



LESSON VIII, MAY 25, 1913.

Joseph and Benjamin—Gen. 43: 1-34.

Commentary.—I. The second journey to Egypt (vs. 1-15). Notwithstanding the fact that the procuring of more grain from Egypt meant to Jacob the surrender of his beloved Benjamin, he consented to let him go, but with the greatest reluctance, Judah presented a strong and convincing plea, which his father was unable to refuse. If Jacob would permit Benjamin to go, there was a possibility of getting food to sustain the lives of the family, but without food all, including Benjamin, must perish. The custom of the time and place provided that when one would appear before a ruler or one high in authority, he must take a present in order to show him proper respect. Although the famine in Canaan was severe, "halm, spicery and myrrh" were obtainable there, as well as nuts and almonds and honey.

II. The eleven at Joseph's house (vs. 16-28). The brothers of Joseph were to have a new experience in Egypt upon their second visit. They were treated harshly upon their first, but now they were invited to enjoy the hospitality of the governor himself. Joseph's steward was commanded to bring them in as personal guests, and they were to look upon such magnificence as they had never seen before. 18. Were afraid.—They were utterly unable to comprehend the new turn of affairs. Their first suspicion led them to connect in some way the taking back to Canaan of the money in their sacks, with this invitation to Joseph's house, and to fear that mischief was about to befall them. Take us for bondmen.—Their having sold Joseph into slavery might well cause them to fear such a fate for themselves. 19. Steward.—An officer who had the management of Joseph's household. His chief servant. Commune with him at the door.—So sure were they that there was to be trouble about the money, that they sought to make full explanation before facing the governor, Joseph. 20. Fear not.—These reassuring words were a source of comfort to the perplexed brothers. Your God.—The steward knew the men were Hebrews, as his words indicated, and he knew something of the true God, Joseph may have told him about his brothers. Hath given you treasure.—The brothers were to be comforted with the thought that the Lord had been merciful to them. I had your money.—By this the steward acknowledged the receipt of the money, and there was no charge standing against the sons of Jacob. Brought Simeon out.—The restoration of Simeon to his brothers was further assurance that no harm was intended. 24. Washed their feet.—It was the custom for travelers upon entering a house to remove their sandals and wash their dust-covered feet. Provide.—Food provided for cattle or pack-animals. 25. Made ready the present.—The brothers arranged to present the ruler the present their father had sent from Canaan (vs. 11). Against Joseph came at noon.—In readiness for Joseph's arrival at noon. They should eat bread there.—The state of an Egyptian grand vizier was something of which till then they could have had no idea.

III. Joseph's love for Benjamin (vs. 29-34). 29. Saw his brother Benjamin.—Benjamin was but a child, perhaps not more than three years old, when Joseph last saw him. His mother's son.—Benjamin was Joseph's only full brother; the others were half-brothers. God be gracious unto thee, my son.—Joseph's gracious words to his son, Joseph's tender affection in terms of the most tender affection, and yet such expressions were often used in a merely formal manner. In this instance, however, there was a volume of meaning in the words. 30. His heart yearned over his brother.—It is not difficult for us to put ourselves in Joseph's place, and imagine his feelings. Sought where to weep.—The time had not yet come for him to reveal to his brothers his identity, and he made haste to escape from their presence before the flood of early memories and the affection of his heart should cause tears to flow. 31. He washed his face.—To remove the traces of his weeping. Refrained himself.—Gave no intimation of the deep feelings of his heart, and appeared to them as not being their brother. Set on bread.—Joseph commanded his servants to serve the food. 32. For him by himself.—As being highest in rank. An abomination unto the Egyptians.—The Egyptians feared contamination from mingling with other nations. They were especially opposed to mingling with the Hebrews, because the latter were shepherds. The Egyptians had long been oppressed by the shepherd kings that swept down upon them from the western part of Asia, and they hated all who were engaged in stock-raising. An additional reason for this prejudice was the fact that the Egyptians considered cattle as sacred animals, and the Hebrews slaughtered them or food and for sacrifices.

33. The first born according to his birthright.—The place of honor at the table or tables, for it is probable that they were several, was accorded to the eldest brother, Reuben. The youngest.—Benjamin. The men marvelled.—Well might the men marvel at being arranged at the table thus according to their ages. Joseph thus prepared the way for an open recognition, and sought to impress them with the idea that he knew them better than they imagined.

