

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

FEBRUARY 1

The Vine and the Branches, John 15: 1-27. Golden Text—He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit.—John 15: 5.

I. THE VITAL RELATION BETWEEN JESUS AND HIS CHURCH, 1-6.

II. THE FRUITS OF THIS RELATION, 7-11.

INTRODUCTION—Jesus, continuing his great discourse in the Upper Room, now explains what is meant by his eternal presence with his people. He employs the parable, or rather the allegory of a vine and its branches, and says that his true followers will be to him what the branches are to the main stock. He will live in his faithful disciples, and they will live in him. All their power, their capacity for service, their success will flow to them from him. As we might say, using modern language, the Church stands in organic relation to the living Lord.

In Matthew 28:18-21 the last commission of Jesus to his disciples is given in the words: "All power is given unto me, in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations . . . teaching them to observe all the things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world." We may make the present allegory of the Vine and the Branches as unfolding to us what is involved in that commission.

In the Old Testament the figure of the vine is often used to picture the special relation of Israel to God. Israel is a vine-shoot which God has brought from Egypt, and planted in the Holy Land for his own gracious purposes, Psalm 80:8-19. Israel is God's experiment in producing the fruits of righteousness on earth, Isaiah 5:1-7; Jer. 2:21, etc. But now, as we see by the present lesson, the old Israel has given place to the new Israel. The Church of Jesus is the true Israel, the true vine of God. God has transferred to Christians the task of filling the earth with the fruits of righteousness.

I. THE VITAL RELATION BETWEEN JESUS AND HIS CHURCH, 1-6.

V. 1. Jesus, not in himself alone, but in union with his followers, is the true vine of God. The word "true" means that the old Israel possessed only the semblance or shadow of the real fruitfulness implied in the conception "vine of God." Jesus and his followers, who are the true subjects of the loving favor of God, represent the real fruitfulness which God seeks on earth. God is the keeper of the vine. He is watching over the success of his great new experiment in righteousness.

V. 2. If a branch or tendril of the vine is absolutely fruitless, there is nothing for it but to cut it entirely off. So Judas, for example, had to be dealt with. But even fruit-bearing branches need constant pruning in order to produce better results. And so loyal disciples of Jesus must expect discipline, purification, the loss of some things in order to gain other and more excellent things.

V. 3. This has already happened in the case of the disciple. "You are already cleansed or purified," the Master says, "through the word which I have spoken to you." In other words, Jesus, by his solemn teaching regarding the cross and the spiritual nature of all their work, has smitten to earth all their worldly hopes and expectations. Pride and self-seeking have had to go, but only that a new holy life may spring up in their hearts.

V. 4. Consequently, the one thing for disciples to do is to hold all the time to Christ. Just as a branch broken from the vine quickly withers, so all life and happiness dry up in a soul that loses contact with the Master. Surrender to Jesus, fidelity, unselfishness, are the conditions of spiritual success.

Vs. 5, 6. A disciple who holds to Christ produces great results in service, because Jesus is the source of "all power." We must think of our work as his work, and not forget him in the plans we make for self. Otherwise, failure and everlasting loss.

POULTRY.

The name "black head" comes from the fact that the head sometimes turns a dark color, although this is not an ever-present symptom. This condition frequently affects turkeys, and more particularly the young than old, but in rare cases it has been known to affect chickens. For turkeys it is a most serious disease, and often makes turkey raising difficult.

The disease is caused by the ameba melagridis. This can be found in the affected birds in the liver and the bowels. The disease is spread by droppings from affected birds. The first symptoms noticed are a dullness and drooping of the tall and wings. The feathers are ruffled, and the birds become inactive. A yellowish-green diarrhoea follows, together with lack of appetite and rapid weakening and loss of flesh. Death comes in from three days to a week after the first symptoms, although in extreme cases the bird may live ten days. Occasionally the disease develops a chronic form which will linger on for many weeks.

