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Telephone No. 54

BIBLE LESSONS.

Adapted from Palmes's Select Notes.

SECOND QUARTER.

Lesson II. April 13. Luke 14: 15-24.

PARABLE OF THE GREAT SUPPER.

Read the whole Chapter Luke 14: 1-25. Commit Verses 15-23.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Come, for all things are now ready."—LUKE 14: 17.

SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS.

SUBJECT.—"God's welcomes and man's refusals." "Read" first the whole chapter, as requested by the lesson committee. It will be seen that there are three invitations to feasts and invitations to them, and these can readily be used to illustrate the lesson.

THE SECTION INCLUDES MOST OF THE CHAPTER, THE INCIDENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS being used to illustrate the verses selected.

EXPLANATORY.

I. THE GREAT FEAST.—Vs. 15, 16. Jesus was present as a guest at a supper, or evening dinner, in a Pharisee's house (14: 1), where took place all that comes before the lesson in this chapter.

15. "One of them that sat at meat with him," reclining on couches around the table, as was the custom. "Luke loves to represent to us the Saviour as sitting at a social table, where he most beautifully reveals his pure humanity."

"Heard these things," about the blessing of those who invited the poor and needy, invited to their feasts. "Said unto him," moved by the delightful feast they were at, suggesting the nobler feast, and by the blessing Jesus had just uttered. Perhaps he felt assured that himself and the other Jews were sure of the blessing of him "that shall eat bread," partake of a feast, "in the kingdom of God," either in the future after death, or the Messianic kingdom. "Almost the same words occur in Revelation 19: 9. The Jews connected the advent of the Messiah kingdom with banquets of food more delicious than manna, the flesh of Leviathan, and the bird Baruchine." Like the classic ideas of the feasts of the gods with ambrosia for food and nectar for drink.

16. "Then said he unto him," to show him that while his thoughts were right, yet that he and others were unconsciously refusing to join that feast; if by any means some might be persuaded to accept the invitation. "A certain man." Corresponding to the king in the parable of the wedding feast (Matt. 22: 2). He represents God the Father, the King of saints, who prepares every good for his children, and invites them to come and partake of his blessings. He wants every one to come.

"Make a great supper, corresponding to the wedding feast of Matthew 22, where the best of everything is provided in abundance. This feast represents all the blessings which God has provided in his gospel, enjoyed a large measure here, and perfected in heaven.

17. "And he had many." This was the preliminary invitation, in order that the persons invited might have time to arrange their necessary preparations. Thus they could have no reasonable excuse for not going to the feast. We can gain a hint from the customs of the Orientals, so different from our Western fashions. "A feast in the East is really a public, not a private and social gathering. It is rarely given, excepting on some special occasion, such as a marriage, or the birth of a son, or at the conclusion of the harvest or the vintage. Preparations are made some days in advance, and the coming feast is announced to the whole neighborhood.

In our day the "meats" represent all who have been brought up in Christian families, who have been trained in church and Sabbath school, and in the study of God's word. They have long been called; and they are again and again invited to the gospel feast. "Now is the accepted time." And with these, all whom they have invited, or who know of the blessings.

17. "And sent his servant." It is still customary in the East, not only to give an invitation some time beforehand, but to send round servants at the proper time to inform the invited guests that all things are ready. "The servant" here represents Christ himself. But the meaning is not confined to him, but includes the whole order or class of God's messengers, especially John the Baptist. God now invites men by his word, by his wisdom and goodness in nature, by his Holy Spirit, by the character and love of Jesus Christ, by providence, by conscience, by the lives and influence of his people, by pastors, teachers, parents, by revival influences, by all the means of grace. "At supper time." At the hour appointed for the feast. This undoubtedly represents the "fulness of time" (Gal. 4: 4), when the Messiah came. "Say to them that were bidden." Who had been previously invited to the feast, and had had abundant opportunity to be ready. "Come for all things are now ready." Historically, the sitting time had come for the appearance of the Messiah. It was the best time in all the ages for this purpose. (See Lesson II, First Quarter).

III. THE INVITATION REJECTED.—Vs. 18-20. 18. "They all with one consent." They agreed in spirit and motive, while they differed in the form of excuse. "Began to make excuse." The Greek word is the exact equivalent of our "to beg off." Not to give the real reasons for their conduct, but to render the most plausible excuses they could find.