Whedon. 34. Sent messes unto them from before him.—It was a way of showing favor to a guest for the host to give or send him a portion of food from his own supply. Great attention was shown to a guest by sending a large portion. Five times so much.—A double portion would indicate considerable distinction, but a fivefold portion was a mark of highest honor. Were merry with him.—Joseph's special attention to Benjamin did not bring to light any envy or jealousy on the part of the ten toward their youngest brother.

Questions.—What command did Jacob give his sons, and why? On what condition could Joseph be seen by his brothers? Why had Joseph's brothers told him about Benjamin? Whose plea influenced Jacob to permit Benjamin to go to Egypt? What directions did Jacob give his sons about going to Egypt? How did Joseph receive his brothers? How was he affected at the sight of Benjamin? Describe the arrangement of the brothers at the feast. What distinction was shown to Benjamin?

THE POULTRY WORLD

GOOD POULTRY STOCK PAYS.

The poultry industry has advanced so rapidly in the past 10 years that the call for breeding stock, hatching eggs and day-old chicks has led many into that business that, for the most part, the beginner, had better stayed out. Too many so-called breeders are but beginners themselves, and their stock in no better condition as to health or productiveness than that of the beginner, and the time is gradually coming when the poultry public will be so much more discriminating in its choice of stock than is now peddled out in large quantities. True, the haphazard-bred stock has in a large measure been created by a demand for cheap goods, and it is also a fact that when getting this kind of stock the beginner often gets what he paid for, though in some cases not. It is wise for those starting out to look carefully into the merits of the stock they intend to purchase, for there is much difference between the breeding of a good practical poultry-raiser and that of one who has been in and out, for a few years, as day and night.

Practical Survey.

Topic.—Unfolding providence.

I. Through enforced consecration.

II. Through contrite confession.

III. Through exalted honors.

I. Through enforced consecration.

With Jacob circumstances were such as to make it a choice between sending Benjamin with his brethren to Egypt, or of famine for the entire family. The only way of getting corn was to comply with Joseph's conditions, strange as they appeared. Judah addressed his father in words of wisdom and piety. He was now far from reproaching his father for any manifest partiality to his favorite son. He set before him the absolute necessity of parting from Benjamin for a time, and the great comfort to be expected in the end. To overcome any distrust in his sons, Judah pledged himself as surety for Benjamin's safe return, a consecration which was to be severely tested. Jacob at length determined to acquiesce in the appointments of divine Providence, let them be what they might. He entrusted Benjamin to Judah's care and resigned himself to God's will, even at the risk of being childless. There was a blending of sorrow with his resignation. Necessity overcame every other consideration. Trials threatening his death were to end in preserving his life. Changing his resolution was not weakness, but wisdom and duty. It indicated his piety rather than his obstinacy. It indicated his faith in God, and his growing confidence in man. The spirit of prayer came back to him. He sent his sons forth with a humble and an earnest prayer to God.

II. Through contrite confession.

Joseph's brethren went forth dreading misfortune. They were suspicious of Joseph's intentions. They feared being made bondmen. Their own guilt in such an act suggested such dangers. Their deceitful and crooked disposition dreaded the penalty of being overreached. They expected no favorable solution of their mysterious treatment. But Jacob, with severe unrighteousness, required his sons to return the money found in their sacks. They were innocent respecting the money, and yet they felt themselves to be guilty men. Their fear misinterpreted kindness, and yet that kindness was intended to bring them to complete repentance. They laid their case before the steward in the hope that he might stand between them and danger. They felt the need of an intercessor. They had done to Joseph just what they feared at his hands. They were neither spies nor thieves, but by their humiliation under such charges they were to be brought to face the real guilt of their lives, and to discover mercy where they looked for justice.

III. Through exalted honors.

The generous reception which was given Jacob's sons only served to raise their forest suspicions and to alarm their consciences. Their enjoyment of their happy circumstances, Joseph's new kindness filled them with greater perplexity. The steward, though not aware that the strangers were his master's brethren, reassured them and encouraged them to dismiss their apprehensions. Joseph's device in bringing them home and feasting with them, gave him an opportunity for testing their attitude toward Benjamin. It gave them opportunity of recognizing Joseph. It exhibited his interest in them as against his previous apparent severity. It served to disarm their fears and, if possible, save them from further test. The arrangement of the tables, their position as to age, and the peculiar and special favor toward Benjamin, excited questioning; yet the full truth was not apprehended. There was, therefore, great wisdom in Joseph's lingering to divulge the great secret. The banquet, therefore, was the introduction to the last and severest trial and a preparation for a successful issue in the proving of Jacob's sons. Their participation, without envy, in the honor bestowed upon Benjamin, evidenced their change of feeling toward their father, as well as Benjamin. They were advancing toward freedom. Joseph's command of his feelings indicated his superior character. He could wait the unfolding of God's plan, the ripening of conviction of his brother, Joseph, was under divine direction, planning for the removal of his father's house to Egypt. His plans were certain to succeed. T. R. A.

