

Sunday School Lesson



JESUS TEACHES FORGIVENESS

Matthew 18:21-35 and EASTER LESSON John 20:1-16

Rev. Samuel D. Price, D. D.
Only about eight months intervene between the time when Jesus taught the lesson about forgiveness in Capernaum and the glorious Easter morning that marked the resurrection of the body of our Lord from the grave. The disciples are still at school with the Master. Jesus held a class at the base of Mt. Hermon when he asked Peter, "Who do men say I am?" Now Peter turns the question on the Teacher. The man himself may have been in trouble. Possibly he had been injured by someone and had forgiven that person three times, which was the legal requirement. But Peter knew that

what they do." Great truths are remembered better when clinched with an illustration, so Jesus added a parable. Here is a man who owes millions of dollars and when payment is called for begs for more time. Instead the one who is prince indeed cancels the entire indebtedness. This is just the way God forgives the sinner. It is not a question of the size of the sin but of the abounding love of the father. Then this forgiven man, in the story, looks over his records and finds a fellow-servant owes him the small sum of \$17. With uncouth words this paltry debtor is cast into prison until full restitution be made. Humanity is usually eager for fair play and the fellow citizens take the case to the price. Then justice speaks. The ungracious tyrant is recalled and the impossible debt is reestablished with on hope of ever discharging it.

God is ready to forgive all when we are penitent. We, in turn, are to exercise the grace of forgiveness when wronged by others. To what extent shall we forgive even though this is not sought by the one who has

wronged us? The answer is in a petition that Jesus used in teaching the disciples how to pray, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." Is the well-known condition that we name in approaching the Father for His forgiveness. In the Revised Version the words call for our actual act of forgiveness: "As we also have forgiven our debtors." Great truths in the Easter Lesson are the fact of resurrection of the body of Jesus, which is a pledge of the resurrection of our own body at His Second Coming. Death refers to the body only: "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. There is no sleep of the soul after death. Do not worry about things in advance. The women found that the stone was rolled away before they arrived."

one thing accomplished by forgiving another is to get the cancer of hatred out of our own heart, otherwise there is internal trouble for us by day and night. One test that we have truly forgiven another is when we pray that they may experience God's richest blessings. Jesus set the fine example when on the cross, in the midst of His agonies, he prayed "Father forgive them, for they know not

the teacher, Miss Octa Green, at to old Bagley Spring. There they found pure mountain water and the huge trees afforded a cool shade in which to spread their luncheon; the low sound of the water of the small creeks and hills near, rolling over stones in and out finding its way to the end seem to indicate nothing but peace and quietness where the small children found an ideal place to frolic and fish. Mr. and Mrs. Fred McBride of Elkin spent last week-end with Mr. and Mrs. John McBride Mr. and Mrs. John T. Triplett had as their guests last Sunday Mr. Triplett's mother and sister, Mrs. Joe Triplett and Miss Grace Triplett, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Martin and Son Ned, and Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher McBride and son Billie of Jonesville. Mr. W. H. Pardue of Richmond Va., has been visiting his uncle and family, Mr. W. A. Pardue.

ion County, farmers are more advanced in their work than they have been in 30 years and are planting bay crops, food and feed crops and buying cows.

Farmers of Granville County will establish a curb market at Oxford and organize a mutual exchange as one part of their marketing program for the year.

BETHEL NEWS ITEMS

Ronda Rt., 2, April 14.—An impressive and inspiring sermon was heard by a large audience from the pastor, Rev. D. G. Reece of Jonesville, last Sunday at the Baptist Church here. Mr. Reece's subject being "Heavenly Undertaker" taking his text from Isaiah 38:14, Oh Lord I am oppressed; undertake for me. Everyone present seemed to enjoy this wonderful message.

Surely we do miss a great deal of Christian enjoyment when we have an opportunity and do not attend church, "a house consecrated to the worship of God on the Sabbath."

