

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON IX. December 1, 1913  
Joseph sold by his brothers.—Genesis 37: 12-23.

**COMMENTARY.**—I. A cruel plot (vs. 18-20). When they saw him far off—The occupation of Jacob as a herdman required those who kept his flocks to travel far in search of pasturage. Jacob owned land at Shechem, and thither the brothers of Joseph went with the herds. As dangers were likely to beset his sons and his possessions, Jacob was desirous of knowing how they were getting along. It was necessary for Joseph, who was sent by his father, to journey sixty miles to Dothan to find his brothers. The brothers saw him at a great distance and recognized him. They conspired against him to slay him.—The arrival of Joseph aroused in his brothers the determination to rid themselves of him. They retained in their minds the dreams he had had, and they hated him to that extent that they became conspirators and murderers at heart. 19. This dreamer—it is not difficult to imagine the contempt with which Joseph's brothers spoke of him as "this dreamer." The dreams are recorded in verses 5-11 of the present chapter, and they did not impress Joseph's brothers favorably when he told them to them. 20. Come now—The brothers saw that the opportunity was presenting itself to put Joseph out of the way and they were deciding on the course they would pursue. The suggestion was to slay him and make some disposition of his body. Into some pit—There were many "pits" in that country. They were cisterns constructed below the surface of the land to hold water during the long dry season. Into one of these cisterns it was proposed to place Joseph's body with the thought that it would be effectually concealed. We will say, etc.—Jealousy, hatred, murder and lying were sins in the hearts of Joseph's brothers. One sin led to another. The would-be murderers were planning to deceive their father into believing that Joseph had been slain by a wild beast. We shall see what will become of his dreams—The brothers were plainly irritated over Joseph's dreams and plotted to make their fulfillment an utter impossibility. They were taking a course that called for deep repentance in future years. If they could have looked forward a score of years and could have seen how their brother would be exalted and how they would be humiliated, they would, perhaps, have refrained from their ill-treatment of Joseph. Even so, they would have been guilty before God, for they cherished murder and hatred in their hearts.

II. Reuben's successful plea (vs. 21, 22). 21. Reuben heard it—This was Joseph's eldest brother and the one who owned protection to him. Delivered him out of their hands—Reuben interrupted his brothers in their plan to kill Joseph. He had it in mind, not only to save Joseph's life, but also to restore him to his father (vs. 22). Let us not kill him—Reuben's love for his father and Joseph and his regard for right led him to make this plea. Although the moral law, as embodied in the Ten Commandments, had not yet been given, the principles underlying it were written on the consciences of men. 22. Cast him into this pit—In shape the pit was circular, as the custom was to construct them thus, large at the bottom and small at the top. One could not escape from them unaided. While the brothers were planning to report that he had been slain by wild beasts, Reuben was planning to rescue him from their murderous hands. He would put him into the pit alive, instead of slain, as they desired. That he might... deliver him to his father again—Reuben was Jacob's eldest son and the one who would naturally come into the blessings of the first born, and he knew that Jacob's affection for Joseph was stronger than that for him; yet he had that largeness of heart that moved him to exert himself to the utmost to restore him to his father. Reuben's attitude toward Joseph was very different from that of Judah and the rest of his brothers. His was a determination to deliver him to his father, there was a fixed purpose to destroy him. Neither purpose was fully accomplished, but his life was preserved, and that for a wise purpose. The Lord

would preserve his people from extinction through the famine that he knew was coming, and while he did not approve of the course Joseph's brothers took with him, yet he so far made use of their plans as to accomplish his own great purpose. Man tries in vain to fight against God.