HURT IN RUNAWAY

Niagara Falls Family Had Serious Mishap.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., despatch: Mrs. Jacob Miller, wife of a well-known contractor of Niagara Falls, Ont., and her daughter, Rose, were seriously injured in a runaway accident yesterday. Lena and Torin, two other children, were also taken to their home, Queen Street, Niagara Falls, Ont., and the animal was riding in a buggy back of a spirited horse, which became frightened at a passing automobile, and dashed down the street. The animal ran into a string of freight cars and the four occupants were thrown out.

Rose sustained a fractured skull and loss of consciousness of the brain. Mrs. Miller is also in a serious condition. All were taken to their home, Queen Street, Niagara Falls, Ont., and the animal was riding in a buggy back of a spirited horse, which became frightened at a passing automobile, and dashed down the street. The animal ran into a string of freight cars and the four occupants were thrown out.

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from the Live Stock Commissioner, Ottawa.

NOTES.

Some people never would make a success with poultry. They do not seem to grasp the main principle, which is so essential to the best results in poultry-raising. One must have a real one (not fancied) liking for poultry to make the most out of the business.

Utility comes first (for the beginner), for eggs and meat in paying quantities are essential in making poultry-keeping a success. It is good to learn that the fancier, now more than ever, is working with this view in mind, realizing that no breeder will ever remain at the top of the ladder that does not possess a money-earning capacity. The two can be combined by careful selection and breeding—although there is no question that it requires more time to attain the end than to strive for one thing alone, egg-production, or show birds.

There is no question but what the duck business has taken on a wonderful boom this season, especially the Indian Runners. They are hardy, not hard to raise, are good egg producers, and the breeders of ducks this year are doing a good business.

Turkeys should be raised in greater numbers than is now being done. The White Holland stand confinement perhaps more than any other should be tried where only limited space is to be had. They however, do not get as heavy as clean bred water fowls. Any one having a fair acreage should try raising turkeys. Successfully reared they are profitable.

Put the turkey and her poult in an open coop at night where they will be able to get plenty of fresh air. Thoroughly scald the water dishes twice a week and give the little poult clean fresh water every day. You can feed the little poult and the recognized brands of dry chick feeds with a few cents worth of corn.

The little poult should never be allowed to eat with the chickens. Feed them on different parts of the farm.

One often hears the beginner say of the high-priced breeder, "I don't know what it means." And why not? The purchase of stock, eggs or chicks should be a matter of business, not of sentimentality. It means that the breeder has made good in the show room or the egg market, and that the breeder has produced a strain of birds that will do more than the majority of birds of this same variety. The breeder has a reputation. And why not? The purchase of stock, eggs or chicks should be a matter of business, not of sentimentality. It means that the breeder has made good in the show room or the egg market, and that the breeder has produced a strain of birds that will do more than the majority of birds of this same variety. The breeder has a reputation.

The foundation stock has more than once been the making or breaking of a poultry farm. The breeder who has a reputation in the poultry industry as an industry of knowledge of breeding has been neglected, and especially the beginner, has not been in the good and indifferent breeding and the good or poor results that are obtained from the two, takes several years for any one to establish a strain to produce either the blue at our big show or the red at our smaller ones. The breeder knows which birds are breeders that produce prize-winning stock. It tells the truth, and which is the drone, and by careful breeding the flock of the high-class bird is built up. In this way come to the men with reputation, and he will as he should to pay for the reputation, for the results of his breeding are used on many of the poultry farms. This means extra labor and more money, but it means better results. The breeder knows which birds are breeders that produce prize-winning stock. It tells the truth, and which is the drone, and by careful breeding the flock of the high-class bird is built up. In this way come to the men with reputation, and he will as he should to pay for the reputation, for the results of his breeding are used on many of the poultry farms. This means extra labor and more money, but it means better results.

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