

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

SHARING THE SHEPHERDS' JOY

International Sunday School Lesson for December 22, 1940

Golden Text: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men in whom He is well pleased."—Luke 2:14.

Our lesson this week is the Christmas lesson and uses Luke's account of the announcement by the angels to the shepherds of the birth of Jesus. This story—the simplest and yet the most sublime story in the New Testament—is one that appeals both to the child not yet old enough to read and to the man or woman who is at home with the world's best literature. It is a story of which we never tire. It lives with ever-increasing interest, because it tells of the birth of Jesus—God's gift to man—and because Jesus was and is the world's Saviour even as the angel declared.

In response to a decree of Caesar Augustus, Emperor of Rome, that a census of all of the inhabitants of the Roman Empire be made, Joseph and his espoused wife, Mary, journeyed from their home in Nazareth a distance of about seventy miles to Bethlehem, the city of David, which was the ancestral home of Joseph, to enroll themselves. Because many others had done likewise, the little town was over-crowded and when Joseph and Mary arrived, they found that all the accommodations at the inn had already been taken. Realizing Mary's need of a place of rest and privacy, it was suggested that they could find a place of lodging in the nearby stable which while humble, was kept clean and contained an ample supply of straw which could be

used as beds.

So it was that Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah and Saviour of the world, was born. After wrapping the baby in the usual swaddling clothes, he was laid in his little bed—the manger from which the cattle were fed, being filled with straw served this purpose.

Meanwhile, out on the outskirts of Bethlehem, shepherds were watching their flocks during the night and, we imagine talking among themselves as usual. Suddenly, there appeared unto them a vision—an angel of the Lord, shining with the glory of the Lord. These humble men were frightened at the occurrence, not knowing what to do or think. But the angel said, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Saviour, which is Christ, the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And, apparently in order to add emphasis to the wonder of the announcement just made, a host of angels joined the first one, bursting into songs of joy and praise and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Immediately following the return of the angels into heaven, the shepherds made ready to do as bidden. They left their sheep grazing on the hillside and "came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger." This was just as the angel had said and, delightedly, they began to tell everyone about this wonderful thing which had been made known unto them, glorifying and praising God for all the things which they had heard and seen. "But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart."

Does it not seem significant that the first announcement of the wondrous birth was to lowly shepherds? If we had had the privilege of making this announcement we would probably have made it to the most important person in the world at that time—Augustus Ceasar, who had been unwittingly used to fulfill prophecy in that long before it had been prophesied that the Messiah, the Saviour, would be born in Bethlehem. Or, we might have thought it best to give this wonderful news to the religious leaders of the day—surely they would be most interested in such an announcement. God does not always do His works in what we consider the most conventional ways. These shepherds, though probably poor in this world's goods, were more nearly prepared to receive the good news than those in authority either in government or in religious circles. Would this be true today? We wonder. The message of the angel was "good news of great joy, which shall be to all people." While for centuries the Jews had been expecting a Messiah, this Messiah was to be "their" Saviour and theirs alone. However, the announcement of the angel gave promise of a universal gospel, a gospel which would be as free to the poor and underprivileged as to the rich and learned. These shepherds heard of the birth of a king, but this king was to give the world a kingdom which was to be its first real democracy—a democracy in which the soul of every man is equally precious, into the fold of which all men of all races and of all ages might come on equal footing.

The song of the angels gives us, in terse language, the real mission of Jesus. He came (1) to reveal to men the glory of God and through his life to bring glory to God; (2) to make it possible for men to live together in peace because of their good will (love) toward each other. When men accept the teachings of Jesus Christ and try to follow his example, they will endeavor through their daily lives to glorify God, and if they con-want to kill one of God's children, scientifically do this, then peace will reign in the world, for he who is trying to glorify God will surely not

Officers Have Busy Week-end With Four Traffic Accidents

Peace officers had a busy week-end with four traffic cases slated for court hearings shortly.

John L. Winslow is in jail in default of \$500 bond, charged with driving under the influence of liquor, and Shaderick Boone, Negro, is in the Elizabeth City hospital, following an accident that occurred early Monday morning, on the Hertford-Center Hill road.

The Winslow and Boone cars were in a collision that resulted in the injury to Boone. The accident was not reported until 3:00 a. m., approximately two hours after the Negro had been injured and it was another hour before he could be brought to the Hertford Clinic for treatment.

It was reported to Patrolman Jack Gaskill, that following the accident which occurred on the stretch of road known as Cedar Stretch, Winslow put the Negro back into his wrecked car and left him, coming into Hertford with Jack White, who came by shortly after the accident had happened.

Two hours later Winslow obtained a car to return to the scene, it was further reported, and brought the injured Negro into town, reporting the case to Policeman C. E. Walker, who called the State patrolman.

Gaskill, investigating the accident, said both cars were on the drivers' left side of the road, as the right hand side of each car was struck.

