

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

SUNDAY SCHOOL, Lesson III, April 15, 1917.

Jesus the Good Shepherd.—John 10: 1-18. Commentary.—I. Christ the door of the fold (vs. 1-10). 1-6. "Verily," repeated for emphasis, shows that what was to follow was closely connected with what has just been written. Jesus declared that those who cast out the man born blind, when they ought to have protected him, were thieves and robbers. They were like those who would climb over the wall of a sheepfold to do injury to sheep and their owner. The Eastern sheepfold was a place enclosed by a stone wall, the greater part of which was open to the sky, while a part was covered by a roof. The entrance had a solid door which could be securely fastened. It was the shepherd's right to be admitted to the fold by the porter, who had charge of the door. The sheep recognized the voice of the shepherd, and were ready to follow him. This figure needed further explanation, and Jesus proceeded to make his teaching clear.

7. I am the door of the sheep.—As the sheepfold stands for protection under the care of a considerate keeper, so the entrance into that condition is Christ himself. There is no salvation outside of him. Through Christ the believer enters into a state of grace in which he is free from condemnation and is consciously saved. There is no other way by which one may enter the fold of God. Good works, good resolutions, or forms of religion will not afford an entrance into a state of salvation. 8. Thieves and robbers.—Jesus used the expression, "All that ever came before me," to include, not the prophets who foretold his coming and mission, but the Jewish leaders who had taught the leaders wrong doctrines, the traditions of men, and had bound heavy burdens upon them. They were not true shepherds, for they plundered the flock instead of caring for them. The sheep did not hear them.—These false leaders did not speak with an authority that won the confidence of the people. The "thieves and robbers" are contrasted to Christ "the door." 9. If any man enter into the fold through Christ the door, he shall be saved.—He shall be free from condemnation, and shall have power over sin, shall go in and out, and find pasture.—As the sheep are led out through the door into the rich pastures, and are led in at night for protection, so the followers of Jesus are afforded sustenance and security for their souls. 10. The thief cometh to destroy.—In Palestine there are still those who attempt to steal sheep from the shepherd. The Pharisees were self-centered. They desired wealth and honor. They wished to be considered eminently pious, while at heart they were thieves and robbers. might have life.—The motives of the Pharisees were in sharp contrast to those of Jesus. They would destroy the flock, but he would give life, spiritual life, abundantly.—There is abundant spiritual life for those who enter the fold by Christ the door. It is not the will of God that any of his followers should be sinned and in want. He provides on an abundant scale for all who will trustingly yield themselves to him. If we are envious and spiteful, it is because we are not willing to make a proper use of Christ the door. The abundant life includes victory over sin and deliverance from it. The Lord said to His people of old, "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land" (Isa. 1: 12). He intended that this should apply to the temporal affairs of the people of Judah, but it had also its spiritual application. Those who were called by his name would have enjoyed great prosperity in material things, as also in spiritual, if they had cheerfully and fully obeyed the Lord. Jesus has made full provisions for his followers, and they will have abundant spiritual life if they are "willing and obedient."

11. Christ the Good Shepherd (vs. 11-18). II. He is the good shepherd. The figure is changed. From being the door, the way into the state of salvation, Jesus becomes the shepherd of His followers with all that is included in that relation. "The word translated good can not be adequately translated; it means beautiful, noble good, as opposed to evil, mean, wicked. It sums up the chief attributes of ideal perfection. . . . He is the good Shepherd, who gives His life for the sheep, as opposed to the wicked thief who takes their lives to preserve his own. Thus in Christ is realized the ideal Shepherd of the Old Testament."—Plummer. Giveth His life for the sheep.—The literal shepherd has been known to give up his life in defending his sheep from robbers; Jesus, the good Shepherd, laid down His life for His flock, who are the world from spiritual and eternal death. 12. Hiring.—One who is hired. He has no interest in the flock further than to put in his time and receive his wages. It is nothing to him whether the sheep thrive and are safe or not. He does not own the sheep and cares much more for his own ease and safety than for the welfare of the flock. The hiring shepherd represents the Pharisees who had no interest in the people further than to secure emolument for themselves. The wolf.—Whatever threatened the safety of the flock is represented by the wolf. The hiring's motto was, "Safety for myself first." 13. Because he is an hireling.—His love for the sheep and his responsibility to his master are not strong enough to keep him at his post of duty when danger threatens him and the flock. The hiring shepherd is of little value in caring for sheep, and the hiring shepherd in the church does not have any proper regard for the spiritual interests of his flock, but his concern is for his own interests.