III. Joseph sold into slavery (vs. 23-28). 23. When Joseph was come unto his brethren—On his part there was no suspicion of mischief and only relief to know that he had found his brothers, for whose welfare his father had sent him to inquire. On their part, there was a spirit of hatred and murder. His coat—This token of his father's special affection was, to his brothers, a hated thing, and they would have the satisfaction of removing from him that mark of distinction. 24. The pit was empty—Although there was no water in it, there was probably mud or slime in the bottom, and it was a foul place to stay. If they placed the usual stone cover upon the mouth of the pit, Joseph's imprisonment was uncomfortable indeed. 25. Sat down to eat bread—To be content to eat under such circumstances showed that they were heartless. It is more than likely that they were eating delicacies that Joseph had brought them from Hebron. A company of Ishmaelites—A caravan composed of Ishmaelites, descendants of Ishmael and Midianites, descendants of Midian, a son of Abraham by Keturah. There may have been other tribes in the company, as travel was principally by caravan for safety. Dothan was on the caravan route from Damascus to Egypt. Spicery—Probably the gum Tragacanth, which, with myrrh, was used in Egypt for embalming. Balm—The aromatic balsam, for which Gilead was noted. Judah—Perhaps he was slightly moved by the cries of Joseph for help, and saw that there would be an opportunity to be rid of Joseph without putting him to death and, at the same time, they could get some money for themselves. 27. Sell him to the Ishmaelites—The merchants in the caravan were not only dealers in spices, but also in slaves. Content—The brothers were satisfied with that turn of affairs. 28. Twenty pieces of silver—Each piece of silver was a shekel in weight, and worth about sixty cents. If the brothers divided this money equally among themselves, each would have the equivalent of a little more than a dollar. Can we imagine their feelings with that paltry sum in their purses and their guilt on their hearts?

Questions—Where was Jacob's home at this time? How did he show special affection for Joseph? Relate Joseph's two dreams. Give the interpretation. Describe the feeling of Joseph's brothers toward him. Upon what errand did Jacob send Joseph? What plot did they form? What was Reuben's suggestion? What did Judah propose? What was finally done with Joseph? What deception was practised upon Jacob?

**PRACTICAL SURVEY.**  
Topic—Seeds and fruits of family discord.  
I. Fraternal favoritism.  
II. Fraternal envy.  
I. Fraternal favoritism. In this lesson we study the training of a great character in the process of preparing a chosen instrument for a great purpose. A more noble and symmetrical character does not appear in scripture biography. The history of Joseph is one of the most interesting and inspiring in the world. It stands in almost solitary excellence and records no moral lapses. As son, slave or sovereign, exalted principles and purposes appear at every stage of the history. Mingling with possibly some early indiscretions, which were natural and innocent, are manifestations of truthfulness, perseverance and fidelity, which are most promising. As years teach wisdom and opportunity enlarges these qualities shine with increasing luster in association with others equally commendable. Jacob's favoritism was entirely natural, though unwise and unfortunate in its results. Joseph "was the son of his old age" and the child of his beautiful, favorite and departed wife, to secure whom he endured fourteen years of galling servitude. It is evident also that even in his boyhood Joseph was distinguished from his older brethren by superior qualities which would endure him to the parental heart. Preference in affection was natural and perhaps innocent, but its pronounced and continued expression was unjust and harmful to Joseph, and to all the rest.  
II. Fraternal envy. Envy is the disposition which feels displeasure or

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distress over the excellence or successes of others. It is a most unworthy and belittling impulse, of which noble minds are incapable. No disposition is more distorting to the vision, perverting to the judgment or unjust to its object. It imagines evil where none exists, transforms virtues into vices, mistakes into malice and gloats over the difficulties or distresses of its objects. While Jacob's unwise expressions of preference cannot be approved, the sinister disposition of Joseph's brethren discloses an unworthiness of character in striking contrast to the excellence of his own. They envied him and could not speak peaceably to him. Joseph's unwitting narration of his dreams fanned the smoldering hatred into a consuming flame, and even called forth parental reproof while parental love grasped the promised greatness. "His father observed by saying, 'We are reminded that when he came, of whom Joseph was in some sense a type, his mother kept the sayings concerning him 'in her heart.' In the events of the lesson the family discord reached its climax. The opportunity of evil arrived, occasioned by Joseph's persevering obedience, and Jacob's concern for 'thy brethren' and 'thy flocks.' That the murderous purpose was overruled for beneficent ends, does not in the slightest degree exonerate the plotters. With one exception Joseph's brethren must stand branded as murderers. There is a second choice of evil, which, reaching its ends by indirect methods, is not less criminal in fact, though more plausible in process. 'Come on and let us slay him.' 'What profit is it if we slay our brother?' 'Come, and let us sell him, and let not our hand be upon him'; antedating by many generations the treachery of Judas and the ecclesiastical envy of Jerusalem. W. H. C.

