

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson VII, May 16, 1915.

David Sparing Saul.—1 Samuel 26; 1-26. Print 26; 5-16.

Commentary.—I. Saul seeking David's life (vs. 1-4). The Ziphites informed Saul where David was, telling him that he was in the hill Hachilah. Once before this the Ziphites had given Saul similar information and he went out to seek him, but word came to him that the Philistines were invading the land, so he left off pursuing after David. This time, however, Saul went with his army of three thousand picked men to Hachilah to find David with his six hundred supporters. Saul made David his camp and expected to take David in a short time. David was active and alert. He was not the kind of man to be taken unawares. He sent out spies and learned from them that Saul was pursuing him and where his camp was.

II. Saul in David's power (vs. 5-12). 5. David arose.—He went by night to the camp of Saul to determine exactly the situation of his enemy. In fact the trenches—"Within the place of the wagons."—R. V. The Hebrew admits of this rendering. The thought is that Saul was in the best fortified or most secure place in the camp. It was a common practice in forming a camp to place the leading offices in the centre and arrange the troops in a circle about them. 6. Abimelech the Hittite.—He is mentioned nowhere else in the scriptures. Abishai—Abishai and Joab were David's nephews, the sons of his sister Zeruah. I will go down with thee.—In response to David's call for volunteers Abishai said this. This reply shows Abishai's personal bravery and his loyalty to David. 7. Spears stuck in the ground at his holier.—It was customary for a soldier in camp to place his spear thus, that he might quickly be ready to meet an enemy coming suddenly upon him. The spear being near his head, he would simply have to reach out his hand to take it.

8. God hath delivered.—On a previous occasion David's friends said to him that the Lord had delivered his life from the hands of his enemies, but David would not harm Saul; and on this occasion Abishai was glad that the day had come when his master would be free from the murderous hatred of Saul, and sought the privilege of smiting the king. I will not smite him the second time. For he thought one stroke with the spear would be enough. 9. Destroy him not.—David was not seeking to take Saul's life, but was seeking to preserve his own. Against the Lord's anointed.—Even though Saul had been wicked and still had murder in his heart, David recognized the fact that he had been anointed king by Samuel at the Lord's command, and he was still king. As long as the Lord considered Saul to live, David would consider himself guilty if he should in any way cause him harm. 10. As the Lord liveth.—A reverent appeal to God in confirmation of his faith in what he was saying. The Lord shall smite him.—David knew that he was to become king. He knew also God's displeasure with Saul. Hence his confidence that the Lord would in his own way use the removal of Saul. Descend into battle, and perish.—This took place a few years later (ch. 31: 1-6). 11. Take thou now the spear.—The purpose in taking the spear and the cruse of water appears a little later. 12. A deep sleep from the Lord.—A similar form of expression is used with reference to Adam's sleeping when a rib was taken from his side for the formation of Eve. No guards were on duty in Saul's camp. All were asleep. It seems strange that an army in the field, when important interests were at stake, should rest so carelessly as to place no sentinels for the protection of the camp. Abner, Saul's captain, was an able man, but he did not have a proper conception of David's bravery and alertness. It must be borne in mind, however, that the Lord was taking David's part.

III. David rebukes Saul (vs. 13-21). 13. To the other side.—Across the valley. Probably David returned to the top of the hill from which he had descended in making his way to Saul's camp. A great space being between them.—On the former occasion when David spared Saul, he spoke with him face to face, but this time he withdrew to a considerable distance, not trusting Saul as much as he did before. 14. David cried to.—In the stillness of the night in that country the human voice can be distinctly heard for a long distance from one hilltop to another. 15. Who is like to thee in Israel.—Abner was acknowledged to be a powerful man. David reminded him of his neglect to guard the king. 16. Now see where the king's spear is.—David took this way to tell Abner that he had been in the very centre of Saul's camp and had taken the spear and the cruse of water, and he had not been guarding David's voice and recognized it. David was still slow in assuring the king that he had done nothing amiss. He had in no way injured Saul. He gives Saul to understand that he thinks his

course is altogether unworthy of a king. He compares his course to that of chasing a flea or hunting a part-ridge in the mountains.

