

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER.

By EDGAR HALL
 In thinking about this parable we are accustomed to dwell upon the sower, or the seed, or the soil more than upon the yield; yet it was of the yield that the sower was thinking as he labored. Jesus is also interested in the fruitage of His word. The Word has fallen into our hearts but what shall the harvest be? Each one is responsible. On the shore of the Sea of Galilee, standing on its sandy beach and sitting on its grassy banks, were gathered the multitude while from the pulpit of a fishing boat, Jesus delivered to them this parable. It was among the first recorded instances of His using this method of teaching and it seems to have surprised the disciples, as they asked Him privately for an explanation.

A parable is a short story with a moral point, a picture of the truth taught, a dramatized expression of doctrine. Among the most notable of the Old Testament was the one spoken by the prophet Nathan, by which David was made his own judge. Christ used many parables in His discourses, and in Matthew 13:34 we read "and without a parable spoke He not unto them," and there is nothing in all literature equal to them. Jesus spoke in the language of daily life and made religion as real and practical and interesting as farming and fishing. His sermons were picturesque and attractive, they gripped the mind and heart, they came home to every one's business and bosom and that was the reason "the common people heard Him gladly." Jesus uses more than one parable of seed and soil. Sometimes the parable deals with the seed, but this parable deals with the soil.
 The soil is, of course, the temper and disposition of those to whom the teaching came. We are all really like fields to be planted by some truth; we take the truth, sink it over, and live it out again in some way of character or obedience. And there is just as much difference between the different kinds of human nature fields as there is between the fields of farmers. The tide of popularity was ebbing with Jesus, and opposition and enmity were in the air. It was a time for caution and prudence. To have told these suspicious Jews on all occasions the truth bluntly would haveasperated them and ended all hope of doing good.

Therefore Jesus spoke in parables in order that the truth might be veiled or put before them in such a form as would not violently offend their prejudices or excite their enmity. By the sower Jesus undoubtedly means Himself. He describes His own method in an illustration of marvelous simplicity and suggestiveness. He was first of all a Sower, and of all human laborers a sower planting a field is among the most important. He deals with life and elemental forces; he has the future in his grain bag; he is not only sowing seed, he is sowing bread and larvae.
 The work of the sower is usually kind; when it is well done, it is a partnership between man and God. We should need to understand the habits of the Palestinian farmer to get the full meaning of the parable. It was before the day of discs, and cultivators, and seed drills, and seed was sown in most cases by hand. We have already considered how much is dependent upon the response to any kind of teaching, and may go on directly to the kinds of response which Jesus foresaw. He may have been watching a farmer about his work as He composed the parable, and those who heard Him would lift up their eyes to see the actual illustration of what He said. The fields were very small, with only rows of stones to mark the divisions between them. They were crossed and recrossed by narrow footpaths made

by men and donkeys. Some of the seed was sure to fall on that hard, trodden ground. Nothing would cover it up; it would get no root, and the birds would be after it as soon as the sower's back was turned; and that would be the end of those grains of seed. A teacher talking to a scholar who pays no attention is sowing seed on the sidewalk. Our lives get hardened by habit, so that we lose our power of response; we listen well enough, but when it comes to the responses of obedience we are not able to make them. Or else we grow hard through pride, or else we think we know it all, so that nobody can tell us anything. A very great deal of good teaching is absolutely lost in this way. The inattentive never hear it, the habit-mastered cannot obey it, the proud have no use for it, and those who think they know it all turn their backs and go their way. Immediate response is the best way to keep life open to truth and beauty. Humility and teachableness keep our spirits open. There are places on the hillsides in the northern part of our country where the snow goes off early and the grass is soon green; but when the hot weather comes and one sees that the grass which was first green in Spring is soonest brown in Summer. Dig down under the brown grass and one soon comes to the rock. The rock is quick to absorb the sun and melt the snow but the shallow soil over it soon dries out and the grass withers. Shallow people are very likely to become impulsive; they are easily moved but they don't last well. They are like a shallow piece of water—quickly wind-whipped into tossing waves but growing quiet again as soon as the wind is down. The deep sea is hard to move, but once its waves are formed they continue long after the wind has quieted. Shallow people make good resolutions, and then fail to keep them. They begin the fight, and then retire from the field. Jesus notes a third kind of life; that is the life full of hostile growth and influences. There was nothing the matter with the soil in the thorn-choked field; it takes a good soil to grow thorns, but the thorns themselves had already so occupied the soil that nothing else had a chance. The wise Teacher says that this verse in the parable stands for the overcrowded life. The things which crowd the best out are not always necessarily bad. A man may be so busy about his business as not to give his soul a chance. We may so crowd our lives with pleasure, distraction, or a multiplicity of concerns that we have no time left for single-minded devotion to the best. A boy might get his mind so full of football, and a his mind so full of football, and a girl might get her mind so full of clothes and company as to have no room for lessons. Whatever occupies our minds, usurps our affections, controls our actions, so the exclusion of the highest ideals, and a single-minded devotion to truth, and a sound concern for our souls needs to be dug out. So far as the parable has gone, sowing would seem to be a discouraging business. There would seem to be three chances for the seed to go wrong to one chance of its going right. But the case is not quite so desperate. Even in the little fields of Palestine there was always good soil enough to reward the sower and grow a harvest. A great deal is being said now about the criminal class, and yet, at the outside, it is not more than three per cent of the population.
 That leaves us ninety-seven law-abiding people out of every hundred. More than that, goodness has a tremendous power to multiply itself, while evil is always sterile. By the grace of God the good goes on and the wrong is ended. When a heart has been furrowed by the plough of the divine law until it feels its guilt and need of a Saviour; when it repents of its sins, clearing away old roots, that soil is good soil in which the Gospel will take root and grow. The truth thus sown in the heart reappears in the life and is multiplied and scattered abroad, yielding some thirty, some sixty and some an hundred fold. The main point of the parable is the application that Jesus made of it. "Take heed therefore how ye hear." There is plenty of poor preaching abroad in the land, but there is vastly more poor hearing, and no doubt one reason there is so much poor preaching up in the pulpit is that there is so much lamentably poor hearing down in the pew. On the way we hear may depend life itself. Infinitely greater difference does it make how we hear the voice of Jesus calling upon us to repent and believe upon Him and do His will. On such hearing depend the issues of eternity.

