

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE CHRISTIAN'S USE OF MONEY AND GOODS

International Sunday School Lesson For August 12th, 1951.

Memory Selection: "All things therefore whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, even so do ye also unto them: for this is the law and the prophets."—Matthew 7: 12.

Lesson Text: Matthew 25: 14-15, 19-30.

Only in the Gospel of Matthew do we find the parable of the talents. It was uttered by Jesus on the Tuesday night preceding his death, at a time when he knew that his three years of personal ministry was about to end. The future depended upon the activity of those to whom he was soon to intrust his mission.

The application of the parable of the talents is transparent and unequivocal. The man going into another country typified Jesus, himself, soon to be crucified. The servants, called together to receive on trust the man's possessions, represent the disciples and their successors in time, who have received the spiritual riches of the Kingdom of God.

The measure of confidence and trust was expressed in talents, a rather large sum of money, an expression symbolic, not only of riches but including every endowment and privilege in life, health, mental ability and every asset which helps or improves a human being. In the parable, the necessity for some measure to conserve the master's possessions was inescapable, so, likewise, is the divine dependence upon human agencies to carry forward the work of the Kingdom in this world.

In the division of the possessions, each servant was made responsible in accordance with his own individual ability. How tragic it would be in life if we were held accountable for a performance beyond our endowment or qualifications. It is interesting to note that all of these servants were regarded as trustworthy to the extent to which they were gifted and the owner granted them full freedom of action in the use of the treasure intrusted to them. So, in life, each soul receives wisely and generously from the Creator and is left in unrestricted liberty to employ whatever talents intrusted to it.

The three servants received five, two and one talent, respectively. The first two utilized their opportunity and justified the trust reposed in them, multiplying in trade by their activity the sum left in their care. The one-talent man sulked, either because he was afraid to risk what he had, or because he made no effort to learn how to employ the money, or because of a concealed pride, he was plucked over the smaller duty allotted to him. Or, perhaps, it was just because he was a little lazy and too much in love with ease and pleasure. Upon the master's return, the servants were called for an accounting.

The two energetic and faithful servants were rewarded by an enlarged sphere of activity and usefulness. Having proved themselves worthy, they were promoted. No difference was made in the treatment of the five-talent and the two-talent man—both had been faithful, alert and competent—which was all that the master considered. The one-talent servant, however, was condemned for his neglect and lack of industry. The mere safeguarding of the money was nothing creditable for the talent had been intrusted to him to be used and multiplied. It is incorrect to assume that this servant had not lost anything, while he returned the talent intact—he had never lost the time which had passed and the opportunity for usefulness which was gone.

"In every realm, nature withdraws her gift from him who neglects or misuses it" aptly declared Newell Dwight Hillis, in commenting on this parable. "Neglecting vision; neglecting wings; the flying-fish finds these members hanging feebly by its side; neglecting the use the asp it receives, the branch withers, rots and falls away from the tree; while that monk that made a vow not to lift his hand from his side for a period of years, found at last his arm a withered, helpless thing—dead, yet hanging to a living body. For use is life, neglect is atrophy and death. There is no talent that comes unasked; there is no grace of mind and heart that stays unurged."

The parable of the talents has an application to our own lives. Each of us will be held responsible for the ability to achieve and the opportunity for good which comes to us. We will not be charged beyond our capabilities. Fortunately, however, the "talent" given to men by the Creator is such as can be multiplied by every aspiring soul.