IV. Saul's confession (vs. 17-25). Saul was moved by David's forbearance to confess his sin and to acknowledge that he had "played the fool." He seemed to appreciate David's large-heartedness and promised to do him no harm. David assured Saul that he would not put forth his hand against the Lord's anointed, and expressed his confidence in the Lord's protection. Saul expressed great interest in David and prophesied that he would do great things. After this David went on his way and Saul returned home. David did not have enough confidence in Saul's fixedness of purpose to trust himself in his hands.

Question.—Where did David go to escape Saul? How did David feel toward Saul? How many men did David have with him and who were they? How large an army had Saul? Describe David's visit to Saul's camp. How did Saul feel when he learned what David had done? What did Saul say to David? Why did David remain with Saul?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—A sinner condemned.

I. By righteous example.

II. By the voice of conscience.

I. By righteous example. Saul, the king of Israel, was bound to David by every tie of gratitude as the man who had saved his life and kingdom; yet his kindness had been shamefully abused, and evil had been returned for good. For three years David had lived the life of a fugitive, and in many ways and places had sought to shelter himself against the unrighteous and pitiless wrath of Saul. David was deeply conscious of being a loyal, loving subject, free from ambition or desire to do other than good to his king. He referred to having spared Saul's life as an evidence of this. His aim was not so much to afford a further vindication of himself, and to induce him to act in accordance with his former solemn oath, when David's innocence with respect to any evil design against Saul was fully vindicated. David as much desired that Saul should stand in right relations to God as that he himself should be delivered from evil. All the former reasons for avenging himself still existed, and in greater force because of the additional suffering he had endured. David had a golden opportunity, and made golden use of it, for he refused to avenge himself, but suffered his enemy to depart unharmed. Forbearance was mightier than weapons of war. He gave two reasons why he would not destroy Saul or permit others to do it. First, it would be a sinful affront to God's ordinance. It would also be a sinful anticipation of God's providence. The principle upon which his conduct toward Saul was based was an unbounded reverence for God as the source of all power, justice and excellence, a profound respect for every authority that was ordained of God; due subordination to the claims of God and the entire subordination of personal claims. His faith in God yielded the fruit of forbearance and compassion. David could have destroyed Saul, but he would not. David conquered Saul as surely as he conquered Goliath, but his greatest victory was over his own spirit. Abishai had said, "This enemy," but David said, "The Lord's anointed." Here were two different views of the same man. David's view-point governed his conduct. The quality of charity is of priceless value, and its exercise shows the greatness of him who possesses it.

II. By the voice of conscience. David's speech was thoroughly suited to sharpen Saul's conscience and lead him to give up his enmity if he still had an ear for the voice of truth. Looking back upon a long course of disobedience and self-will, and more especially upon his recent persecutions of David, Saul declared he had sinned. His history justified his expression of "playing the fool," inasmuch as his public life was marked by a continued attempt to defeat God's arrangements. He had yielded to the impulses of a passion and obeyed the dictates of a selfish heart with no regard for the consequences. Saul seemed to have everything in his favor at least to declare his folly, and all because of his failure to follow God at all cost and against all selfish inclinations. He admitted his error, but took no steps to turn his confession to practical advantage. His tendencies were not altered by his interview with David, therefore his recognition of right failed to become a power over his conduct in the succeeding days. There were indications in the interview of increased obduracy in his heart. He acknowledged the contrast between David's conduct and his own. He turned back from his pursuit, as he had done before, but he did not renege his son-in-law. He did not relieve him of the harassing sense of insecurity. His confession did not change his character nor delay his fate. It was intellectual, but not moral. It was an admission of truth, but not a response to its power over the life. Through David's appeal he was prompted to let right and reason exercise a legitimate sway over his thoughts and render just conclusions. Though he appeared humble, he was still proud and obstinate. Though he admitted his folly, he would not renounce it. He had become fixed in his unholier course, and conscience seemed dead.—T. H. A.

TO REGULATE ICE CREAM.

New York Report.—Recommendations for the adoption of new sanitary standards and regulations to govern the manufacture and sale of ice cream, butter and condensed milk, were presented to the National Commission on Milk Standards in its annual meeting here today. The commission, composed of leading health officials and sanitarians, was organized in 1911 by the New York Milk Committee to recommend standards of milk and milk products.

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FARM GARDEN SWEET CORN.