14. Know my sheep.—The Oriental shepherd knows his sheep and calls them each by name. A Lebanese shepherd once said, "If you were to put a cloth over my eyes, and bring me any sheep and only let me put my hands on its face, I could tell in a moment if it was mine or not." The good Shepherd knows every one of

his sheep in all time and in all lands by name, and he never forgets. More than that, he knows the exact physical, mental and spiritual condition of each and he knows the circumstances of each. And am known of mine.—"And mine own know me."—R. V. To know Jesus Christ is to have yielded fully to Him and to have by faith received Him as a personal Saviour. Sheep come to know their shepherd by his voice, and they obey his calls, but they flee from the voice of strangers. 15. Even as the Father knoweth Me, and I know the Father (R. V.).—This is clearer than the Authorized Version. There should not be a full stop at the end of v. 14. An intimate acquaintance exists between Christ and His followers. It is life eternal to know Him and the Father.

16. Other sheep.—Not of this fold.—Without doubt Jesus here meant that he had followers among the Gentiles. These were far from the Jewish fold to the good Shepherd. This statement would not be pleasing to the Pharisees, to whom Jesus was speaking. They could not conceive how any outside of the pale of Judaism could be of sufficient value to claim the notice of the Almighty. This would be a stunning blow to pharisaic pride. Them also I must bring.—He had spoken of laying down his life for the sheep. This he would do for all races and conditions of men. They shall hear my voice.—The Gentiles would know the voice of the good Shepherd as well as would the Jews. They shall become one flock, one shepherd (R. V.).—The wall of separation between Jews and Gentiles would be broken down. All Christians now are in one spirit, but they will be one in a richer and deeper sense when all misunderstandings which have been swept away and we shall know as we are known. 17. Therefore doth my Father love me. The Father loved the Son, but he also loved the world enough to give his Son to save mankind. The ground for the Father's love for his Son is here stated to be the Son's dying for the world. 18. No man taketh it from me.—Jesus here makes a clear declaration of his power over his own life. No one could take it from him without his consent. He could lay it down and he could take it up again at will. This commandment.—To die and rise again. From my Father (R. V.).—The intimate relations of the Son to the Father is here shown, as also the Son's obedience to the Father's word. Questions.—Who are represented by those who climb up some other way into the sheepfold? What is said of the mutual knowledge of the shepherd and the sheep? What is implied by Jesus' statement, "I am the door of the sheep"? Why does Jesus call himself the good Shepherd? Draw the contrast between the shepherd and the hireling. What is meant by "other sheep"? What power had Jesus over his life?

PRACTICAL SURVEY. Topic.—Christianity Portrayed. I. Embracing full redemption for man. II. Revealing atonement through Christ.

I. Embracing full redemption for man. We have here a precise statement of a definite historical situation. The time had come for Jesus to lead his flock out of the thocracy which was destined to pass away. He recognized the sequel of that inevitable passing away of Judaism in the recent expulsion from the temple of the man whom he had healed of blindness, and also in the hostility of the rulers, of which he found himself the object. The Pharisees claimed to be the shepherds of Israel. They decreed who should be admitted to, or cast out of, the fold. They professed to be interpreters of God's truth and with it to feed his flock. They had established an authority over the people which had no sanction in the divine law to enhance their own greatness at the cost of the spiritual welfare of the people, a course which involved their spiritual ruin. They had done this by evil methods by stratagem, by hypocrisy and greed. Selfishness had destroyed the very life of the nation. The officials had listened with sneers and in anger to Christ's assertions of union between himself and God, while they contemplated a step to put him out of their way and to shatter his claims. Jesus read their thoughts and answered them calmly with the consciousness that such an event would only point to his own voluntary self-sacrifice and rendered him the special object of his Father's love. Jewish unbelief could not defeat his purpose to establish a kingdom into which should be admitted Jews and Gentiles. Jesus represented himself in contrast with a type of character which he called "the thief." He contrasted the religious guidance of the Pharisees, as the shepherds of Israel, with that afforded by himself in respect to loyal devotion and obedience. In the allegories of this lesson he laid down the relation which should obtain between himself and his people unto the end of time. He presented himself before the whole race of man and declared himself able to deal with and meet the needs of every individual, securing unto all, who accept him as Shepherd, perfect safety and freedom with sufficiency in all things. His surpassing goodness is shown in the provision he has made of all things necessary for the salvation of his flock. As the good Shepherd he thoroughly identifies himself with the sheep. He rescues them from the great robber. He brings them to his fold.

