effective kind of testimony for Christ. As men see true and sacrificial love shown between Christians, they are drawn to Christ and the church.

The opposite is also true. Divisions and strife among believers quickly become known to the world, and are always a ground for scornful rejection of the truth which the church professes to believe and is asking the world to accept. We cannot effectively apply the gospel remedy (and it is the only remedy!) to a strife-torn world while we are engaged in unlovely battles with one another. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples," said Jesus, "if ye have love one for another."

A. J. CAVERNAUGH
Wallace, N. C.

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The auto industry's stylists and designers have played the major role in the presentation of new models, since change-over this year has been generally confined to restyling in the modern mode. Here is the new Chevrolet, now in production, distinguished by advanced front-end treatment that incorporates a new and more massive radiator grille, larger parking lamps, and smartly redesigned decorative features.

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