It is thought that the Negro was also drunk. Winslow's story is that Boone was driving without lights.

Three other accidents were investigated by Patrolman Gaskill, and Deputy Sheriff M. G. Owens over the week-end.

Rudy Turner of the Chappell Hill section will face hit and run charges following an accident with Peter Billups, Negro, at Alphonsa Chappell's service station Sunday morning.

Thomas Hodges Davis of Tyner and Guy Hobbs of Hobbaville, were summoned to the Chowan Recorder's court following an accident two miles north of Edenton on Highway Number 32, in which Hobbs suffered head and leg injuries.

In the fourth accident investigated by the officers, no charges were brought against Lewis Swanner of Norfolk, Va., and James H. Jackson of South Norfolk, Va., whose cars collided on Highway 17, near Jackson's store. Swanner's car skidded into the Jackson car on a one-way drive.

WINFALL-CEDAR GROVE SOCIETY MEETS

The Winfall-Cedar Grove Young Woman's Missionary Society met on Thursday night at the home of Miss Mary E. White for the regular monthly meeting. A short business session followed the roll call, after which Mrs. A. R. Winslow and Miss Lucille Long had charge of an interesting Christmas program with the singing of Christmas carols being featured. Taking part on the program were Misses Alma Leggett, Ruth V. Batton, Ann Miller, Myrtle Umphlett, Mary E. White, Mrs. Tom White and Mrs. Jesse Stanton.

It was decided to send gifts to needy families. The hostess served dainty refreshments to the following: Mrs. A. R. Winslow, Mrs. Tom White, Mrs. Jesse Stanton, Misses Myrtle Umphlett, Ann Miller, Hattie Pearl Nowell, Alma Leggett, Ruth V. Batton, Lucille Long, Lucille White and Mary Elizabeth White. Visitors were Mrs. Benton White and Mrs. C. B. White.

NEEDLE IN LEG

Terre Haute, Ind.—Feeling a severe pain in her right leg, Mrs. Lela Jeffers concluded she had rheumatism. Her husband, Rev. A. R. Jeffers, examined the leg and pulled out a needle. Mrs. Jeffers can't imagine how the needle got there.

Three December Jobs

Here are three timely reminders to farmers from the pages of The Progressive Farmer:

"We can't recall having ever had anyone tell us just how fast farm tools rust away. It's been only in the last few years that they've told us how fast land can wash away. We've seen some farmers who grew so tired of buying tools that rusted away, they adopted the rule of gathering up all hoes and plow points when not in use and dipping them in discarded crankcase oil. Moldboards and disks on plows or disks were painted with the oil. All implements were put under shelter where they could not be reached by dews or drizzling rains. Things that cost money need to be taken care of."

"Along with plenty of feed in the hard winter season, cattle and all other livestock need plenty of salt. Don't let salt be just a Christmas gift to them. Let salting the livestock be a habit, something you look after once or twice every week."

"With the first good rain, watch to see where water wants to stand around the barn and lot. With a

hoe or shovel used now you can break up a bad mess and a nuisance for yourself and the stock before it starts. Next to insisting on mowing pastures, there was nothing else Dr. Tait Butler preached more often than the need for keeping Southern barn lots from getting so disgracefully muddy. Every December let's try to remember his warning in this respect."

Two Cotton And Corn Changes

The outstanding developments in plant production the last 10 years have been (1) the increased acre yield of corn due to hybrids and (2) the larger acre yield and improved quality of cotton resulting from the use of better varieties, better land, and all-around better farming practices.

Within the next ten years probably 80 to 85 per cent of the corn acres in the Corn Belt will be planted to hybrid varieties. Already one-fourth of the nation's corn acreage is in hybrids, which have increased corn yields 15 to 20 per cent. In the South, hybrids are not expected to come into so extensive use due to the greater cost, lower yields, and the fact that corn is seldom a cash crop. However, by 1945 it is expected that hybrid corn well adapted at least to the northern part of the Cotton Belt will be ready for extensive distribution.

One-variety cotton production is making great strides. In 1939, cotton produced by these areas accounted for 13 per cent of the crop; by 1950, at least half the cotton produced in the South should be from one-variety communities. Untenderable cotton due to short staple should be a rarity except in the more arid sections, and the average yield of the Belt should be close to a half bale per acre.—Eugene Butler in The Progressive Farmer.

BALLAHACK CLUB MEETS

Ballahack Home Demonstration Club met on Monday evening, December 9th, at the home of Mrs. Joe Perry. Mrs. Percy Rogerson had charge of the program, the theme being "God's Gift of Love." Christmas carols were sung. Mrs. Perry read the Scripture lesson and offered prayer. Mrs. A. J. Parrish gave an interesting reading entitled "The Gift of Love." Mrs. Ruth Monds and Mrs. Singleton Lane gave readings on Christmas.