II. Revealing atonement through Christ. The first word picture here describes the forming of the Messianic flock and its departure from the theocratic fold; the second describes the life of the flock, when formed and led by the Messiah, when the fold no longer represented the ancient covenant, but Messiah's salvation and that complete happiness which believers enjoy. At first God caused the porter to open the door to the shepherd. When Christ came, he became the door of a constant daily salvation. By him alone man has access to the Father, the enjoyment of salvation and a title to heaven. To all who accept the atonement of Christ the provisions of God's spiritual bounty are open. Christ's coming actually brought the blessings of the divine life in reach of all. It was by no flash of splendor or miracle of external power that he proved his divine leadership over the

hearts of men, but by coming to walk with them, to toil, hunger and suffer with them and to give his life for them. The life which he yielded up for the ends of love was restored in the triumphs of love. The taking up of his life was as much in the divine plan as the laying it down. The concealed aid of heaven was at his bidding. But more than all this was the strength of his submission. The Jews were ignorant of the power that he strained himself. They regarded him as their victim. Jesus spoke of his power to show how complete was his obedience. He spoke not of power to avoid his sacrifice, but to make it. His majesty was apparent when he spoke of the complete mastery and control over his life. His life-service was to be crowned by his sacrificial death.—T. R. A.

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Do Dairy Cows Pay On Dear Land?

They Do When They Are Given a Reasonable Chance—Our Expert Tells How to Do It.

(BY PROFESSOR R. H. DEAN). While it is admitted that for the man with rough pasture land the dairy cow is one of the most economical animal producers of human food that a farmer can own, some have doubted her ability to make profit on high-priced land. These doubters argue that the returns from dairying on soil suitable for market gardening and located near a good market or convenient for shipping, are not to be compared with the returns from growing vegetables, small fruits, etc. This is doubtless true so far as gross returns are concerned, but the operating expenses for truck farming are so heavy and the cost of fertilizers is such that these two items eat a large hole in the money received for vegetables and fruits. On restricted areas of land, say from 5 to 25 acres, and where natural and marketing conditions are favorable, we may admit that truck farming is likely to be more profitable than dairy farming in Canada, largely for the reason that Canadian dairymen find it difficult to get away from the idea that a cow requires a considerable area of land to roam over in order to produce milk economically. In this respect our farmers have much to learn from European dairymen, who seem to have solved the problem of keeping cows on small farms. In many of these countries the standard is one cow per acre, and very little feed is purchased, except concentrates. The probabilities are that the chief factor in Canada which prevents intensive dairy farming is labor, but with improved machinery we ought to be able to solve this problem as satisfactorily as the European farmer has done.

ONE COW TO TEN ACRES. In Ontario the average number of cows, in the best dairy counties, is about ten to one hundred acres of cleared land. This appears to be a large area of land for the most economic results. However, we need to bear in mind that most Ontario dairy farmers are also "mixed" farmers—they keep a number of other kinds of live stock, in addition to cows; they grow some grain or other crop for a cash crop, and have part of the farm in orchard, and vegetable crops, such as potatoes. In this way they endeavor to have something for sale that will be profitable in case one or more of the other crops fail. The returns from the dairy are the surest of any, because there is always a good demand for dairy products at paying prices, no matter what the conditions of trade. People must have milk, butter and cheese regardless of the price. The only doubtful factor in the dairy business, assuming good cows are kept, is that of feed. In a dry season like that of 1916, many cows were not properly fed, and consequently the milk flow was lessened considerably below that of a normal year, although the high prices paid for milk and its products stimulated farmers to feed as much as possible, particularly of hay, which was a good crop. But hay is not a satisfactory supplement for dry pastures. A cow requires succulent feed to produce milk in paying quantities. It is, therefore, very important that dairy farmers on high-priced land shall be prepared for off-seasons in grass production. So long as we remain wedded to the pasturing idea for feeding cows in summer there are three things which need special attention.

