

# THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON NOVEMBER 21ST

The Twelve Sent Forth, St. Matt. 10.  
Golden Text, St. Matt. 9: 37, 38.

1-4. The Names of the twelve whom Jesus chose have become more familiar and better known to the world than, perhaps, any other names of human history. Eleven stand high in the world's honor roll, one has become the synonym for traitor. These men, when they had been with Jesus for some weeks or months, observing His work, listening to His teaching, asking Him questions, drinking in of His spirit, He sent out to do as He was doing, to preach the love of the heavenly Father, to teach willing learners, and to heal the sick. The instructions which He gave them for their work, then and afterward, constitute our lesson.

5-8. Go Not, Go Rather. The first instruction is where to go and what to do. Jesus appears to have regarded it as His first duty and that of His disciples to minister to His own people of the Jews. Later He was to issue His command to go to Samaria and to the Gentiles, to the end of the earth (Acts 1: 8). But now it was to the people of Israel the disciples were sent. The gospel was to begin at home. The Jews, prepared by the long discipline of their history, and by the revelation of the Old Testament Scripture, for its coming, were to hear it first. If they would but repent and turn to God and seek the way of faith, the great prophetic promise of their history would be fulfilled, and they would be, as bearers of the gospel, "for a light to the Gentiles and for salvation to the ends of the earth." This was the challenge of Jesus to them, this God's call to them through Him. We may well believe that He expected and hoped great things, and that in the failure of the great mass of the Jewish people and of their rulers to respond He was bitterly disappointed.

Preach, Heal. With preaching, no doubt, teaching was to go hand in hand. So it is in the missionary work of the Church to-day. Preaching opens up the way, attracts attention, persuades and wins. Teaching instructs and establishes and makes permanent. Together with preaching and teaching must go healing. The apostle and the missionary will carry with them the same spirit of compassion which moved the heart of Jesus. They will seek to minister to the body as to the soul. They will make God's love real in loving, human service. They will, as it were, take Christ's place, and His healing and life-giving power will flow through them. They will not turn back from any human need. The sick, the leper, the demoniac, the dead, will be the objects of their interest and

their care. Every word of Jesus applies to the Church's work to-day as surely as to the disciples whom He then sent out. "Freely," He said, "ye have received, freely give."

In vs. 9-28 are many other counsels and warnings. The theme of their preaching is to be the nearness of the kingdom of heaven, and that men must prepare for its coming by repentance. They were to go forth in simple garments, without ostentation, living on the hospitality of the people who would receive them, and leaving behind them, with such hospitable souls, the blessing of peace. By contrast those who did not receive them would suffer great loss. They would, like their Master, meet with persecution, but they would be sustained and guided by the Spirit of God.

In verse 23 Jesus makes the strange declaration, "Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel till the Son of man be come." Did Jesus think that in some marvellous way, by some display of supernatural power, such as that described in 24: 29-31, His kingdom would speedily be established? If so, He must have suffered keen disappointment, for the disciples went upon their mission and returned, and no such extraordinary event happened. Or is there another explanation of Christ's words?

29-31. Fear Ye Not. This is the great command of Jesus to His missionaries. Whatever may happen, fear not. Whatever or whosoever the foe, be not afraid. Fear God and God only. He who cares for the sparrows cares very much and very tenderly for those who go out to do His bidding and to bear the gospel of Christ to men. Fear ye not therefore.

"Thou on the Lord rely,  
So safe shalt thou go on;  
Fix on His work thy steadfast eye,  
So shall thy work be done."

37-42. More Than Me. Jesus makes a very great demand upon His disciples. They must put Him first. Neither father nor mother, neither son nor daughter, must be more to them than He. Even life itself must not be counted dear. The cross will be for them the way of life. And yet, is it not true, in obedience to this demand of Christ, to this law of discipleship, there lies the sanctifying and glorifying of human love, and the finding of true life, the life that is eternal?

Receive Him. Receiving His disciples, who were to be His messengers, it would be as though they received Him, and receiving Him received God Himself who sent Him. It is a great assurance and a great promise. The simple and kindly and open-hearted hospitality of those who receive and entertain Christ's messengers will have its abundant reward. Even the cup of cold water is credited. Tennyson has said, "It is impossible to imagine that the Almighty will ask you,

none was lost by leaching. If the manure made by this hay were carefully saved, a part of this ammonia (not more than 80 per cent.) would come back to the land and would become a part of the circulating medium of plantfood, thus being used over and over. The same may be said of the phosphoric acid and potash. The first cost is not a measure of the final cost.

### The Farm Business.

A farm, to be successful, should maintain its productivity and should return a reasonable wage for the labor of the farmer and his family, after paying farm expenses and deducting a fair rate of interest on the investment.

Four important factors in the success of the farm business are size of business, yield of crops, returns from live stock and efficiency in the use of labor.

What is the size of your farm business?

What part of your investment is in land, buildings, live stock, machinery and other capital?

Is your area properly proportioned

to the various crops with regard to profits? With regard to labor distribution?

How do your crop yields compare with the average yields of the locality?

What classes of live stock return you the most money?

How do the returns from your live stock compare with the average of your locality?

How many acres of crops do you raise per man? Per horse?

Is your farm so organized that each part of the business is yielding satisfactory returns?

How much have you left for your own labor, after deducting from your total receipts your year's expenses, value of labor performed by members of your family and interest on your investment?

How much does the farm contribute toward your family living?

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