

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON VIII. November 24, 1918
Jacob wins Esau.—Genesis 33: 1-11.

COMMENTARY.—1. Preparing to meet Esau (vs. 1-3). 1. Jacob lifted up his eyes—Jacob began his preparations by taking precautions in a temporal sense, and he continued them with a struggle for spiritual help. When he "lifted up his eyes," he had passed the greatest spiritual crisis of his life. At Bethel he had received a vision of God which had fairly subdued him and modified the current of his life, but at Peniel he became a conqueror and a changed man. This state was reached by a night of persistent wrestling, accompanied by a humiliating acknowledgment and a desperation of prayer that would not be denied. It was the angel of Jehovah with whom Jacob wrestled. It was he that brought Jacob to realize and give up his self-sufficiency and his worldly and questionable methods for working out God's purposes for him, and it was he that changed Jacob's name from "Supplanter" to "Prince of God." He could now lift up his eyes toward God and man with a confidence he had never known before. Behold, Esau came—Jacob's struggle at the Jabbok ended in victory just in time. The preparation and the emergency did not miss connections. Had he not met the Lord and received the endowment of spiritual power, he would have been terror-stricken at the approach of Esau and his large company of followers. 2. Handmaids. Rachel—Jacob evidently arranged the groups into which he divided his family in the order of his affection for them. The handmaids and their children were placed at the van, followed by Leah and her children, and last of all, in the position of the greatest safety, came Rachel and Joseph. It was because of Jacob's special regard for her and her son that he planned as far as possible for their protection. As yet he could not claim God's protection for his loved ones.

II. A friendly meeting (vs. 3-7). 3. Passed over before them—He took the lead so that he might, as far as possible, be a protection to his loved ones. Bowed himself—This repetition of the act of humbly and deferentially bowing before Esau would show his desire to secure his favor. If Esau still had hard feelings toward Jacob, they vanished before the two brothers came together. 4. Esau ran, etc.—Five expressions are used in this verse to show the affection of Esau for Jacob. There is a striking contrast between this meeting and the parting of the brothers twenty years before. God had graciously given—Jacob is ready to acknowledge God as the giver of the good that he possesses. 6. Bowed themselves—Gave a respectful greeting to Esau. 7. Joseph. Rachel was his wife Jacob loved, and Joseph was his favorite son. God's plan would have been for Jacob to have but one wife, but man's planning thwarted God's purpose. Of the sons of Jacob the name of Joseph alone is given. He was the favorite son. Benjamin was born later to Jacob and Rachel. The way had been prepared for this friendly meeting. Jacob had become Israel, and it was not the Jacob of twenty years before that Esau was meeting now, but the new man Israel. We have no record regarding Esau's change of attitude toward his brother, but his mind had become favorably disposed toward him and it is evident that the Lord had been working with him. We can not doubt that Jacob's prevailing prayer for himself had brought to his mother's heart a divine influence that made it tender toward Jacob, whom he had formerly hated.

III. A gift accepted (vs. 8-11). 8. And he said—Esau was full of astonishment at the large train that accompanied Jacob and would understand its significance. What meantest thou by all this drove—With reconciliation completed and greetings over, an explanation of the munificent gift is demanded. To find grace in the sight of my lord—In this statement Jacob confessed his past wrongs to his brother, and acknowledged that reparation should be made. 9. I have enough, my brother—This magnanimous and affectionate statement of Esau shows that he was by no means the heartless being that Jacob imagined him to be. Esau showed a kindly disposition that would naturally cause Jacob to feel still more humble and subdued. 10.

Receive my present—Jacob felt that it was not more than was due Esau for his past injustice toward him. A repentance that does not include confession and restitution where persons have been wronged is of small value. As though I had seen the face of God—God had blessed Jacob at Peniel and he had affected Esau to that extent that he was favorable toward Jacob. 11. My blessing—Jacob's changed condition of mind and heart would not permit him to be satisfied unless Esau received his gift, which he here calls a "blessing." It was a blessing in the sense that Jacob used it to express to Esau his good will and affection for him. The language indicates that Jacob was entirely sincere in his approach to his brother. God had dealt graciously with me—The sorrows and disappointments that had come to Jacob during his years of separation from home scenes are not here mentioned, and Jacob seems to have looked beyond them to the benefits that the Lord had bestowed upon him. The transformation of his character was God's most gracious act toward him. "God let him wrestle, to know all his strength, and to find at the end that it was altogether weakness. At last a touch of the divine power breaks all Jacob's energy, and opens his eyes to see that he struggles not with man, but with God. It is a wondrous revelation that thus bursts upon his soul. It brings to him at once a conviction that the divine mercy, as well as of divine power. Thus he is made confident of self-despair, and learns what every child of saving faith may know; that victory with God is had, not by a wrestling against him, but a confident clinging to him. Then and thus he obtained the new and princely name, and the blessing of God."—Whedon. In addition to this gracious act of bringing Jacob into fellowship with himself, God gave him abundant temporal prosperity. God's mercy was further shown in his being able to win his offended brother. We are not able to forecast all that God will do for us if we prevail with him as Jacob did.

