

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson VI. May 12, 1907.
Joseph Forgives his Brothers.
Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21.

Golden Text: "Be ye kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Eph. 4:32.

We are now to trace the steps by which Joseph's brothers were transformed from haters into lovers. We left them a set of bitter-hearted, cruel men with virtual murder on their souls, and their brother's bloody garment in their hands, telling their old father a falsehood.

The last time Joseph saw his brethren they stood at the mouth of an open cistern and saw their younger brother, white faced and terror-stricken, at the bottom of the pit, yet no love for him or their father made them relent. They had put him out of the way and intended he should die there of hunger, burning thirst, and exhaustion. Their intentions toward Joseph were evil and hateful. And though that pit really became an opportunity for him, so far as his brothers were concerned, it was intended to be his death. They had let hatred conquer all that was best in them.

Twenty-two years had gone by and so far as they knew, Joseph was dead or else a wretched slave in Egypt. Their father had never gotten over his great sorrow, and cruel and bad as they were, there must have been times when they wished they had not treated their brother so cruelly.

They stood before the great Egyptian ruler accused of being spies and the remembrance of their wrong-doing was very vivid in their minds. They even said, "We are guilty."

Now it was Joseph's chance to pay back for all he had suffered. They were absolutely in his power. To pay for the pit into which he had been cast, he could put them all into one of the terrible Egyptian prisons. Or he could refuse them the corn which they had come to buy and so condemn them to starvation. Either cause would pay them back in their own coin.

But if Joseph had shown any such resentful spirit as that, he would not have been the strong, noble man we all admire. It does not take a strong character to pay back injury with equal injury.

There is a way of overcoming enemies so as to do them good and change them to friends. It is the way Jesus taught us to treat enemies. Instead of paying back unkindness with similar unkindness, he paid back that which meant life to them and their families.

To pay for the starvation in the pit which his brothers had planned for him, he gave them food in abundance to take home and invited them to come to Egypt to live, where he could provide for them during the five years of famine yet to come.

So besides preserving the lives of his brothers during the years of famine, Joseph did that which was greater for them. He helped them to be better men by his forgiveness and love. Truly Joseph "overcame evil with good."

A Summary of Joseph's Life.

The chief characteristics of this remarkable man according to Peloubet were briefly:

- (1) Filial devotion.
- (2) Absolute purity and honesty.
- (3) Unselfishness.
- (4) Humility.
- (5) Faithfulness in little things.
- (6) Resolution and enterprise.
- (7) Patience and perseverance.

These qualities are within the reach of every one, and will make any life successful.

G. W. T.

A RECENT VISIT.

A visit to Union and Franklin churches Southampton, Va. These two churches are a part of Rev. C. H. Roland's field, and it was my pleasure to be with him at these places second Sunday in April. Was glad to be there, and enjoyed his kind attention. Bro. R. is in good shape, and from what I saw and heard he is cultivating his field well; popular with his charge and it is expected he will do a good work. Saturday night found me at Bro. S. Joyner's where the time was passed most pleasantly recounting the work and events of other days. This

place seemed so much like home, I greatly enjoyed it. Sunday morning went to Union where I found Bro. Rowland busy working up an interest among his members about the Sunday-school. Dined with my time worn and honored Bro. Thomas Joyner. Found him pleasant and entertaining. Remained a few hours in his kind home with delight, surrounded by his interesting family. Bro. Joyner has one of the best farms and the finest location of the Franklin section, and if he intends to make his will and mention me in it—that home will be all I want. If he sees this little notice, I know he will smile. Bro. J. greatly endeared himself to me while I was pastor at Union, and during my whole ministerial work there by his unlimited hospitality and helpfulness in the work. Sunday night, I was in the delightful home of Bro. Henry Daughtry who will accept my thanks for much kindness. Owing to other duties did not stay in Franklin as long as I intended.

J. T. Kitchen.

HOLLAND ITEMS.