MORE GRASS AND CLOVER PASTURE. The Ontario farmer is too much given to the use of timothy and red clover only, when seeding his land. There are a great many mixtures of grasses and clovers much more suitable for Ontario farms than the old one of timothy and red clover. The Field Husbandry Department of the O. A. College recommends per acre

the following, where land is to be pastured two or more years: Red clover, 6 lbs.; alsike, 3 lbs.; orchard grass, 3 lbs.; meadow fescue, 3 lbs.; timothy, 3 lbs. Pasture is likely to be short in 1917 on account of the very dry season of last year, which burnt the new and old seeding and because the crops in the fall which is not a favorable condition for satisfactory wintering. This means a slow start and late grass next spring, unless the weather conditions are extremely favorable. In such cases it would be good policy to sow one of the annual pasture crops recommended, such as, one and a half bushels of oats, thirty pounds of Early Amber sugar cane and seven pounds of red clover seed per acre; or, the one-one-one mixture of oats, barley and wheat, with six to eight pounds of red clover seed added.

Peas and oats, or vetches and oats, or alfalfa may be cut for a soiling crop but the labor of cutting and hauling green crops for cows makes these rather expensive cow-feed. It is a good plan to sow at least a small piece of land to some soiling crop for emergencies, and, if not needed, it may be cured as hay. A dairy farmer seldom has too much hay, as cows are able to consume enormous quantities, if not getting sufficient roughage in other forms of feed.

PROVIDE SUMMER SILAGE. We have frequently referred to the fact that one of the best insurance policies a dairy farmer can carry is a summer silo filled with good corn silage. If it is not needed this year, it may be carried over for the next year, or for several years, and will be ready whenever needed to help out short feed, summer or winter.

Where corn can be grown successfully as it can in practically all parts of old Ontario, farmers who keep cows should grow an extra two or three acres of corn for each five or six cows that will be milking. A cheap silage silo will preserve this crop in a satisfactory manner. In this way the capital outlay is small, and the risks of short feed are thereby very much reduced. We need to bear in mind that cows without plenty of feed are a poor paying proposition. A few good cows well-fed, pay much better than a larger number improperly fed. While we believe that a man should carry all the cows possible on his farm—good cows preferably, but poorer cows rather than empty stalls—it does not pay to stint the feed to a good milker. A very good motto in feeding cows is: Grow all you feed, and feed all you grow. Thus you save freight and commission charges on bulky material, such as is the nature of most feeds for cows. While it is advisable to purchase feed at times, it is much better to grow feed so far as possible on one's own dairy farm, especially the bulky feeds.

Can the cow hold her own on high-priced land? The writer thinks she can, if we have the right kind of cows and pay special attention to the growing of the right kind of feed. With milk selling for around two dollars a hundred pounds, butter at 40 to 45 cents a pound, and cheese at 24 to 25 cents a pound wholesale there is no reason why the cow should not continue to be, as in the past, the most profitable animal kept on the farm.

Our Butter Must Be Graded

"I do not believe the butter market will hold at present prices," said Mr. John H. Scott, head of butter grading work for Ontario, at the Woodstock Dairymen's Convention. "Sooner or later conditions will change; when prices will fall to normal or perhaps go lower."

WILLIAM TELL. The Story Was Old in Denmark Before the Swiss Borrowed It.