No matter how deep-rooted the corn or wart may be, it must yield to Holloway's Corn Cure if used as directed.

**People Who Are Too Good.**  
We have in this world all kinds of organizations for making bad people good and good people better, but I know of none for making too good people—well, let us say, normal. We have all known people who would have been greatly benefited by an occasional "spree" with perhaps a night in jail, but whom no one is courageous enough to corrupt. It is not their fault that they are so good; all the forces of their social circle work to make them more respectable.—Robert M. Gay in the Atlantic Monthly.

**Dynamiting the Clams.**  
The little pholas or boring clam is a great delicacy on the Pacific coast. Its meat is juicy and tender and is excellent in chowder. Consequently, fishermen are not content to dislodge the clams slowly with pick and crowbar. They use dynamite, one blast of which dislodges hundreds of clams, according to the Popular Science Monthly.

**EASIEST CORN REMEDY PAINLESS—NEVER FAILS**  
Just think of it—Instant relief the minute you put a few drops of Putnam's Extractor on your sore corn. Putnam's makes corns dry up, makes them shrivel and peel off. It doesn't eat the good flesh, it acts on the corn alone, loosens it so you can lift it out with your fingers. Wonderful; you pay more for something not so good as Putnam's?

**SUNDAY AT HOME**

THE LORD PONDERETH THE HEARTS.  
The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the ungodly shall perish.—The Lord will shew who are His, and who is holy.—Thy Father which seeth in secret Himself shall reward thee openly.  
Search me, O God, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.—There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear. Lord, all my desire is before thee; and my groaning is not hid from Thee.—When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.—He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.  
The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

## THE DAILY ROUND.

A friend quoted this verse to me the other day, and added, with a half sigh, "Let this suffice us all." Somehow I find it very difficult to reconcile with the restlessness and sense of personal inefficiency that so often come over me. It is so difficult to keep on trusting when things seem to be going wrong. Yes, beyond a doubt that is one of the hardest things that perplex us in our daily round.

We are all painfully aware life today and life before the war are two very different propositions. In those peaceful days most of us looked upon more than a poetic expression as little more than a poetic expression. Our lives lay, it seemed to us, in pleasant places, and there was little inconvenience us or turn us away from our ordered methods and daily routine. Even our religion we took in calm and measured doses; the possibility of a time when we should need all our dependence on God and all our faith in Him to prevent national disaster seemed outside the scheme of our lives. We had not then attempted to learn the lessons that many of us have had to learn with sorrow-wrung hearts. It is not an easy thing to be a good soldier of Christ. It means much work, many hardships, and constant danger. We must ever be fighting the great battle against sin and sorrow and misery. Remember that the Christian army is not resting in barracks, but it is ever on the march and constantly engaged in battle. Lazy people and cowards are not wanted in the ranks. As Christians we must be prepared to work and fight, and to endure bravely and patiently whatever hardships we have to face. Remember that our Captain's eyes are ever on us, and that we are fighting his battle.