The season is drawing near for corn. Sweet corn for early market is planted 10 to 15 days earlier than field corn. Four grains in a hill for late plantings, and six for the early sowing when weather and soil conditions are less favorable, should give an average of three stalks to a hill. Hills four and one-half feet apart in either direction give room for good development of stalk and ear, with larger varieties. Dwarf varieties may be planted three by three feet part. The very early varieties tend to dwarf stalks, and the later varieties to a more uniform development of stalk and ear, so one wishing to realize some fodder material, as well as ears for the market, should grow the longer-standing varieties, such as Evergreen, Stowell's Evergreen, Late Mammoth, etc.

In a good season the sweet corn crop is a valuable asset to the progressive farmer. To quote an extent it is a catchy crop. Among the dwarf early varieties are Early Cory, White Cory and Perry Hybrid; Long Island Beauty, Early Mammoth and Early Evergreen mature a little earlier than the Stowell's Evergreen, Mammoth and other late varieties, hence are useful as second-early or medium varieties. Before deciding on what variety to plant it is well to study the proposed market. Some excellent varieties are not popular because not well known. For instance, in some markets the Country Gentleman does not sell well because people do not realize that it is small cobs with deep grain, but merely judge the ear by its apparent size.

It is not well to choose very dry land for sweet corn, as a dry spell may ruin your crop entirely. Sweet corn likes a rich, sandy loam if given some potash. A little potash in each hill tends to produce a good set of fine, large ears. Nitrate of soda—a small handful to four hills—if applied as the cornstalk begins to tassle, seems to have a strong influence upon the success of the crop. Poultry manure—a handful to each hill, beneath the corn—is a great fertilizer for this crop, as is any animal product. Fish-scrap, tankage, etc., contribute to a healthy, vigorous growth of stalk and a good yield of corn.

Apply it in the hill, slightly cover it with earth and plant the corn upon it. The farmers in this locality often use barnyard compost in this way. Aside from the question of fertilizer, the growth of sweet corn depends upon the soil. Many a crop of sweet corn is saved in dry weather by persistent cultivation before earing. After it is in tassle, all work with the cultivator must cease. For cultivating the early varieties use a straight or barrow-toothed cultivator set very shallow, and running it through often enough to keep the ground clean. The first pulling should take place when an inspection of the field shows a number of ears with silk dried almost to the tip of the ear, the ear sagging somewhat from the stalk. This first pulling hinders the growth of the other ears.

Pull the corn for market at the size desired for the table. There is a great deal of sweet corn pulled by green hands that is either immature or overgrown. This is waste to both the producer and the consumer. After the crop of sweet corn is gathered the stalks should be cut and stacked immediately, that the air, not sucked back by the roots, left conserved within the stalk and foliage. Sweet corn is grown and cultivated the same as field corn, except it requires more intensive culture as a horticultural crop. It needs a rich, warm loamy soil that has been well prepared by thorough cultivation and heavy fertilizing with well-rotted barnyard manure.

In early planting, plenty of seed should be used, for if the weather is backward, much of it is likely to rot. Some quick-acting nitrogenous fertilizer should be used for the early crop, to furnish immediate available plant food. In a test made some years ago at the New Jersey station, the average yield of sweet corn was increased 21 per cent, when sulphate of ammonia was used, and 35 per cent, when dried blood was used. Other features of the test showed that it is advisable to use an abundance of all forms of fertilizers for sweet corn.

The early crop should be put in at the earliest moment after danger from frost is past. Other plantings may be made at intervals of a week to 10 days thereafter, to afford a succession until late fall. About six kernels, which will furnish 3 to 5 stalks, should be put in each hill. It requires about eight quarts of seed to plant an acre. Shallow cultivation should be practiced to preserve the moisture of the soil, since this crop requires a large amount of water in its growth, and is likely to suffer from drought.

FARM NEWS AND VIEWS.

The best way to start a dairy herd is to select good-grade cows, young and from milk producers. These may be bought at reasonable prices, but care must be exercised to select good individuals. Then by breeding those to pure-bred bulls from the best milk strains obtainable profitable dairy animals may be raised. Under no circumstances should the cow be bred to any but the best sire. If one has no bull of the kind it would be better to secure the service of one, even though a high price is charged and some difficulty encountered in finding the animal. Later a few good pure-bred heifers may be bought, and a desirable bull, then some thoroughbred animals can be raised to take the place of the grades when they have served their purpose.

