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At Home On The Farm WITH The City Cousin

As I walked down the street, bent on catching a bus home, Wallace Appleton caught up with me. Both of us had been to the regular Monday night meeting of our civic club, where a man from Chicago told us of the going-ons behind the international scene.

"How'd you like the talk?" I asked him.

"I don't know," he says, "sometimes I think we hear too much of national and international problems, and not enough about what we can do in this city of ours to cure its many ills."

"Take the small rural commu-

ity of our fathers' time," Wallace says. "Every problem was met as a community enterprise, with a great deal of loyalty and spirit. Husking bees, log rollings - why, in those days, when a man was up against and needed a house, he just called in his neighbors. Each farmer was a stick in the bundle, just like the old fable. They made a pretty strong bundle, too."

"That sort of thing just isn't done anymore, huh?" I asked, looking up the street for my bus.

"Now," says Wallace, "everybody is too busy these days."

Then I told him the story of Willie Duke.

I told Wallace how Willie had run the general community store in tiny Rehobeth until his place was destroyed by fire. There was his business - a mess of charred wood and bursted canned goods - no building, no stock.

But Willie didn't run to his neighbor for help. They came to him, bright and early the morning af-

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D., Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. Released by Western Newspaper Union.

LESSON FOR MARCH 16

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INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST

LESSON TEXT—John 14:1-6, 12-18; 15:1-8
MEMORY SELECTION—Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.—John 15:14.

The hour had come for our Lord's final intimate words with his disciples. It was indeed a solemn, but also a blessed, hour.

It was the night before the darkest day in the world's history. On the morrow the Son of man was to hang on Calvary's tree for the sins of the world—for your sins and for mine. But for the moment he was alone with his disciples.

The last Passover had been eaten together, the betrayer had been discovered, and the Lord has told them that he was soon to go where they could not follow. Peter had, by his bold self-assertion, brought forth the prophecy of his denial.

The disciples were disturbed in heart and mind. Then came from the Saviour's lips the words of comfort, assurance and power which have been the strength and solace of his people through all the centuries. Our life both here and hereafter is in his mighty hands.

We learn in this precious portion of Scripture that

I. The Christian Need Not Be Fearful (14:1-6).

That is indeed a good word—a needed word! Troubled hearts are everywhere—in the palace and in the cottage, on land, in the air and on the sea. There is a place of rest, thank God! There is One who still speaks the majestic words, "Let not your heart be troubled, believe in God, believe also in me."

His comfort is one which covers the future life, for he says, "I go to prepare a place" (v. 2). Concern about future destiny is settled at once when Christ Jesus becomes our Lord and Saviour. We need worry no longer. He has gone on before to the Father's house to prepare a place for his own. When we come to that ever-peaceful shore we shall not come as strangers, but as sons and daughters to a prepared place in our Father's house.

His words, "I will come again" (v. 3), gives present meaning to the future promise. He not only prepared the place, but he it is who brings us there. The glorious hope of his coming again is the Christian's greatest comfort and mightiest incentive to useful, holy living.

II. The Christian Need Not Be Fearless (14:12-15).

Christ's followers are not here in a world of sin and need as a little group of hymn-singing weaklings, thinking only of the day when they shall be in a brighter land. Ah, yes, they sing hymns and rejoice in them; they look for a better land; their weapons of warfare are not carnal. But weaklings? Oh, no! God uses them to do great and mighty things for his glory.

Note the blessed words of Jesus, "He that believeth on me" (v. 12). The army of God carries the royal banner of faith in a living Christ. "Greater works . . . shall he do" (v. 13). Jesus only began his work on earth; its greatest development was to be the joyous privilege of his followers. We are ashamed that we have not lived up to this great promise, but by his grace we will do better.

"If ye ask . . . I will do" (v. 14). Someone has called this a signed blank check on all the resources of God.

III. The Christian Need Not Be Distressed (14:16-18).

The Holy Spirit, promised by Christ as the abiding comforter, came so to abide in the believer on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). The ministries of the Holy Spirit are many, but here the emphasis is on his work as Comforter. What a blessed and helpful ministry, and how much needed by distressed and disturbed souls! The Christian may count on him—and not be distressed.

IV. The Christian Need Not Be Detached (15:1-8).

What is worse than the feeling that one does not belong to anyone else, that one is a detached individual! That is never true of the believer in Christ. We are as close to him as the branch is to the vine. We are in him.

Christ is the vine, and the believer as a true branch is united with him. There is a oneness here which is difficult to express, but delightful to receive and believe. He who is the vine needs no cleansing, but the branch needs constant, daily purification by the word. Are we permitting God's Word to keep us clean? Only if we are reading it, studying it, meditating upon it.

There is, moreover, a severer type of purging to which the husbandman subjects the vine that is not bearing more richly, and that is pruning (v. 2).

Some branches must be cut away altogether and burned (v. 6). They lack the evidences of life—fruit-bearing—and must be destroyed.

For the fire. Nothing was said about the lumber shortage as saws went to work on pine trees that were part of North Carolina landscape that day.

green boards. Perhaps these neighbors didn't break any records, but "Willie Duke's General Store" was open for business Thursday morning—four days after it had been leveled by fire.

Legislative Summary

At the close of the 51st legislative day, 242 bills and resolutions had been introduced in the Senate, and 620 in the House, for a total of 862, which is 199 short of the 1,061 introduced during the same period in 1945. This apparent "slow down" in the introduction rate may tend to produce a shorter session than if a greater number of bills were being handed in; for it means that the legislature will have a smaller volume to attend to before it can adjourn, and it may mean that the members are giving more time and attention to matters that are pending than to thinking up

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new measures. Among new bills introduced during the past week was SB-224, which would give the State Board of Health increased powers over the production, processing and sale of milk and milk products; HB 571, which would require that heating equipment be installed in school buses.

State College Hints To Home Makers

Almost every rural housewife is cotton bag-conscious, but chances are that very few have realized the full potentialities of the material. For many years bags have entered the house as dish cloths, curtains, and slip covers, but now they are being looked upon as dresses in the making.

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bag material. They are good for attractive school dresses. Washed and dyed and made into any of the hundreds of possible items, cotton feed bags become indispensable around the home.

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