

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

From The Adult Student

Training to Serve or to Get

At the Christmas season the spirit of thoughtful giving obtains as at no other season of the year. It is this ministry through giving that helps to give Christmas its perennial appeal. The idealistic manner in which youth responds to the heroic appeal to give self to the great challenges and adventures of life links this quality of human nature with one of the noblest requirements of our Christianity. Does the church now have a compelling cause with which to approach youth that is commensurate with their abilities and even themselves? To give the right answer to this question is a sobering responsibility. Stanley Jones, in speaking to students during the University Preaching Mission, declared that the church now is making no universal appeal to its college youth that is com-

mensurate with the majesty of the Christian commission.

It is frequently said by the rest of the world and undoubtedly must be acknowledged by Americans generally that our life is extremely secular, if not predominantly so. In business the emphasis is upon acquiring. In the professions the quest is for success and the prestige of position. In education generally the aim is being centered upon vocation and the training that will best fit one for distinction in the gainful pursuits of life. In far too few instances is the major concern centered upon the development of the highest personal qualities, including religion, and a life spent in helpful human service. The former group of these objectives is by no means to be left out of account, but the latter is due a much larger place in training and in the vocations than is being given in much of our American educational program. At this point the liberal arts church college, which is designed to give a broad basis for rich and useful living, stands in bold contrast with so much of our general education where the dominant clamor right from the beginning is for vocational attainment. In

Alien Registration Deadline Approaches



December 26 is the deadline for an estimated 3,500,000 aliens residing in the United States to register with the government. These pictures show aliens in the various steps of registering, as they try to beat the deadline.

the book, Life Begins at Forty, the point is made that liberal education, like a gem with many facets, faces life in so many possible directions that when the college youth is thwarted in one vocational deflection, he may readily turn to another with some chance of making the necessary adjustment. Vocational specialization is primary importance, but in every possible case it should rest upon the broad base of liberal training. The Christian Motive in Choosing a Vocation

While there are sharp differences to be found between the sacred and the secular, the quality of religious work being done and to be done by ordained as over against unordained Christian workers in losing much of its one-time distinction. The general acceptance of so-called laity rights for both lay men and lay women in Christian service is rapidly changing the meaning of the term "vocational religious work." This does not mean of course that ministers and missionaries are not called to this high and sacred service, but it does mean that every Christian who engages in religious work likewise is choosing to serve in just as Christian a way to the limit of his ability while he carries on any one of the honored vocations. So the Christian teacher or Christian physician or the Christian business man may give his life to his profession or business, but in doing so he may be just as conscious of his Christian responsibility and may be rendering service just as acceptably Christian, though naturally not to the same extent, as the ordained or consecrated person who gives his full time to Christian work. Special ability and specialized training of course, as well as the act of ordination or consecration may and should make a difference in the amount of time given and perhaps in the quality of one's Christian work, as it most certainly makes a difference in the range of influence one generally exerts. It is most gratifying to discover how rapidly re-

ligious leaders are coming to the conviction that all vocations should be Christian in outlook and in choosing any one of them, the Christian motive in making the choice should be the determining factor.

The Church Gives Vocational Guidance

Both the colleges and the church are recognizing their responsibility for giving helpful guidance to youth in choosing their life work. American civilization within the past century, which has been changing from an agricultural to an industrial emphasis, is one factor entering into this necessity. Furthermore, the recent enormous increase in college-trained youth that has brought an unparalleled competition for positions in the professions, is another cause for activity in vocational guidance. Such guidance may save much blundering and unhappiness later on for the student. His early limited knowledge may not enable him to discover the limitations of his own aptitudes and fitness for the vocation which he at first may have had in mind. His own motives, too, may perhaps need skillful sifting. In such situations the guidance of an experienced adult who has gone much further along the way of life may be of inestimable service.

Realizing this our colleges, and likewise our church leaders, are becoming keenly aware of the importance of discovering and training persons who by personal fitness and interest may become skilled in guiding youth in this matter. They have always done much of this, but it is now becoming

a more consciously directed service and one for which provision is being made much more adequately. Courses are being included in the college curricula which are designed directly to aid the student in the selection of his life work. So, also, as has been true for years there come to our campuses for frequent visits outstanding student leaders who have been exerting a tremendous influence upon campus youth as they face their life work decisions. In passing, mention should be made of the fact that the college period is a time of unusual opportunity for vocational sifting. Frequently, early in life when one's understanding is quite limited, a certain vocation may become almost an obsession. Later, however, what such a vocation requires of one and the particular fitness of the person in question for that vocation may make a revision of one's early choice absolutely necessary to avoid serious failure. In this respect the college has a sifting service to render as well as one of positive guidance in one's original choice.

It is especially gratifying to note also that the young people's programs in our local churches are now making larger provision for guidance in vocational choices. Discussion groups in local churches, in summer training conferences, and in state, regional, and national student meetings are being increasingly provided. Within recent years several training courses dealing helpfully with this question have been made available to our college and church youth. Two of these courses are: "Choosing a Vocation" for adult leaders of youth, and "Finding Your Work" for the young people themselves. The interest of our college and church youth in this matter is tearfully attested by the increasing numbers who are enrolling for the help offered in these discussion groups and training classes.

FAMINE

According to New York medical opinion, famine is inevitable in Europe, and only a miracle can prevent the outbreak of diseases that have followed mass starvation since man's earliest history.

INCREASE

Indications are that there is a sizeable increase in the wheat acreage planted in Bladen County this year for home use, reports R. M. Williams, assistant farm agent.

Christmas Gifts For Last Minute Shoppers!



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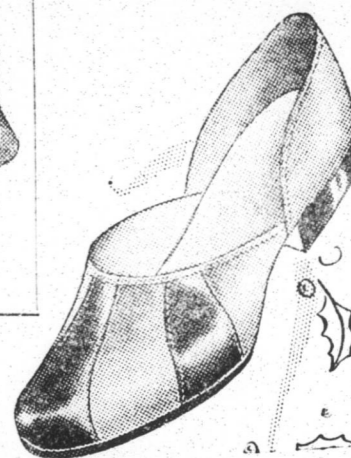
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