QUESTIONS.—Describe Jacob's arrival at Paranaram. What bargain did he make with Laban respecting Rachel? What other bargain did Jacob make with him? How long did he remain with Laban? What property had Jacob acquired? Why was Jacob troubled on his way from Paranaram to Canaan? Describe the preparations he made for meeting Esau. Describe Jacob's night of prayer at Peniel. What did the change made in his name signify? How did Esau meet Jacob? What is said about the present which Jacob offered to Esau? What kind of things did Esau show Jacob?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.
Topic—Winning an offended brother.

I. Jacob's return.

II. Jacob's reconciliation.

I. Jacob's return. Two crises appear in the history of Jacob: the first at Bethel on his departure from Beer-sheba, a self-occasioned fugitive; the second, at Jabbok on his return to the land of his nativity. It is worthy of remark that the latter was in obedience to specific divine direction. The command was enforced and obedience hastened by prudential considerations arising from the not wholly unexcused enmity of Laban and his sons. The intervening years of humiliation, disappointment and struggle, had witnessed the fulfillment of God's covenant at Bethel. He went out alone, friendless, with his staff as his sole possession. On the return a numerous household and flocks and herds attested his temporary prosperity. The methods by which the latter were secured can not pass unchallenged, and evidence his unchanged character. Superior shrewdness had succeeded in the struggle with equal greed. The old adage is both true and true, "Nothing is ever settled until it is settled right." A wrong may be set aside, but is bound to reappear at the most inopportune moments. Jacob was returning with his sin still on his soul. God was directing him to the scenes of transgression as the place of settlement. At Mahanaim there was given renewed encouragement and assurance, but at Jabbok he was brought face to face with the unsettled issue of his life. The unconfessed and unforgiven sin confronted him with startling clearness and insistent demand. The determining moment of his life had

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come, and he emerged from its experiences a changed man. He was not merely humiliated, but humbled; not simply religious, but spiritual. "What is thy name?" And he said, Jacob" (supplanter). The whole sad story was out at last. In this experience Jacob touched the true centre of prayer for the first time, so far as the record reveals his case.

II. Jacob's reconciliation. He wisely prepared the way, and sent messengers of peace. The humble character of the message and the implied acknowledgment would tend strongly to appease the waning anger of the offended brother. "Follow peace with all men." Any surrender but righteousness may be made for the sake of peace. "Blessed are the peacemakers." The disquieting news of Esau's approach occasioned farther effort in a succession of gifts. "A gift in secret pacifieth anger; and a reward, a strong wrath." "A man's gift maketh room for him. He betook himself to prayer. In his own moral victory was laid the foundation of the peaceful meeting. Jacob's prolonged and agonizing struggle was with himself rather than with his angel antagonist. The conquest was not over a divine, but a human unwillingness. The utter worthlessness of the gains of years of craft and green appeared in the presence of a supreme crisis. The subjection of the human to the divine will remains the condition of blessing. The contrast between the spirit of Bethel and Peniel is as marked as the results which follow. "Tell me, I pray thee, they name." No temporalities now. The spiritual need was paramount. Himself conquered, his brother was won. Self-conquest is the prelude to outward victory. Peniel lies somewhere along the path of every victorious Christian life.
W. H. C.

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THIRD ANNUAL TOWN PLANNING CONVENTION

OF SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Circular Letter of Invitation to Municipalities, Board of Trade, Trades' Labor Councils, and Farmers' Unions, all men and women's organizations interested in municipal welfare are invited to send delegates to a Conference to be held in the Royal Connaught Hotel, Hamilton, on the 2nd and 3rd December. A preliminary programme is enclosed.

It is of great importance that early steps should be taken in Ontario to deal with the peace reconstruction problems which will come within the scope of municipal administration. The securing of more uniformity and simplicity in connection with municipal government in the province, the solution of the serious housing problems which are likely to confront all municipalities in the near future, and the settlement of a policy with regard to the planning and development of land so as to lessen the present burden of municipal taxation, improve health conditions, and make for a better use of land. These are among the questions requiring urgent attention of citizens of South-Western Ontario.