THE FIRST EXCUSE.—PROPERTY. "I have bought a piece of ground" (a farm), "and must needs go (out) and see it, lest I look it over, but see to its culture." He lived, as do all in that country, in a village, and had to go out into the country to reach his farm. He was very courteous in his refusal, but decided. "No" to refuse the second summons would be an insult, which among the Arab tribes is equivalent to a declaration of war."

THE SECOND EXCUSE.—BUSINESS. BUSINESS. 19. "I have bought five yokes of oxen," etc. His oxen could have waited, but he made his plans so as to have an excuse.

THE THIRD EXCUSE.—DOMESTIC DUTIES AND ENGAGEMENTS. 20. "I have married a wife and therefore I cannot come." He is so positive because he thinks he has good excuse. "He relies doubtless on

B. Y. P. U.

OUR OBJECT.

The animation of Baptist young people their increased spirituality their stimulation by having no other religion to be represented, and their joy in their participation in missionary activity, through existing denominational institutions.

OUR FELLOWSHIP.

All Young People's Societies of whatsoever name in Baptist churches and Baptist churches having no other religion to be represented, and their joy in their participation in missionary activity, through existing denominational institutions.

WE ARE ONE PEOPLE WITH OUR MISSION.

Kindly address all communications for the Young People's Union, to Rev. G. O. Gates, St. John, N. B.

Rev. Meeting Topics for April 1.

C. Endeavor Topic.—"The Gift of Life and how to use it."—Matt. 10: 34-35.

B. Y. P. U. Topic.—"Who is My Neighbor?"—Temperature Topic.—Luke 10-29.

B. Y. P. U. Daily Bible Readings.

(From Baptist Union).

Wed. April 1. Jeremiah 50: 41-51: 14. The God-forsaken will perish. Compare 2 Chron. 24: 20.

Thurs. April 2. Jeremiah 51: 15-32. God the Creator alone is God. Compare Job 9: 2-5.

Fri. April 3. Jeremiah 51: 33-49. Babylon to go down. Compare Isa. 13: 19-22.

Sat. April 4. Prayer Meeting.—Who is My Neighbor?—Temperature Topic.—Luke 10: 28-27. S. S. Lesson.—Prayer Meeting against sin. Luke 13: 23-30. Or (Easter Lesson). The Resurrection of Christ. Luke 24: 1-12.

Sun. April 5. Jeremiah 52. The rebellious city fallen. Compare Jer. 32: 3-5.

Tue. April 7. Lamentations 1. The sorrows of Jerusalem. Compare Jer. 30: 14-16.

When did your Society make its last report?

Are some of the enthusiastic pastors losing the faith they had in the Young People's Movement?

Better that we have out and out opposition than this apparent don't care spirit.

Is there nothing coming out of this movement in our churches that is at all inspiring? Or do they do nothing but and no one takes his pen in hand to express his convictions that our young people organized, as the many now are, have shown an increased interest in the work of the church, in the being helpful to the pastor, in the growth in the many departments of modern christian activity?

The writer of these notes thanks God again and again, for a Society within the church—responsible to the church and joyfully reporting to the church its work. Out of this Society are going forth young men and women who have been trained to christian duties and who in the best of their hearts will give good account of themselves. From this Society the pastor can at all times call for volunteers for great and small duties, and the call is cheerfully responded to. In this Society the young christians are getting a training that will bear its fruit of noble, self-denying service for God and humanity in the days that are to be.

Wishkin our pastors ought for the encouragement of their own young people, again and again, to enter in our columns the work they are seeking to do. It may not seem very much that two of the "pocket" or "pin" money, two cents per week are religiously set aside for their own use, but when the means are limited that one cent at least, of all that is called ours, is put into religious work; but the day is coming when these cents will become dollars—more ten's and hundreds of dollars a year and then we hope to end the cry of empty treasuries. Bro. Pastors do, we pray you, speak out a kind word or two, to encourage and stimulate.

Great Village, N. S.