Yesterday, the 27th, was a pleasant and beautiful day, and there were services at the Friend's church, a few miles from here, as well as at the Christian church here. Quite a number from our place, attended the services at the Friend's church. Rev. Mr. Wise, the pastor, is a gifted and popular young man, and he attracts good congregations. His services, however are not regular, as he is living in Baltimore, Md., and can preach here only occasionally. Our congregation here, though good, was not as large as usual, on account of the meeting at the Friend's church. To those not acquainted with the Friends, and their religious customs. I would say in justice to them, though their religious customs differ somewhat from our's I have never known a more consistent, or better people.

Our pastor, Bro. Newman, seemed to enjoy the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and prayerful thought and his message was satisfying and refreshing.

As usual our night service was well attended and the services were really inspiring and much enjoyed. The song service both morning and night added much to the real enjoyment of the worship and the singers seemed to make real melody in their hearts and voices.

A very sad occurrence took place here, yesterday—Sunday morning. Mrs. Polly Holland died very suddenly. She was some over seventy years old, though feeble by age, had not been confined at all. She was with her son, who took the utmost care of her, ministering to her every need. She leaves to mourn the loss of a most affectionate and tender mother, three sons and three daughters. Funeral will take place here tomorrow, Tuesday at 3 o'clock.

R. H. Holland.

FIELD NOTES.

Hayes Chapel, Garner.—It was a pleasure to the writer to visit Hayes Chapel church at Garner, North Carolina. Exchanging appointments with Rev. A. T. Banks who is the pastor. I found the work in good condition, heard many kind words of the young pastor, who is loved by the people. A nice Sunday school has been organized with brother Willis Moring as Superintendent, brother Bagwell of the Baptist church as teacher of Bible class. A number of the Methodist brethren and sisters are engaged with our people in trying to bring up the young people in the right way. It was my pleasure to visit Sister Smith who could not attend the services, and Sister Rogers who is also afflicted. I visited Brother Geo. Turner's home where Sister Banks lives, the relict of Brother Garland Banks who labored with the writer at Auburn last fall in a glorious revival. A more earnest worker I never saw. I learned from his companion that he grew brighter every day until he came to the end of his earthly career keeping up his family worship, rejoicing in the glorious hope of a happy home beyond. He left two children, a girl and a beautiful little boy whom he dedicated to the Lord to be a minister of the gospel. Brethren let us aid the devoted mother in prayer for the full development of this child for the Lord's cause. His

father died believing the Lord had accepted his sacrifice. On my first visit to his home he opened the secret feeling that he could not live very long; intreated me to aid all in my power in this work. I am glad that I was called into that home. I learned something of consecration witnessing as I did the loyalty of his companion, seeing them rejoicing together. They expressed themselves as being so happy in the work of the blessed Savior. A good man has fallen, a devoted husband, a good neighbor a noble citizen. We are able to rejoice that he waits us on the other shore with beckoning hands.

May the blessings of our heavenly Father attend the bereaved wife and may angels encamp around her and the dear little children to protect and keep them. It was my privilege to be the pastor of Brother Bank's church before he was married. I knew him as promising young Christian gentleman. He was associated at that time with Bro. Darbie Banks. They attended the Sabbath school and church services at Plymouth C. church. I enjoyed several refreshing seasons in the homes of both these young men. How pleasant it is to us who labor in the Master's vineyard, sowing seeds of righteousness, to see them ripen for heaven and eternal happiness. Such is the life of all those who labor together in the Lord. He that goeth forth with weeping sowing precious seeds of love shall return in the evening bringing in the sheaves.

A. P. Barbee.

Jonesboro, N. C.

Salem Chapel.

We are to hold Memorial and reunion services at Salem Chapel, the first Sunday in June. There seems to be a growing interest in the good work at the church.

Ingram.

My appointment at Ingram, Va., is on each second Sunday. A cottage prayer meeting has been conducted during the winter and spring. A topical study of the Bible forms a part of each meeting. This is a good thing for all who attend. I have had the pleasure of meeting with these friends once a month in their prayer meeting and Bible study. Such meetings are helpful spiritually and socially. I find some most excellent people in and around Ingram.

Providence.

I have taken pastoral charge of New Providence church for the balance of the year, preaching every third Sunday. This is one of our oldest churches, but it has been weakened very much in recent years by death and removals. We are to hold memorial and reunion exercises the third Sunday in June at this church. All members and friends are invited to come and spend the day with us. An offering for the benefit of the cemetery will be taken. A program for the day will be announced soon.