The value of ashes as a fertilizer depends upon the character of the soil and the kind of crop to be grown. Generally speaking, ashes, or potash, is very important for most crops, but in some soils there is enough of the element already, and for some crops, as wheat, oats and corn, but little is required. Wheat removes but seven pounds of potash per acre, oats 10 and corn 15 pounds, while potatoes remove 75 pounds, showing that they require a larger amount of this element. Timothy hay takes 45 pounds per ton and clover 35 pounds. It has been well said that a farm can never rise above the level of its owner. Shade must be provided for the fowls and the little chicks during hot weather. Breeding for size will be of little

advantage unless you feed for size at the same time. A heavy draft horse should never be driven faster than a walk with or without a load. Rhubarb requires a deep, rich, melon soil. In fact, the soil for it cannot be too rich. The earliest yield is from a warm, sandy loam. The longest stalks and the greatest number may be grown on a deep, rich clay loam. The ground should be plowed twice and harrowed and rolled to get it in good order. A sandy loam is the best soil for muskmelons. Scattered over it barnyard manure, plow and harrow to pulverize it thoroughly. When the weather is quite warm and trees are fully leaved out, the hills may be prepared for seed. When the melons begin to ripen a bunch of straw placed under them will prevent the fruit from cracking. Hubbard squash should be more generally grown and used. When properly cooked and seasoned it is a delicious vegetable and is available for use from October until June. The hills should be eight by eight feet apart and enriched with rotted manure undrilled also be grown in rows eight feet apart, drilling the seed and thinning the plants to about two feet.

OFFICERS OF 2ND CONTINGENT

Ottawa, Ont., despatch.—Officers of the second Canadian contingent, under Major-General S. B. Steele, will include Col. Lord Brooke, in command of the Ontario brigade; Col. J. Landry, Quebec, over the Quebec and Maritime Province brigade; Col. Ketchum, Winnipeg, in charge of the western brigade. The brigade majors respectively will be: Lieut.-Col. R. G. Stewart, Ottawa; Col. McAvity, St. John, and Lieut.-Col. P. A. Moore, Calgary. Captain W. C. Cochrane, son of the Minister of Railways, and Captain R. Montague, son of Hon. Dr. Montague, Winnipeg, are both on General Steele's staff. Col. Septimus Denbow, of Toronto, who goes to England at the head of the Ontario brigade, will, owing to ill-health, be unable to lead it to the front. There are 22,000 men in the second contingent.

RUSS GIVE LIE TO VICTORY YARN

Washington despatch.—The Russian Embassy to-day issued this statement, based upon advice from the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs at Petrograd: "Reports issued from Berlin and Vienna referring to an alleged important victory gained over our troops in Western Galicia, are entirely in contradiction with the true facts. The encounters which began in that part of Galicia have absolutely not been such a character as to warrant claims of a partial success by our troops."

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

Table with columns for 'FARMERS' MARKET' and 'MEATS-WHOLESALE'. Items include Eggs, Butter, Spring chickens, Ducks, Poultry, Turkeys, Beef, Pork, Mutton, Lamb, etc.

SUGAR MARKET.

Table with columns for 'SUGARS ARE QUOTED AS FOLLOWS' and 'LIVE STOCK'. Items include Extra granulated, Standard, etc.

Table with columns for 'WINNIPEG GRAIN MARKETS'. Items include Wheat, Oats, Barley, etc.

Table with columns for 'MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKETS'. Items include Minnesota-Wheat, No. 1 Northern, etc.

Table with columns for 'DULUTH GRAIN MARKETS'. Items include Duluth-Wheat, No. 1 Northern, etc.

Table with columns for 'LONDON WOOL SALES'. Items include London-Wool, No. 1, etc.

Table with columns for 'BUFFALO LIVE STOCK'. Items include Buffalo, Despatch, etc.

Table with columns for 'CHICAGO LIVE STOCK'. Items include Chicago, Despatch, etc.

Table with columns for 'LIVERPOOL PRODUCE'. Items include Wheat, Spot, Steady, etc.

Table with columns for 'LIVERPOOL PRODUCE'. Items include Flour, White, etc.