

withhold service from Him, who has said of Himself that He came, "not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many". The worth of that ransom, and its uniqueness, have set an entirely new valuation on life as a sphere for personal ministry.

The secret of service, in no small degree, unveils the secret of greatness. Tennyson, in his, *Idylls of the King*, sends Gareth, with a heart and will eager to do great things for Christ, into Arthur's court, only to be turned into the kitchen to move spits and wash ladies.

"And Gareth bow'd himself

With all obedience to the king, and wrought
All kind of service with a noble ease
That graced the lowliest act in doing it."

The early followers of Jesus received a similar disillusionment. They had been debating who should be greatest. They reached the house, road-stained, and in the absence of any attendant to wash the dust from their feet, each acted like a sulky school-boy. Jesus, in performing the task none of them would bend to do, taught them that he alone is great who greatly serves. Peter so mastered the lesson, that afterwards when advising Christians to be "clothed" with humility, he chose a word meaning to put on a slave's costume. That standard, no doubt, seems exacting: but in reality it is Christ's. We instinctively shrink from it. We think if we always wear the garb of service it may become threadbare. We dread, that, if we continually exert ourselves in the interests of others, we may often be called upon to do more than can be reasonably expected of us till in the end we feel like slaves indeed and find life irksome, if not intolerable.

But let us not forget that in the secret of service is wrapped up very largely the secret of happiness. Happiness, when you think of it, is a curious compound. Make it a deliberate quest, and, according to Nathaniel Hawthorne, it will lead you a wild goose chase. If it comes at all, it comes incidentally. By most of us it is to be found only in the studied self-forgetfulness of service that has become absorbed in the application of great principles to small duties. You are

likely to experience the largest measure of happiness when you so steep your heart in the central truths and realities of the gospel that you become able to enter with sustained willingness into the minutest details of "divine service", not on Sundays only, but on every day of the week.

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The Why of Sunday School Work

By Rev. A. L. Fraser, B.D.

There are many reasons why we should make the most of our opportunities as Sunday School teachers. I will mention but two:

First, we have a *psychological* reason. A study of conversion reveals the fact that the great majority of people who come to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ, do so within the Sunday School period. While there are exceptions, statistics are against this occurring to any great extent afterwards.

Again, a study of mental phenomena shows us that the mind is more retentive at his time than at any other time. It is easy to "get by heart". I heard a missionary from China recently tell of a class of five girls who repeated the entire New Testament! We should encourage the committing to memory of hymns, catechisms, and above all else the text of the Bible—all of which would mean permanent, personal enrichment.

Then, too, we know that the Sunday School years form the period when habits are formed. We hear it said that a man does not change after forty. We might even say that most of his habits are formed before the boy leaves the Sunday School. During that time we, being auxiliary to the home, can impress the importance of punctuality, reverence, church going, Bible study.

Secondly, there is another great reason for Sunday School work—an *economic* one. This is an age of economizing. Utility leads us to our discarded dumps, which have grown all too big, and she asks, "To what purpose is this waste?" Movements have been organized to protect our forests and our fisheries. These, however, are not our greatest assets, nor yet our fields or mines—but our boys and girls.