To rest in trust does not mean that we are to just. Even as the soldier finds that he has little time in which to be idle if he is to do his work thoroughly, so we can find plenty to do to keep ourselves in our proper places in the army of Christians. Take the study of the Bible, for instance. How rarely one meets people in the ordinary course of daily life who appear to have anything more than a very superficial knowledge of that most wonderful of all books. Put a simple Biblical question to the next two or three men you meet, and see how often you get a correct answer. Sometimes I think that the average man has a sort of shamefaced reluctance to do any sort of reading of the Bible, or to have it known that he studies its pages; others have ignored it, or never accustomed themselves to look upon it as a book to be read except at church or chapel or at a funeral. Yet it is the truest commonplace to say that no man or woman could sit down to the study of its pages without being better for it. There is hardly a phase of human life but one can there learn something about it, while even taken on the lowest estimate it is unequalled in history.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, ss. I, Frank J. Cheney, make oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE.  
FRANK J. CHENEY.  
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1906.  
A. V. GILLESON, Notary Public.

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Sold by all druggists, 75c.  
Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

**Burn Locomotive Cinders.**  
There has recently been completed at Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany, what is said to be the first large railroad power station to be operated entirely on locomotive cinders. Three boilers are fired by automatic underfeed stokers and burn cinders, alone or mixed with coal dust. The cinders are brought on a travelling electric crane directly into the boiler room. Steam produced with this fuel is employed to drive two turbines that generate current for the light and power systems in the station.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

**Little-Known Philippine Industry**  
People usually connect the Philippine islands with perfumes and tropical fruits, and very little is heard of the great native industry—the weaving of fabrics from pineapples and bananas. The lining of the skins is used, and the looms are unlike those familiar to us here employed. The finest material is made from pine apples, and called pina cloth. It is very soft and close in texture, somewhat resembling mull-muslin, and is the color of champagne. It is not as a rule dyed, and is beautifully embroidered.  
Even a nation may have internal trouble as the result of picking a quarrel before it is ripe.

## MARKET REPORTS

### TORONTO MARKETS.

**FARMERS' MARKET.**

Dairy Produce—		
Butter, choice, dairy	\$0.50	\$0.55
Do, creamery	0.45	0.50
Margarine, 10 lb.	0.47	0.50
Eggs, new laid, doz.	0.15	0.20
Cheese, lb.	0.15	0.20
Crossed Poultry—		
Turkeys, 10 lb.	0.40	0.45
Fowl, lb.	0.25	0.30
Spring chickens	0.25	0.30
Roasters, lb.	0.25	0.30
Ducklings, lb.	0.25	0.30
Geese, lb.	0.25	0.30
Strawberries—		
Apples, basket	0.25	0.30
Do, bbl.	3.00	0.00
Cherries, each	0.25	0.30
Cranberries	0.25	0.30
Pears, basket	0.25	0.30
Quinces, basket	0.25	0.30
Vegetables—		
Beets, basket	0.25	0.30
Do, bag	1.10	0.00
Carrots, peck	0.25	0.30
Do, bag	0.25	0.30
Brussels sprouts, 2 qts.	0.25	0.30
Cabbage, each	0.25	0.30
Cauliflower, each	0.25	0.30
Celery, head	0.25	0.30
Lettuce, 3 bunches	0.25	0.30
Onions (red), sacks	0.25	0.30
Do, basket	0.25	0.30
Do, pecking	0.25	0.30
Leeks, bunch	0.25	0.30
Parsley, bunch	0.25	0.30
Parsnips, bag	0.25	0.30
Do, basket	0.25	0.30
Pumpkins, each	0.25	0.30
Potatoes, sack	1.00	0.00
Do, N. H.	1.80	2.10
Sage, bunch	0.25	0.30
Savory, bunch	0.25	0.30
Squash, peck	0.25	0.30
Squash, each	0.25	0.30
Turnips, bag	0.25	0.30
Do, basket	0.25	0.30
Vegetable marrow, each	0.25	0.30