We would urge your Council to send a strong representation to the conference to discuss the above and other matters, and to co-operate in making the meeting a success. The names of delegates should be forwarded to the Corresponding Secretary, as soon as appointments are made. If your council desires any resolution to come before the conference, a copy of same should be transmitted so as to reach the Secretary, Thomas S. Morris, Hamilton, not later than the 25th of November.

Preliminary programme:
LUNCHEON—To be arranged by the Hamilton Canadian Club. Address on Municipal Finance by Dr. Horace L. Brittain, Managing Director of Bureau of Municipal Research, Toronto; Thomas Adams, on "Proposed New Legislation."

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.—Charles G. Booker, Mayor of Hamilton. Reply, E. C. Mitchell, Vice-President of Conference.

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION.—Subject, "Municipal Government and Reconstruction After the War." Opening speakers: S. Baker, City Clerk, London; Sir John Willison, Toronto; Chairman Ontario Housing Committee; Mrs. Dr. S. Lyle, President Women's Council of Hamilton. Open discussion by registered delegates. Speakers limited to five minutes. Appointment

of Nominating Committee, Resolutions, etc.
WAR DINNER.—Addressed by Dr. Clinton Rogers Woodruff, Secy. National Municipal League, Philadelphia; Hon. W. D. MacPherson, M.P.P., Toronto.

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION.
Programme—Subject, "Housing, Urban and Rural." Addressed by Professor C. B. Sissons, Toronto; Mr. Duff, Industrial Commissioner, Welland, and a nominee of Windsor Board of Trade.

LUNCHEON.—To be arranged by Hamilton Board of Trade. Speakers—Lawrence Veiller, Secretary and Director of National Housing Association, New York City; Thomas Adams, Town Planning Advisor, Ottawa. Town Planning in relation to Housing and Land Taxation. Proposals for new legislation. Speakers—Mrs. Dunnington-Grubb, Gardening Architect, Toronto; Noulon Cauchon, Ottawa, Railway Engineer.

Pain Flee Before It.—There is more virtue in a bottle of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil as a subduer of pain than in gallons of other medicine. The public know this and there are few households throughout the country where it cannot be found. Thirty years of use has familiarized the people with it, and made it a household medicine throughout the western world.

Sheep With Gold-filled Teeth.

The sheep of the western islands of Scotland are almost as stylish as the dogs that ride in automobiles on our own Fifth Avenue, in New York city. The canine aristocrats have occasional cavities in their teeth filled with gold, but the Scottish sheep have their entire set gold-plated before they have had any chance to decay. The gold-plating is due to gold dust in the soil. As early as 1536 Hector Boece, bishop of Aberdeen, speaks of the remarkable appearance of the sheep that roam "the golden mountain" in central Aberdeenshire. Their wool is yellow, their flesh is red, fleeced, as it were, with saffron, and their teeth are the hue of gold, he says.—Popular Science Monthly.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

FARMERS' MARKET.

Dairy Products—		
Butter, choice, dairy	.....	\$ 0.50
Do., creamery	.....	0.45
Margarine, lb.	.....	0.37
Eggs, new laid, doz.	.....	0.75
Chickens, lb.	.....	0.40
Dressed Poultry—		
Turkeys, lb.	.....	0.40
Fowl, lb.	.....	0.34
Spring chickens	.....	0.32
Roosters, lb.	.....	0.28
Ducklings, lb.	.....	0.25
Geese, lb.	.....	0.25
Fruit—		
Apples, basket	.....	0.60
Do., blb.	.....	0.60
Citrons, each	.....	0.15
Crabapples	.....	0.35
Pears, basket	.....	1.00
Quinces, basket	.....	1.00
Vegetables—		
Beets, basket	.....	0.35
Do., bag	.....	0.25
Carrots, peck	.....	1.00
Do., bag	.....	0.10
Cabbages, each	.....	0.05
Cauliflower, each	.....	0.10
Celery, head	.....	0.05
Lettuce, 3 bunches	.....	0.10
Onions, 75-lb. sacks	.....	1.85
Do., blb.	.....	0.50
Do., pecking	.....	1.00
Leeks, bunch	.....	0.30
Parley, bunch	.....	0.10
Parley, bag	.....	1.25
Pumpkins, each	.....	0.25
Potatoes, bag	.....	1.75
Do., N. H.	.....	2.00
Sage, bunch	.....	0.05
Savory, bunch	.....	0.05
Spinach, peck	.....	0.20
Squash, each	.....	0.10
Turnips, bag	.....	0.85
Do., basket	.....	0.25
Vegetable marrow, each	.....	0.10

MEATS—WHOLESALE.