GARDNER DENIES DINNER RUMORS

Raleigh, Feb. 19.—In his first public statement after his return from a several days vacation at Pinehurst, Gov. O. Max Gardner said that "since I have been governor over nine-tenths of my groceries have been purchased either at wholesale or from individual local grocery men."
 The governor made public his answer to an enquiry from W. M. Sigmon and James B. Volger, officials of the North Carolina Food Dealers association, who wired him that there "is a rumor" that food for Governor Gardner's live at home banquet was purchased from a chain store.
 Governor Gardner said "not a particle of the food served at the live-at-home dinner was purchased from any chain store. In this connection, may I say that I personally pay for the food used by my family and therefore feel at liberty to exercise my judgment in this respect."

A HOPE FOR BETTER TIMES

Are you tired of cold weather? Then step out in this first warm sunshine and think how near spring time is. Have you developed a chronic grouch—brought on by an over dose of "in-dooritis"? Then take a sniff or two of this balmy air and you'll feel better. Too much talk of hard times, coupled with the sad realization for some of us of financial worries, is certainly bad on our dispositions. But another planting season is here and with it comes renewed anticipation for the harvest—a new joy in living—a hope for better times.

CARD OF THANKS

We desire to thank the good people of Raeford and community for their sympathy and help during the recent illness of our children. We will always remember you with grateful hearts.
 Mr. and Mrs. Jno. T. Davis

GAIN IN 1929 CANADIAN MOTOR VEHICLE EXPORTS

Canadian exports of motor vehicles have steadily increased during the last three years and reached a total value of \$47,005,671 in the year 1929.—Automotive Division, Department of Commerce.

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Legal Notices

SALE OF VALUABLE FARM PROPERTY.

Under and by virtue of the authority conferred upon us in a deed of trust executed by B. C. Kinlaw and wife, Susan Ellen Kinlaw, on the 24th day of January 1927 and recorded in Book 58, page 14, we will on Saturday, the 22nd of March, 1930, 12 o'clock noon, at the courthouse door in Raeford, N. C., Hoke County, sell at public auction for cash to the highest bidder the following land, to-wit:

That certain piece or parcel of land lying and being in McLauchlin Township, Hoke County (formerly Seventy-First Township, Cumberland County), N. C. bounded on a north by the lands of Wallace McLean and State highway 24 on the east by the lands of J. W. Hardison, on the south by the lands of J. F. McPhail and Thomas Barefoot, and on the west by the lands of J. F. McPhail, Thomas Barefoot, and M. S. Hair and more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a stake in the middle of the Plank Road (now State Highway 24) and runs with Ray's (now Hair's) line S 17.30 cns to a stake, Ray's (now Hair's) corner, Mc Millan's (now Barefoot's) corner, and Hardison's corner; thence N 35.25 chains to a stake in the Plank Road (State Highway No. 24); thence west, along said State Highway 24, 22.8 chains to the beginning, containing 58 acres, more or less. This tract of land is the same as that tract conveyed by J. D. Worrell, Jr. to Susan E. Kinlaw by deed dated Dec. 8, 1900, and recorded in Book N-6, page 126, Register of Deeds of Hoke County.

This sale is made by reason of the failure of B. C. Kinlaw and wife, Susan Ellen Kinlaw, to pay off and discharge the indebtedness secured by said deed of trust.
 A deposit of 10 per cent will be required from the purchaser at the sale.