The very best sanitary measures must be taken immediately. Sick birds should be separated from well birds, and the well ones put in new quarters. Frequently it is necessary to discontinue the raising of turkeys for a year or so on an infected farm. In securing new birds to start the flock, it is always advisable to determine whether or not this condition has been present in the flock at any previous season. Birds from an infected flock should not be sold to other breeders. Thorough disinfection, especially of

the places where the flocks roost, is necessary. Be careful to see that when feeding and watering the flock everything is as sanitary as possible. Potassium permanganate placed in the drinking water, and also dissolved in the feed and mixed with feed, is a preventive of this disease. Use of this remedy with every hatch of turkeys until they are at least several weeks old is worth-while insurance against loss of young turkeys.

Let the fires of a good book warm your brain while the crackling wood is keeping your feet in a sweat.

To prevent a mussed-up looking oil stove, learn to turn the blaze just a sufficient height to promote boiling, but not high enough so that the lid will be lifted on the kettle, allowing the steam to escape.



A portrait of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, by A. J. Mannings, was chosen by Sargent as one of the representative examples of British portrait painting. It will be exhibited at the Grand Central Galleries.

Government Dairy Station Profitable to Patrons.

The Finch Dairy Station, operated by the Dairy and Cold Storage Branch of the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa since 1912, has proved a profitable institution to the farmers who were its patrons. The Station when organized by the government consisted of two cheese factories and later another factory closed because its patrons desired to serve the Finch Station. The Station almost immediately extended its operations to the making of butter and the selling of cream and milk. These extensions proved very profitable to the patrons for during the last eight years of operation they received more than \$100,000 above what they would have received had cheese only been made. Dr. J. A. Ruddick, Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, announcing this fact, explains that the amount of this premium was arrived at by comparing the net returns to the Finch patrons with the average returns of cheese factories according to the quantity of milk worked up. The Station undertook as one of its objects, the extension of winter dairying. The fact that 14 per cent of the milk was received during the winter months, more particularly in the winter years, accounts for some of the satisfactory premium that the patrons were able to secure through the operation of the Finch Station.

How long will it be before we discover the twenty per cent of our crops that make us no profit?

By keeping the light out of a well-ventilated cellar, it can be improved as a place to keep potatoes.

Finds Way to Help a Poor Memory.

I have a bad memory. I easily forget things, and often do not recall them until some duty forces them onto my attention. This lack in my mental capacity. I wonder if others are affected to the same extent that I am handicapped.

Realizing this deficiency, I began a number of years ago, keeping books. At first these were very crude; but as I began to know better what a saving they were bringing, I gradually introduced more complete records of my farming business. Now, from these books I have worked out a budget system which enables me to know the approximate amount of money I can spend for clothing, fuel, food, repairs, new machinery, stock, buildings, vacations, etc.

This has prevented my poor memory from getting me in bad. Not only am I warned beforehand of obligations to meet, and when payments are to be made; but I am also warned when any part of my business is getting near the end of the expense money allotted it. This gives me opportunity to review my affairs. I often find it desirable to change from my budget allotment; but this is not done without thoughtful consideration.

I might say, then, to those who are afflicted with a poor memory, and it is a real affliction, that the book-keeping idea may prove a real aid.

—W. L.

The healthy know not of their health, but only the sick: This is the physician's aphorism, and applicable in a far wider sense than he gives it.

Flowering Shrubs for Lawn Decoration

The usual long lists of ornamental shrubs that may be used for foundation planting or lawn decoration, are liable to lead to confusion in the minds of those who would beautify their home grounds. When care is taken to familiarize oneself with the size, shape, blooming season, growing habits and general adaptability of a small selection and then plants and cares for them, he will almost at once have added great charm to his home that will become an inspiration within the neighborhood.