Beef, forequarters	.....	\$ 15.00
Do., hindquarters	.....	22.50
Corned beef, choice	.....	18.50
Do., medium	.....	17.50
Do., common	.....	14.50
Veal, common, cwt.	.....	13.00
Do., medium	.....	22.00
Do., prime	.....	25.00
Heavy hogs, cwt.	.....	19.00
Shop hogs	.....	25.00
Abattoir hogs	.....	25.00
Mutton, cwt.	.....	18.00
Lamb, Mutton, lb.	.....	9.25

The "Salada" Tea Co. have subscribed to the VICTORY LOAN a quarter of a million dollars in Toronto and Montreal.

The Canadian Angle

A N amusing skit on the effect of the new C. P. R. president's hat appears in the Chatham "News"—this effect being produced, doubtless, by the law of suggestion. The hat of Mr. Beatty is said to be tilted at a rakish angle; and the moment that this was found to be the case, the mimicry of that hat became a sacred duty on the part of the employees, according to the story.

In the good old days of Baron Shaughnessy, says the writer, the brisk and businesslike boy who delivers our C. F. despatches used to march into the office with his natty blue cap set square across his noble brow.

That can was a fixture there. We got used to it. It seemed part of the established order of things. One could as easily imagine the boy pushing it to one side or the other, as one could imagine a breeze on the Nile upsetting the great Pyramid.

One day last week we got a shock. Into our office tripped the youngster with his cap tilted rakishly over one ear.

"What's the matter, kid?" we enquired. "Getting the flu?" "Nope," and he brisped out again without troubling to explain. But we have just discovered the truth.

Baron Shaughnessy used to wear his hat square across his forehead. But the new resident of the C. P. R.—its first Canadian-born president—Mr. E. W. Beatty, invariably carries his chapeau tilted at a rakish angle.

There are whispers going down the line that sedate firemen and brakemen and conductors all over the 18,600 miles and more of the C. P. R. are giving their headgear a shove to the east.

A commercial traveller through the West, who has escaped the flu, his system being too crowded with nicotine to give the germs even the tiniest foothold, mentioned to us just this morning that he had seen bell-boys in the C. P. R. hotels out there with their caps entirely off their heads and hanging from their ears, like pagan ornaments. He saw that in more than one of the C. P. R. hotels; and what the effect may be if the new practice is prevalent throughout the eighteen C. P. R. caravansaries, it is impossible to gauge.

Telegraph operators in the 15,000 offices of the C. P. R. Telegraphs have been widely affected by the new movement in hats. The workmen in the great Angus car shops at Montreal, and in the C. P. R. shops at Winnipeg and Calgary, show, it is said, scarcely one piece of headgear that retains the old Shaughnessy



E. W. BEATTY, President of the C. P. R.

New C. P. R. President.

level. The Beatty angle is the thing now.

Even the chaps associated with the Canadian Pacific Ocean Services (representing one of the largest passenger fleets in the world), with the C. P. R. western lands, with their great \$17,000,000 irrigation scheme and ready-made farms, and with the mining and smelting interests of the C. P. R. on the Pacific Coast—even the men linked up with these C. P. R. subsidiaries have yielded, it is said, to the lure of the "titled cap."

It is even whispered that a few of the older locomotives with the wide-brimmed Stetson smokestacks of the vintage of 1880 have taken to wearing their battered crowns a bit to one side.

We asked the kid about it this morning, when he came in wearing his cap at an even Beatty angle than yesterday. "Do you really expect to be president of the C. P. R. some day?" "Every fellow's got a chance," he rejoined. "But," we explained, "Mr. Beatty went to Toronto University and studied law, and—" "That's just it," he said. "He was only a lawyer to start with and look what he done—just through wearing his cap like this. Don't try to tell me I ain't got a chance—and here I'm starting at the bottom rung and working up." "But," we urged, patiently, "it's better to be right than to be president." "Yep," said the kid, "and it's a beaverdamme better to be both."

He gave the corner of his cap a yank, and went out whistling.

Entries Close Nov. 25th, 1918

TORONTO FAT STOCK SHOW

Make entries on blanks in back of Premium List and mail to C. F. Topping, Secretary, Box 635, West Toronto.

SHOW DATES, DECEMBER 5th and 6th.

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