**SUGAR MARKET.**  
Wholesale quotations to the retail trade on Canadian refined sugar, Toronto delivery—  
Acacia granulated, 100 lbs. \$10.25  
St. Lawrence, granulated, 100 lbs. 10.25  
Lantic granulated, 100 lbs. 10.25  
Acacia yellow, No. 1 yellow differential, 100 lbs. 10.25  
Canada yellow, No. 1 yellow, differential, 100 lbs. 10.25  
Canada yellow, No. 1 yellow, differential, 100 lbs. 10.25  
Canada yellow, No. 1 yellow, differential, 100 lbs. 10.25

**MEATS-WHOLESALE.**

Beef, forequarters	\$16.00	\$17.00
Do, hindquarters	15.00	16.00
Carcases, choice	19.00	21.00
Do, medium	17.00	19.00
Do, common	14.00	16.00
Veal, common, cwt.	13.00	15.00
Do, medium	15.00	17.00
Do, prime	17.00	19.00
Heavy hogs, cwt.	19.00	21.00
Shop hogs, cwt.	17.00	19.00
Acuttor hogs, cwt.	15.00	17.00
Sturgeon, cwt.	18.00	20.00
Lamb, Spring, lb.	0.25	0.28

**TORONTO CATTLE MARKETS.**

Export cattle, choice	12.75	14.00
Export cattle, medium	11.50	12.75
Export bulls	9.00	11.00
Butcher cattle, choice	9.00	11.00
Butcher cattle, medium	8.00	9.75
Butcher cattle, common	6.00	7.00
Butcher cows, choice	9.00	11.00
Butcher cows, medium	8.00	9.00
Butcher cows, canners	4.75	5.00
Butcher bulls	8.00	8.75
Feeding steers	9.00	10.00
Stockers, choice	8.00	9.00
Milkers, choice	9.00	10.00
Springers, choice	10.00	11.00
Sheep, ewes	10.00	11.00
Pucks and culls	7.00	8.00
Lambs	10.00	11.00
Hogs, fed and watered	18.00	19.00
Hogs, f. o. b.	17.00	18.00
Calves	16.50	17.50

**OTHER MARKETS.**  
**WINNIPEG GRAIN EXCHANGE.**  
Fluctuations in the Winnipeg Grain Exchange yesterday were as follows:  
Date—Open, High, Low, Close.  
Dec. .... 0.86% 0.87% 0.85% 0.87%  
May .... 0.88% 0.89% 0.86% 0.88%  
Wheat—  
Nov. .... 3.80 3.81 3.78% 3.79%  
Dec. .... 3.83% 3.87 3.83% 3.86%  
May .... 3.86 3.89 3.85 3.86%  
**MINNEAPOLIS GRAINS.**  
Minneapolis—Flour, 10 cents higher; in carload lots, standard flour quoted at \$10.40 a barrel; in 96-lb. cotton sacks. Shipments, 11,475 barrels. Harley, No. 2, \$1.15; No. 2, \$1.02; No. 2, \$1.02 to \$1.03. Wheat, \$2.72 a bushel, \$3.83 to \$3.96%.

**WOOD'S LASTING QUALITIES.**  
Wood is almost an imperishable substance and if kept from attacks of organisms, both animal and vegetable, will practically last forever. The hardwood in living trees is as thoroughly lifeless as the average fence post or timber lying in a lumber yard, but is usually protected by the outward bark. When insects and disease find entrance through holes or cracks, a hollow tree usually results and the decay or destruction is as rapid as though not inside living bark.  
We should all try to get along with as little as possible, especially in the matter of advice.  
You never can tell. The bluish of shame sometimes masquerades as the pink of propriety.

**TORONTO FAT STOCK SHOW UNION STOCK YARDS**  
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Always Effective—and acts quickly  
Relieves lame back, lumbago, neuralgia, sprains, lame joints and muscles, toothache, earache, sore throat and other painful complaints—Hirst's Stops the Pain. Get a bottle today. Have it handy—has a hundred uses. At dealers or write us. HIRST REMEDY CO., Hamilton, Can.