There was also a good attendance at Sunday School with a great lesson to study. I wonder if we, like the disciples were, know or think seriously just where we stand or how we stand, Matthew 18-19.

The school at Cedar Hill near here, closed last Wednesday after a very successful year's work. Though money is tight in Unit te students enjoyed a picnic

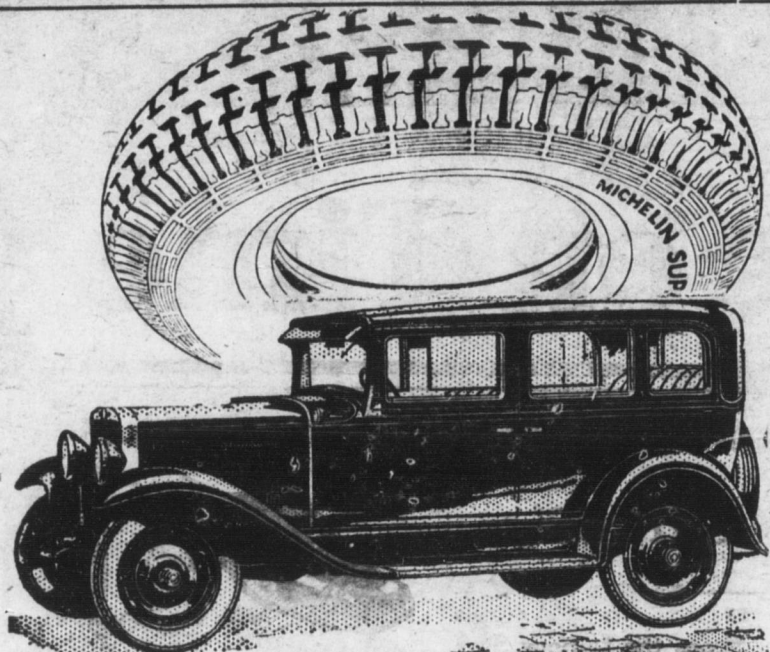
Mr. and Mrs. James Vanhoy and sons Graham and Gaither of Booneville were also visitors at Mr. Pardue's home last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Eldson of Elkin spent last Sunday with Mrs. Eldson's parent's, Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Green.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lawrence and family visited a while with Mr. M. B. Mauldins and family last Sunday.

Mr. W. H. Jones, leader of the choir at Bethel, ask that all who expect or will take a part in the singing to meet at the church next Sunday morning at 9:30 o'clock to rehearse some songs, preparing to go to Swan Creek the fourth Sunday afternoon. The choir will not meet in the afternoon.

Farmers in one community of Lincoln county will home-mix more than 200 tons of fertilizer this season, says Graham Morton. Though money is tight in Un- rison, county agent.



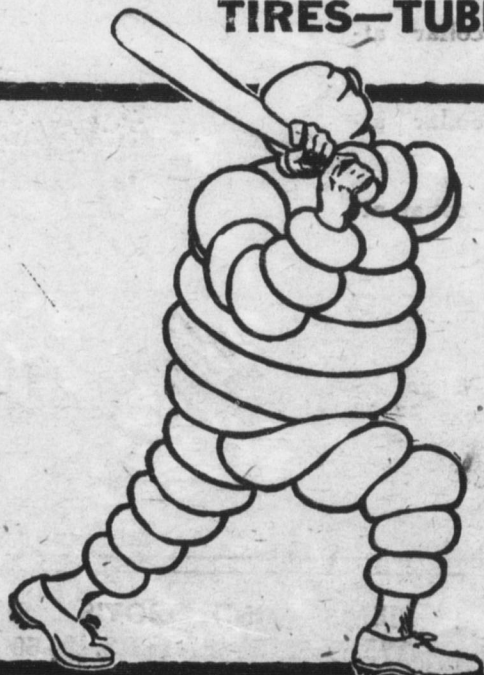
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