An unusually interesting missionary meeting was held by the B. Y. P. U. of Great Village, on Sunday evening, March 8th. Some excellent papers were read, and much information in regard to our work was presented in an attractive manner. Though the attendance is usually small, the meetings are well sustained. Under the efficient leadership of the president, Mr. Harlow, the B. Y. P. U. is going on with much enthusiasm and energy. The Young People's Union, the young people have been more active in the work of the church than ever before. AMY WOOD, March 17. Cor. Sec.

Selections from the "Open Meeting" of the Golden Rule.

Life is for development of character. It is the opportunity God gives us for beginning the eternal life. To use it aright, learn to co-operate with God. As fast as you see what he is trying to make of you, help him to make it. Cultivate the best in yourself, but not for yourself. Remember it is not the accidents and conditions of life that matter, but how you bear yourself under those conditions. Grow and blossom as fully, as sweetly as you can; and if the flower be not perfect, know that God will some day round it into beauty.

Nearly 2,900 years ago, Solomon drew the conclusion, "Fear God and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. About ten centuries later, Jesus Christ said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness;" and only a few years thereafter, St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, " whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." Have all the centuries furnished these better rules telling how to use the gift of life?

The gift of life, and especially in this advanced age, is an unspendable boon. If we "squander our hearts upon wisdom," "redeeming the time," we may live longer and accomplish more in any given number of years than would have been possible in any former age. As to the use of this gift, the only life furnished us is a magnificent example. He gave himself not only in dying, but in living.

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Drank His Sawmill.

A piece of excellent advice is contained in an incident some one tells as follows:

Tom met an old friend, who was formerly a prosperous young lumberman up in northern Minnesota, but who had habits of drinking brought him to a pretty "hard up" condition, although he has since reformed and is doing better.

"How are you?" asked Tom.

"Pretty well, thank you; but I have just seen a doctor to have him examine my throat."

"What's the matter?"

"Well, the doctor couldn't give me any encouragement. At least he could not find what I want to find."

"What did you expect him to find?"

"I asked him to look down my throat for a sawmill and farm that had gone down there in drink."

"And did he see anything of it?"

"No; he advised me if ever I got another mill to run it by water."

During the World's Fair visitors at the Rumford Kitchen often were seen copying the notices which hung upon the walls. Since that time many calls have come from all parts of the country for these quotations, and Mrs. Richardson has furnished them to the American Kitchen Magazine that thus they may be in convenient form to send to inquirers and perhaps reach others who may find them useful in arousing interest in better food.

Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which satisfies not?—Isaiah 55: 2.

Preserve and treat food as you would your body, remembering that in time food will be your body.—B. W. Richardson.

The palate is the janitor, and unless he be conciliated, the most nutritious food will find no welcome.

There are three companions with whom you should keep good terms—your wife, your stomach and your conscience.

Myriads of our fellow creatures have perished because they around them did not know how to feed them.—Ferber.

Prayer and provender delay no man's journey.

OUR BELOVED QUEEN.

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Our beloved Queen Victoria; God bless her and preserve her to her loyal and loving people, and to the country for which she has so long and so bravely reigned.

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The Wells & Richardson Co. manufacturers of Diamond Dyes, have made special arrangements with the publishers of "Our Home," Canada's best, purest, most largely circulated and most enterprising family paper, now in its 25th year, to give away, free of charge, a complete set of their new and improved color dyes, whereby they are enabled to make the following special and generous offer, good for one month only:

An elegant full cabinet photo (from a recent copy taken by royal command) of Her Majesty Queen Victoria; a complete pamphlet giving details of births, marriages and deaths, and other items of interesting and useful information relating to the Royal family, that few people have access to; six Diamond Dye color boxes with six extra dyes, and a card of forty-five samples of dyed cloth, showing colors of Diamond Dyes—will be sent free to every man, woman and child who will send in 25 cents in money or stamps for one year's subscription to "Our Home," a paper that thousands declare to be worth a dollar.

The cabinet photos of the queen are worth 40 to 50 cents each, and can be obtained only as premiums with "Our Home."

If you desire to have pure and wholesome reading matter for one year, and the premiums as promised above, send your name and address at once, The Wells & Richardson Co., Montreal, P. Q.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BOERS.