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

CONVERSATION

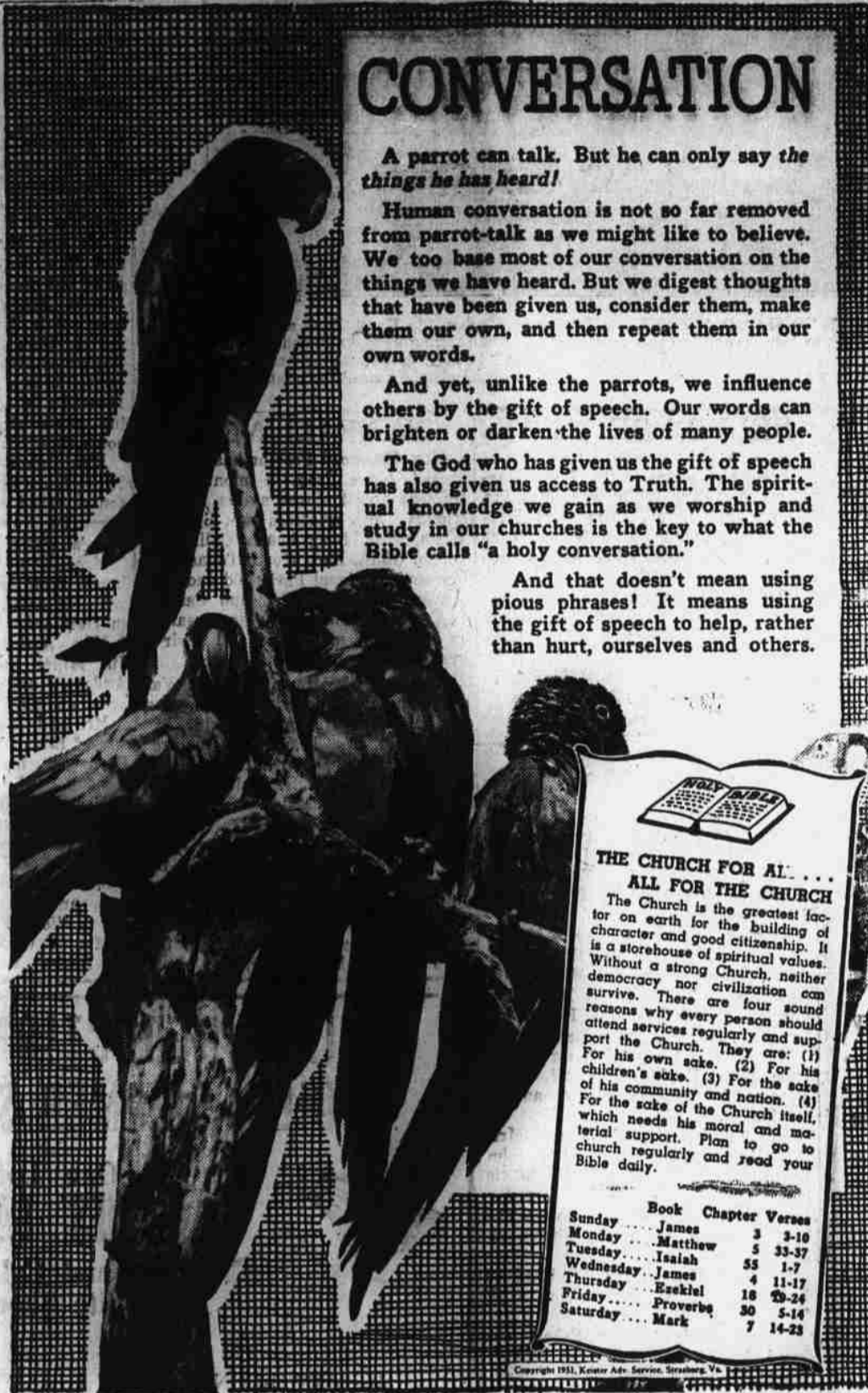
A parrot can talk. But he can only say the things he has heard!

Human conversation is not so far removed from parrot-talk as we might like to believe. We too base most of our conversation on the things we have heard. But we digest thoughts that have been given us, consider them, make them our own, and then repeat them in our own words.

And yet, unlike the parrots, we influence others by the gift of speech. Our words can brighten or darken the lives of many people.

The God who has given us the gift of speech has also given us access to Truth. The spiritual knowledge we gain as we worship and study in our churches is the key to what the Bible calls "a holy conversation."

And that doesn't mean using pious phrases! It means using the gift of speech to help, rather than hurt, ourselves and others.



THE CHURCH FOR ALL... ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For the sake of his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| James | Matthew | Isaiah | James | Ezekiel | Proverbs | Mark |
| 3 | 5 | 55 | 4 | 18 | 30 | 7 |
| 3-10 | 33-37 | 1-7 | 11-17 | 23-24 | 5-14 | 14-23 |

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Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
C. W. Duling, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

BETHLEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor
First Sunday
11 A. M. and 8 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
Colon Jackson, Jr., Pastor
Church services second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES
J. S. Craffin, Paston

First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 7:30 P. M.

Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.
Woodland Church, 7:30 P. M.

Third Sunday
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
New Hope Church, 7:30 P. M.

Fourth Sunday
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.
Winfall Church, 7:30 P. M.

Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church at 7:30 P. M.

ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH
R. M. Gradeless, Pastor
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
James F. Burke, Pastor
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
First and Third Sundays at 7:45 P. M.
Sunday School 9:45 A. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH
Elizabeth White, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services, 11 A. M.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Preaching first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Preaching second and fourth Sunday evening at 7:30.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH
Carl J. Yow, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Morning worship—11:00 A. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Carl Bjork, Pastor
Sunday School, 11 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
A. L. Chaplin, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Young People's Meeting, 6:30 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. Charles F. Wolf, Rector.
10:00 A. M., Church School, Every Sunday
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion
1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer
2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion
Third Sunday

BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Walker Perry, Pastor
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
A. H. Ostlaw, Pastor
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.
Church Service 8 P. M. every first Sunday.
Sunday School at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Go