Properly placing shrubs around a homestead is a comparatively simple task. In fact the very first rule to follow is to make it simple, and then make it natural or arrange it as near as possible like nature would have it. For a small home lawn, not more than five kinds should be arranged in groups near the corners of the lawn and about the base of the building. Shrubs may also be set to a hedge form to add grace to the picture or to hide unsightly objects. The placing of either individual shrubs or groups of shrubs in the centre of a lawn is not regarded with favor by authorities and is always disappointing.

Many varieties of ornamental shrubs have been tested on the grounds of the Macdonald College at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec. Mr. T. G. Bunting, Professor of Horticulture, after checking over quite an extensive list, records the following as among the very best:

1. Philadelphia virginiana,
2. Viburnum lantana,
3. Lonicera tatarica,
4. Spiraea Van Houttei,
5. Berberis Thunbergii,
6. Syringa vulgaris.

Philadelphia virginiana is spoken of by Professor Bunting as one of the finest of the mock orange group. Viburnum lantana is not so well known, but it is extremely hardy and very ornamental. The next three plants in the list are all well known and may be depended upon to give satisfactory results. Syringa vulgaris, otherwise known as the lilac, should be included in any list of the best six varieties. Of these there are many varieties. Probably the best are Abel Carriere, Charles X., Charles Joly, Emile Lemoine, Madame Lemoine, and President Grey.

When it comes to the selection of low-growing evergreens, the following are all well known and very suitable: Pyramidalis Cedar, Thuja occidentalis pyramidalis; Globe Ware's Cedar, Thuja occidentalis globosa Wareana; Savins Juniper, Juniperus sabina tamariscifolia; Virginia Juniper, Juniperus virginiana pfitzeriana.

—Canadian Horticultural Council.

WHY A MANURE SPREADER

The Proverbs of a Wise Farmer to His Son.

BY BERT M. MATHIAS.

My son, hear the wisdom of thy father, and learn the way of growing bigger and better crops. Know thou first, that thy land enriceth thee, as thou enriceth it.

Learn thou that the food, or humus, that thy soil doth most desire is the humble barnyard manure. It giveth life to the weary and worn soil. It maketh mellow to plow. Manured soil gummeth not when wet. It shapeth not itself into unyielding clods when dry.

If drinketh in the refreshing moisture even three-fold above the capacity of impoverished soil.

It giveth up to the drying wind its store of moisture at a rate one-third as rapid. Its crop withereth not with the noon-day sun.

There, go to, my son, and use a manure spreader.

I.

Again the second time the wise farmer spake a proverb to his son, saying:—Conserve thou the riches of thy fertilizer by conveying it to thy fields with thy spreader as it is produced.

II.

For know thou that manure collected in heaps undergoeth chemical changes and the goodness thereof wasteth away; and that the snow and rain from heaven falling upon the litter of thy barnyard and feed-corral doth straightway dissolve the plant food thereof and carry it into the earth, and to the creeks and rivers, where it doeth good unto no man.

III.

Also a third proverb spake the wise farmer.

My son, if thou wilt heed the counsel I have given thee, then will thy corals and barnyards be of no offence to the eye, nor to the nose.

Moreover, then mayest thy stock feed and lie down in comfort because their pens are not encumbered with filth and mire.

And thy servant who doeth the chores, toiling in clean yards and pens riseth up each day to call thee blessed.

Ye also, when thou keepeth thy barnyard thou dost prevent the multiplying of flies! and whose swatetheth thy fly destroyeth pests to his beasts, and carriers of filth and disease to himself and those that dwell within his gates.

All these things will the use of thy manure spreader do for thee.

IV.

My son, listen to a fourth proverb. Whoso owneth a manure spreader, saveth much arduous labor, for behold with it his team doeth the work of many hired servants.

Or whose hath a son should surely possess a labor-saving spreader, for so will he make easy for him a much despised task, and thereby will he keep the boy on the farm.

V.

The fifth proverb of the farmer.

My son, when the cold winds of winter have continued long into thy planting season and the manure of thy barnyard and feeding-corral long remaineth frozen, then wilt thou rejoice if thou possesseth a time-saving spreader.

VI.