Do you know who shot the apple on the head of the little boy? Why, William Tell, of course! Everybody knows now Tell delivered Switzerland from the tyranny of Austria. At least everybody used to know. Unfortunately, for pure romance, the historian and the investigator have been unduly active in the past quarter of a century, and the result has left us few heroes with enough clothing of romance to cover their skeletons. We have read Schiller's beautiful and inspiring play, either in our college German course or in translation, and we cling to William Tell with all the ardor of youthful enthusiasm. And

And this, Mr. Scott explained, would bring a mighty serious problem to the door of the Ontario dairyman. The western provinces were producing enough butter for their own uses and had become exporters. Due to the fact that their butter was graded and was superior to the general run of Ontario butter, it would beat ours in our own home markets. And, of course, it would lead in foreign markets also. Therefore, when the demand falls off after the war, and with Canadian markets being supplied by new competitors, the only solution of the Ontario butter trade will be the manufacture of butter of the finest quality, properly graded, and suitably guaranteed. The first, Mr. Scott pointed out, began with the farmer himself. Unless cream of the proper quality was sent to the creamery, butter of the finest quality certainly could not be manufactured.

POOLING HURTS INDUSTRY. At the same time, Mr. Scott was not inclined to blame the dairyman for present conditions. Rather he blamed the system of buying cream by pooling methods. When a man realized that his good cream was mixed with poorer grades and all paid for alike, he was rather inclined to believe a premium was being placed upon carelessness. "The system brings the best down to the average, and raises the poorest to the average," said the speaker. "It is a kind of socialistic system which is not popular with our good farmers who do produce cream of a high quality."

In order to commence preparatory work leading to the grading and standardization of our butter, Mr. Scott was given a commission to study the conditions of butter being shipped from our creameries and to assist the creamery men in improving the quality. He found that 57 per cent. of butter inspected by him graded No. 1 and 41 per cent. No. 2. The June butter was excellent, but after that when the "hot weather goods" began to arrive, not half was No. 1. On the other hand, certain creameries shipped nothing but first class butter in every season.

IMPROVE MARKETING CONDITIONS. "The system of marketing butter might be greatly improved," said Mr. Scott. "An organized system of cooperative marketing might be introduced with great benefit to the trade—an official organization of buyers and sellers representing both ends of the trade, with the object in view of paying for butter on a basis of quality."

"The system of marketing butter at present is generally the following: The creamery sells to the dealer by telephone, or ships on consignment to regular commission merchants. The butter is bought as good marketable butter and supposed to be of first quality unless otherwise mentioned. It is usually shipped in government refrigerator cars during the hot months. On arriving at the storage it is inspected. The buyer governs his inspection a good deal by the market. If the market has advanced since he bought its defects will be lightly passed over. If the market, on the other hand, has declined, quality will take a large place from the buyer's viewpoint."

These facts cannot be too strongly emphasized. We must practice better methods all along the line. Cream must be paid for upon a quality basis; it is the only practical way of encouraging good practice and discouraging poor practice. Butter must be properly manufactured, skillfully graded and sold as directly as possible. In the days to come we must hold our own market and develop a large foreign trade. And we can do this only on a quality basis. Every dairyman must take these facts to heart and act—  
—The Canadian Countryman.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS. FARMERS' MARKET.

Table with columns for Dairy Products, Eggs, Cheese, etc. and prices.

Another advance of twenty cents per 100 lbs. has taken place in refined sugars, this making an advance of 40 cents with the raw sugar.

Table with columns for MEATS—WHOLESALE and prices for Beef, Pork, etc.

Table with columns for TORONTO CATTLE MARKETS and prices for Export cattle, etc.

Table with columns for OTHER MARKETS. WINNIPEG GRAIN EXCHANGE and prices for Wheat, Corn, etc.

LONDON WOOL SALES. London.—The offerings at the wool auction sales today amounted to 2,250 bales.

Table with columns for BUFFALO LIVE STOCK and prices for Veals, Hogs, etc.

Table with columns for CHICAGO LIVE STOCK and prices for Cattle, Hogs, etc.

SOME NEWNESSES. Cretonnes for the Bungalow—Green to Be in Favor.

Already the novelty shops are making ready for summer and the woman who wishes to think that far ahead will find much to occupy her thoughts.

For the summer bungalow there are new cretonnes—as shown in the new round and oblong cushions, which are in striped and flowered designs and new gay colorings. And for the same purpose there are new cotton wash-puffs in stenciled and applique effects for pillows, novelty boxes, scrap baskets, etc. and the like.