Apple's Chapel.

My day at Apples Chapel is on fourth Sunday in each month. A nice recess to the pulpit has been built adding much to the comfort and appearance of the church. An organ has been ordered for the church. Memorial services will be held here the fourth Sunday in June. The editor of The Sun has promised to be with us that day and his coming will be anticipated with pleasure.

This church seems to be taking on new life. Large congregations attend our services and good attention is given to the preaching of the word. Upon the whole I think the churches in my field are in fairly good condition. I will hold protracted services at Apple's Chapel the fourth Sunday in July and week following. At Salem Chapel I will protract from the first Sunday in August. I am hoping for a precious season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord at these meetings.

J. W. Holt.

News and Observer, April 30:

"Rev. D. A. Long, of Graham pastor of Hillsboro Street Christian church, states that he will move his family to Raleigh in the near future.

All who are going to attend the Alumni and old students' reunion banquet at Elon College during the approaching commencement should notify Pres. E. L. Moffitt by May 10.

PORTSMOUTH LETTER.

Since our last letter to the Sun we have held a very interesting revival which lasted two weeks. Rev. C. H. Rowland of Franklin, Va., was with us and did the preaching. The soul-stirring messages which he brought to us from night to night were gladly received and we believe did much good. The church was greatly revived and there were a number of confessions and reclamations. One young man joined the church at the close of the meeting which makes a half-dozen members received recently. Others are expecting to join soon. We are always glad to see them coming into the church. When members of the Christian church move to town we would be glad to have them bring their letters along with them. As a usual thing it takes two or three years or even longer many times to get our people to transfer their membership from the old home church to the city churches. It should not be so. Our love for the church of our choice should cause us to enter its ranks any where and go to work for the Lord. We need greater loyalty to the grand old Principles of the Christian Church, which we claim to love so well. A strong sentiment for the old church at home will not build new churches in the village, town or city. It takes something stronger.

That New Church.

About the middle of June we will take our June offering on the Building Fund and we want to appeal to the people throughout the Eastern Virginia Conference to help make it a large offering. The following was adopted by the last annual conference which was held at Holland, Va., and may be found in the 1907 Annual, page 10 of the minutes of the conference; "The work at Portsmouth has reached a point where from twelve to fifteen thousand dollars is needed for a permanent house of worship, and we recommend that Rev. J. W. Harrell be authorized to solicit contributions for the building fund of that Church; that the pastor of every church in the conference be requested to assist him in his special work, said contributions to be forwarded to Rev. J. W. Harrell who is requested to acknowledge receipt through the Christian Sun of gifts from individuals and churches." It is upon the authority which this resolutions gives that we appeal to the pastors and individual members of the Churches of this conference. We are not going to ask for a public collection from the churches, at this time, but that everybody who receives a notice from us will give it a favorable consideration and send us an offering. Brethren, we are in earnest about this matter and truly hope you will not consign our appeals to the wastebasket or flames, when they are sent to you. Do what you can under the blessings of God and you will be enriched by it and the cause of Christ helped.

Berea.

The work at Berea (Norfolk Co.) is prospering nicely. We held our second quarterly conference last Saturday, which was well attended. The business of the conference was conducted in a spirit of brotherly love. All the affairs of the church were found to be in good condition. All the current expenses of the church have been raised in full for half of the year and a part of the conference assessments are in hand. The church decided to hold a revival early in August. The first Sunday in June was designated as Mission day and we want to make that a rally day for the church and Sunday school.

W. D. Harrell.

Apr. 25th, 1907.

NOTICE.

The Sunday School Convention of the N. C. and Va. Christian Conference will hold its next session with the Happy Home Sunday School, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 2, 3, and 4, 1907. It is earnestly desired that the Pastors in the conference will not set meetings for this time, and that they will plan to attend the Convention.

Any suggestions relative to the program will be appreciated.

D. Jennings Sipe, Sec.

Waverly, Va., May 1, 1907.

Rev. L. I. Cox has sent to Dr. Bishop \$61.25 from his churches for the Salinas church. Sin also comes high. The Thaw trial has already cost \$300,000.