A proverb of the wise farmer on economy.

My son, own and use a spreader, and then will thy stack bottoms and unused straw and forage be applied to thy fields; and thy reward shall be more sightly premises and a larger crop yield from thine husbandry.

VII.

My son, thou shouldst have a spreader because it will aid thee in keeping flocks and herds.

For knowest thou not that live-stock husbandry hath a three-fold value to the farmer?

For it provideth a home market for much of thy crops.

It tendeth to crop-diversification and needful rotation.

Moreover it maketh plentiful fertilizer for thy fields.

Seest thou a farmer wise in his calling, the same keepeth live-stock in goodly numbers, and a manure spreader; and lo, the combination keepeth him.

VIII.

My son, thou shouldst exalt the lowly spreader even to the extent of ownership thereof, because it pulverizeth the fertilizer from thy corals and barnyards, and maketh it to more readily yield up the plant-food which it containeth.

For when thou spreadest unwieldy chunks upon thy field by hand, the same doeth nuisance when plowing and profiteth thy crops but little.

IX.

My son, when thou goest forth to fertilize thine acres, remember now the manure spreader.

For it covereth thy field with an even coat of goodness.

Then doth every part of thy crop come up and grow evenly and leaveth not some spots burned out by overmanuring and other spots showing lack of plant food.

X.

At the last spake the wise farmer thus:

My son, every farmer should own and use his own manure spreader because as it is written, "The Borrower is servant to the lender."

And when thou goest to borrow machinery from thy neighbor, then dost thou make thyself an abomination unto him.

Besides, thy neighbor may be a kindly man, and suffer thee to use his machine when he hath need thereof himself.

Therefore, my son, heed the words of thy father.

Own and use a manure spreader if thou wouldst leave a goodly heritage in worldly goods, and acres rich in productiveness.

Then will thy children's children rise up to call thee blessed.

Ask for Information.

The Dept. of Physics of the Ontario Agricultural College is prepared to offer assistance in connection with the following list of farm operations and installations:

- (1) Water and sewage disposal systems.
- (2) Lightning rod protective systems for urban and rural structures of all classes.
- (3) Drainage surveys.
- (4) Farm cold storage plants.
- (5) Concrete construction in all branches of farm engineering.
- (6) Anti-freeze mixtures.

Eggs Slow In Forming.

It takes from one to three years to effect the complete transformation from the egg to the eel.

Milk Pooling System Settled.

In an address given by Mr. J. A. Ruddick, Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, at the Eastern Ontario Dairy Convention held at Cornwall on January 8, the story was told as to how the question of paying for cheese milk according to the quality, was settled at the Finch Dairy Station. Mr. Ruddick was reviewing the history and accomplishments of this Station that has now been disposed of as a government institution. Up to the time of the taking over of the original cheese factory at Finch in 1912, the cheese money had always been divided on the pooling system, that is, according to weight only of the milk delivered. The patrons were urged to agree to the more up-to-date method of accepting payment for their milk according to its quality. This proposal was agreed to but after one year's operation on this basis about one-half the patrons petitioned for a return to the old pooling system. The management then proposed to conduct the factory on both systems. It was advertised that on a certain day those that desired to have their milk pooled would deliver at one receiving platform, and those who preferred to be paid according to quality would take their milk to another. It was intended to keep the two deliveries of milk entirely separate, to sell the cheese separately, and divide the proceeds according to the two systems. When the day arrived on which the division was to begin, not a single patron offered his milk at the pooling platform and the question has never been raised since.

If you wish to keep the gloss on your linoleum, when washing it use lukewarm water to which has been added a tablespoonful of kerosene to a half bucket of water. You will find this to be an excellent cleanser, and at the same time a preservative.

To brighten up the piano mix equal parts of linseed oil, turpentine and vinegar. Saturate a soft cloth with this mixture and rub the surface well. Polish with a clean chamois.



Despite the grasping fingers of Old Man Winter, Niagara Falls still continues to flow and roar.