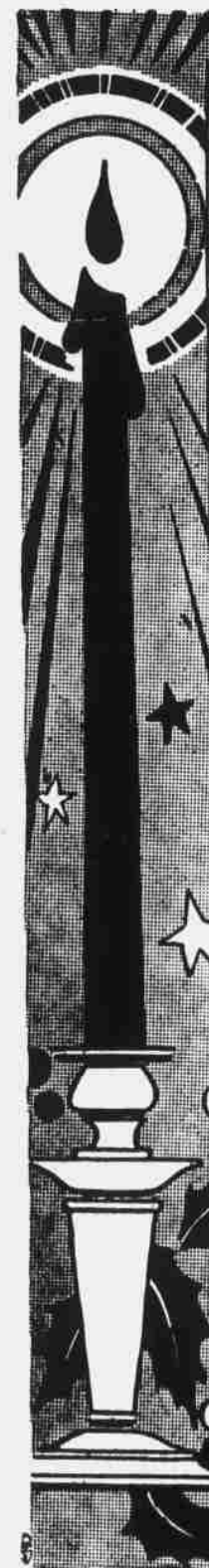
Contests were led by Mrs. J. E. Perry, Mrs. Singleton Lane and Mrs. Joe Perry with Mrs. Percy Rogerson.

Mrs. Pailen Lane and Mrs. Matthew Dail winning prizes. Instead of exchanging gifts, club members gave Mrs. Josiah Proctor a kitchen shaver. She was there to receive the gifts, thanking the club for them.

All club members were present but Miss Alberta Hollowell and Mrs. Clinton Perry.

Those present were Miss Frances Proctor and her baby.

Maness, Mesdames Vance Baker, Murray Elliott, Freeman Elliott, Troy Elliott, Archie Lane, Pailen Lane, Jack Sutton, Nixon Hollowell, Carlton Chappell, Singleton Lane, B. T. Monds, Matthew Dail, Bristow Perry, Percy Rogerson, A. J. Parrish, J. E. Perry, Alton Stallings and Joe Perry, and two visitors, Mrs. Josiah



What to Give for CHRISTMAS

For Ladies and Children

- Dresses ---- \$1.00 to \$6.95
- Coats ---- \$4.95 to \$14.75
- Underwear ---- 25c to \$1.98
- Silk Robes ---- \$1.98 to \$3.98
- Chenille Robes ---- \$2.98 to \$3.98
- Slips ---- 50c to \$1.98
- Gowns ---- 50c to \$1.98
- Gloves ---- 25c to 79c
- Handkerchiefs ---- 5c to 50c

Scarfs - Scarf Sets
Pillow Cases - Mats

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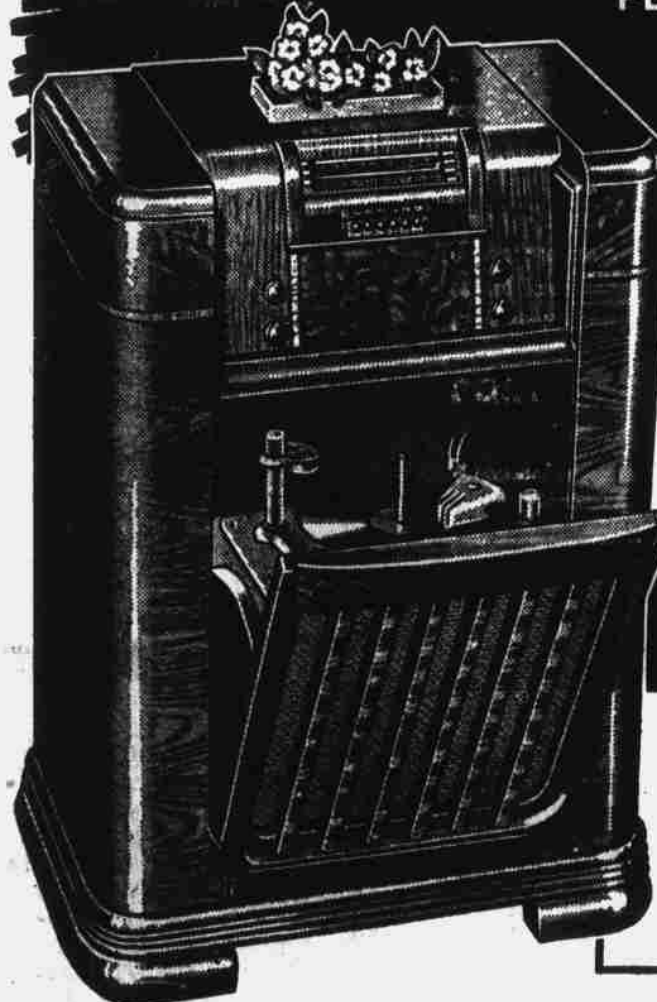
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