This the 13th day of February, 1930.
 THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF DURHAM, Trustee, Durham, N. C.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF LAND

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain deed of trust executed and delivered by J. White Ware and wife, Carrie W. Ware, to the undersigned Trustee for Commercial Bank & Trust Co., of Gastonia, N. C., dated October 20, 1928, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for Hoke County, N. C. in Book 58 at page 65, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured thereby, and at the request of the beneficiary, I will sell for cash to the highest bidder at the courthouse door in the city of Raeford, on Monday, March 10, 1930, at 12 o'clock noon, the following described real estate:
 BEGINNING at a stake in the Moore-Hoke County line, located 36 1-2 chains northeastward from the point where said county line crosses the channel of Bull Branch, same being the second corner of that A. C. Graham so-called 75 acre tract, known as the White Spring tract, and bounded by the following lines, viz: Running from said A. C. Graham's second corner above de-

scribed in the county line, with the second line of said tract S. 42 E. 25 chains to a stake, its third corner, pine pointers; thence as the third line of that tract S. 15 W. 20 chains to a stake with several oak pointers, thence a new line, it being the division line between J. W. Graham and the McDougald heirs S. 70 E. 35 chains to the channel of Middle Branch; thence up said channel of Middle Branch nearly north about 70 chains to B. B. Saunder's line near the head of said branch; thence as his line N. 60 W. 20 chains to the line of the J. W. Graham 25 acre tract, which is herein included; thence as a line of that tract, same being Saunder's line N. 29 E 5 chains to its corner; thence as Saunders other line N 61 W. 14 chains to the county line; thence as the county line direct to the beginning, containing 325 acres more or less.
 This 8th day of February, 1930.
 O. L. Henry, Trustee
 O. F. Mason, Jr., Attorney,
 Gastonia, N. C.

NOTICE

Under and by virtue of the authority contained in a certain mortgage deed executed by Bruce Morris and wife, Beulah Morris, under date of April 22nd, 1927 and recorded in book No. 1, Page No. 8, in the office of the Register of Deeds of Hoke County, default having been made in the conditions contained in said mortgage, the undersigned mortgagee will at 12 o'clock, noon, on the 12th day of March, 1930, expose for sale at the courthouse door in Raeford, N. C., at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the following described piece of parcel of land in Raeford township Hoke County North Carolina, bounded as follows:
 In the town of Raeford, N. C., and being Lots "A" and Nos. 1-2-3-4 and 7-10th of No. 5, adjoining lot


No. 4. Also Nos. 6-7-8 and 9-10th of lot No. 9, adjoining lot No. 8, according to map made by T. W. Secret, recorded in map of surveys in Register of Deeds office for Hoke County, and being bounded as follows, to-wit:
 Beginning with the boundary on the North, it is bounded on the North by Oakwood Avenue, on the East by lands of Mrs. Nellie McNeill; on the South by the lands of the late Neill S. Blue, on the West by the lands of Thomas brothers, formerly the Zebbie Harris land.
 Lot "A" is bounded on the North by said Oakwood Avenue; on the East by Fulton Street; on the South and West by the lands formerly owned by Zebbie Harris, now the Thomas lands.

All of which said lands were purchased by said Morris from J. H. Watson, an unmarried man. See Book of Deeds No. 25 at page 213 of Hoke County Registry.
 Place of Sale: Court House door, Raeford, N. C.
 Time of Sale: 12 o'clock, noon, March 13, 1930.
 Terms of Sale: Cash.
 Raeford Building and Loan Association, Mortgagee.
 Posted Feb. 12th, 1930.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as executor of the estate of W. B. McMillan, deceased, late of Hoke county, I hereby notify all persons having claims against the estate to present them in writing to me at my home in Blue Springs township, Hoke County, (Raeford, Route No. 1) on or before March 7th, 1931, else this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
 This March 7th, 1930.
 (Signed) Lettie McMillan
 Executrix.

Back Quit Hurting



"I was in a very weak condition from a serious sickness," writes Mrs. I. Leonard, 571 Joseph St., New Orleans, La. "I was so weak, I wanted to sleep all the time. I did not have strength to do anything. My back ached nearly all the time. I was just in misery."
 "My mother told me I must arouse myself from the sleepiness, and take something to help get my strength back. She had taken Cardui and had been helped, so I decided to take Cardui, too. After my first bottle, I could see that it was helping me. I took four bottles at this time. My strength came back and I gained weight. Pretty soon, I was my old self again."
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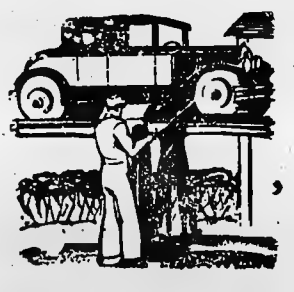
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