The Boers are the original settlers at the Cape of Good Hope. Their remote forefathers were Dutchmen. The Boer is essentially a farmer, and is conservative and strongly tenacious of old ideas and old ways. His occupation is largely confined to his farm, his flocks of sheep, his herds of cattle, his horse and his gun. He takes little or no interest in the rich gold fields which surround him, but leaves them to the English immigrant. The Boers are a deeply religious people, and profess these tenets of rigid Calvinism which formed the religion of the old Dutch settlers of New York. The Dutch Bible takes the place of honor in every Boer household, and the father of the family makes it his daily practice to read a page or two from the sacred book to his family and dependents every morning. They belong to the old patriarchal school that draws much of its conceptions of life from the study of the Bible. The form of government is patriarchal, the father holding almost absolute sway over his children, and regarding his sons-in-law and daughters-in-law as additions to the family. Very often three generations will be found living under the same roof and working of the same farm. They are deeply pious after their lights, sober, industrious, and even peaceful when they are left alone. They are almost incredibly ignorant. For, although the majority of them have learned to read and write, the three R's are the limit of their education. Outside the Government circles there prevails the most absolute indifference as to what the rest of the world may be thinking or doing. The true Boer does not like city life, and the speculation and the business of the mart are abhorrent to him. The Boers are a quiet people, intensely Dutch in their national sympathies, and pride themselves upon knowing no English and knowing little and caring less about the English people.—Information.

"The divine unrest" is often the soft phrase which excuses a very human discontent.

The old standard of one tenth for the Lord's treasury would feed the world with salvation.—McCabe.

Almost Passes Belief

Mr. Jas. E. Nicholson, Florenceville, N. B., Struggles for Seven Long Years with

CANCER ON THE LIP, AND IS CURED BY

AYER'S Sarsaparilla

Mr. Nicholson says: "I consulted doctors who prescribed for me, but to no purpose; the cancer began to eat into the flesh, and I suffered agonies for seven long years. Finally I began taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla. In a week or two I noticed a decided improvement. Encouraged by this result, I persevered, until in a month or so the sore under my chin began to heal, and in a few months my lip began to heal, and after using the Sarsaparilla for six months, the last trace of the cancer disappeared. I am now well, and I feel that I owe my life to Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Admitted at the World's Fair. AYER'S PILLS Regulate the Bowels.

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is a new book that has been published in New York and is the best thing that has ever been published in this country. It is a book that will sell everywhere and in every language. It is a book that will sell in every city and in every village. It is a book that will sell in every house and in every shop. It is a book that will sell in every mind and in every heart. It is a book that will sell in every age and in every generation. It is a book that will sell in every land and in every sea. It is a book that will sell in every time and in every place. It is a book that will sell in every way and in every manner. It is a book that will sell in every name and in every title. It is a book that will sell in every language and in every dialect. It is a book that will sell in every country and in every city. It is a book that will sell in every town and in every village. It is a book that will sell in every house and in every shop. It is a book that will sell in every mind and in every heart. It is a book that will sell in every age and in every generation. It is a book that will sell in every land and in every sea. It is a book that will sell in every time and in every place. It is a book that will sell in every way and in every manner. It is a book that will sell in every name and in every title. It is a book that will sell in every language and in every dialect. It is a book that will sell in every country and in every city. It is a book that will sell in every town and in every village. It is a book that will sell in every house and in every shop. It is a book that will sell in every mind and in every heart. It is a book that will sell in every age and in every generation. It is a book that will sell in every land and in every sea. It is a book that will sell in every time and in every place. It is a book that will sell in every way and in every manner. It is a book that will sell in every name and in every title. It is a book that will sell in every language and in every dialect. It is a book that will sell in every country and in every city. It is a book that will sell in every town and in every village. It is a book that will sell in every house and in every shop. It is a book that will sell in every mind and in every heart. It is a book that will sell in every age and in every generation. It is a book that will sell in every land and in every sea. It is a book that will sell in every time and in every place. It is a book that will sell in every way and in every manner. It is a book that will sell in every name and in every title. It is a book that will sell in every language and in every dialect. It is a book that will sell in every country and in every city. It is a book that will sell in every town and in every village. It is a book that will sell in every house and in every shop. It is a book that will sell in every mind and in every heart. It is a book that will sell in every age and in every generation. It is a book that will sell in every land and in every sea. It is a book that will sell in every time and in every place. It is a book that will sell in every way and in every manner. It is a book that will sell in every name and in every title. It is a book that will sell in every language and