

USE OF THE FIVE TALENTS

Every One Is Responsible for the Best Use of His Powers

To each according to his several ability.—Matt. xxv., 15.

This parable of the talents contains a message of awful warning and of sweetest comfort. God holds every man responsible for all that has been committed to him; he also rewards faithfulness beyond our wildest expectation.

When the householder in the parable was preparing for his journey he did not distribute his property indiscriminately among his servants, but only after careful consideration. He gave "to each according to his several ability." To one man he gave five talents, not from favoritism, but because he had the ability to use them profitably. The man who received one talent was not capable of great things, but he had the ability to use the one talent. His fault was that he refused to use what was committed to him, fondly thinking that his master would be satisfied with his safe return without increase. We may also perceive a feeling of jealousy and discontent because a larger amount

to study diligently when he shall have reached the higher mathematics, finds that the higher mathematics are an impossibility without a thorough knowledge of those things that he despised as useless. He is quite incapable of making use of the five talents because he has buried, not used, the one talent. The same rule holds good in the spiritual world. God gives gifts of grace to His children as they have the ability and disposition to use them. Grace used means grace increased. Opportunity taken advantage of means greater opportunity. Large returns were not expected from the one talent man, but

SOME RETURN WAS EXPECTED.

He would have been commended equally with the five talent-man, and the two-talent man, however small his return might seem in comparison with theirs, had he used his talent.

And just here is the word of comfort. The five-talent man and the two-talent man are comparatively few. The greater part of us are one-talent-ability. All that is expected of us is that we use and make the best we are able of what we have. When the time of the great accounting comes we may have little to offer, only a cup of cold water given to one of Christ's little ones; only a kind, sympathetic word spoken; only a helping hand held out to one-needing the support. It is what we were able to do and we will receive the commendation of the Master equally with those whose opportunities have been greater: "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

REV. J. G. DAVIS.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, FEB. 9.

Lesson VI. Jesus and the Woman of Samaria. Golden Text, John 7. 37.

THE LESSON WORD STUDIES.

The Final Testimony of the Baptist.—During the period that Jesus tarried with his disciples in Judea, immediately succeeding the events described in our last lesson, John was still baptizing and preaching along the Jordan and its tributaries. At Enon, near to Salim in a narrow valley, between Mount Ebal and the Jordan, word was brought to the Baptist that the preaching of Jesus was becoming more popular than his own, as witnessed by the number of those presenting themselves for baptism. This information, or rather the facts to which it called attention, gave to the Baptist the opportunity for a last sublimely loyal testimony to the character and mission of Jesus. This testimony is recorded in verses 28-36 of the preceding chapter. Addressing those who had brought to him the message, "Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond the Jordan, to whom thou hast borne witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him," John uttered these memorable words: "Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. . . . He must increase, but I must decrease. He that cometh from above is above all: . . . The Father loveth his Son and hath given all things into his hands. He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life; but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life." Thus does the Baptist testify to the divinity of Jesus, and there is no uncertain sound in his testimony. To him Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and only the Revealer of the Father. The popularity of Jesus implied in the message brought to the Baptist at Enon soon arrays against him the Pharisees and others, and he therefore leaves Judea, the stronghold of the Pharisees, and returns to Galilee. The shortest route takes him through Samaria, past the village of Sychar, near which was Jacob's Well. It is this journey of Jesus northward through Samaria that gives occasion for the events with which our present lesson narrative deals.

Verse 4, Samaria.—This name was originally applied to the city built by Omri, king of Israel, on the hill purchased by him of Shemer (1 Kings 16, 23), and rebuilt by Herod. Later the surrounding province also received its name from the city. The province is here referred to. The inhabitants of Samaria were a mixed population, with a mixed religion (2 Kings 17, 24-41; Ezra 9; Neh. 13, who, however, claimed to be true Israelites and professed to keep the law of Moses. They seem to have cordially reciprocated the hatred with which the people of Judea regarded them.

5. Sychar.—Identified with the modern Askar, not far from Nablus, the ancient Shechem. The supposed tomb of Joseph is still shown in this vicinity.

6. Jacob's Well.—A little south of Askar and about a mile from Nablus. The ancient well, now partially filled with stones and rubbish, is still to be seen, forming, as it does, one of the few undisputed sacred sites of the Holy Land.

The sixth hour.—Noon.

7. No dealings with Samaritans.—The writer's explanation of the woman's surprise at the request of Jesus made to her. The antipathy between Jews and Samaritans caused both as far as possible to avoid intercourse with one another. A remnant of the ancient Samaritan race still lives in partial isolation from other inhabitants of Palestine.

time in this same vicinity of Ebal and Gerizim.

10. Living water.—Well water, as distinguished from that of shallow cisterns. It is from the latter that the inhabitants of southern Palestine have always found it necessary to procure their principal water supply.

12. Art thou greater.—The emphasis is on the pronoun. The woman could not understand how this hungry wayfarer could possibly furnish better water than that which she and her people derived from this ancient and honored well.

13. Jesus replies by expanding rather than explaining the metaphor, as he did his conversation with Nicodemus, and claims for his gift the wonderful power to quench man's thirst not for a time only but forever.

15. In him a well.—An inexhaustible source of refreshing.

20. In this mountain.—The summit of Gerizim, which for centuries had been the seat of Samaritan worship. The claim for its sanctity was based on Deut. 27, 11, 12. The mountain also bore the ruins of a rival temple which had been the object of contempt and ridicule to the Jews. Josephus emphasizes the importance which was attached to the question raised by the Samaritan woman's words to Jesus and cites an instance in which a deputation of Jews and Samaritans was appointed to argue the same question, and in which the Samaritan speakers, because theirs was the losing side in the debate, were put to death in harmony with the terms of a previous agreement.

Some politicians have long fingers and short memories.

25. Messiah.—The promised deliverer was expected alike by the Jews and Samaritans.

He that is called Christ.—A parenthetical explanation of the evangelist, not part of what the woman said.

27. Marvelled.—At the seeming improbability of their Master's speaking with a woman who was not only a stranger, but a despised Samaritan as well, this being contrary to the permitted custom of the time.

28. Meet to eat that we know not.—This is the Christ?—That it should thus be her good fortune to meet Him for whose coming both Jews and Samaritans had waited so long, seemed at first too good to be true.

30. They went out of the city.—So effectively had the woman's story excited their curiosity and interest.

32. Meet to eat that we know not.—We have here one of those enigmatical sayings so often and so effectively used by Jesus for the purpose of stimulating the intelligence of his hearers. The words furnished food for reflection, but were not understood by the disciples.

35. Lift up your eyes.—Apparently Jesus directs the attention of his disciples with these words to the approach of the people from Sychar. We may imagine the picturesque sight furnished by the slow advance of the people up the slope toward the Master, the turbans adding in the sunlight as they approached. It may well have been this scene which suggested to the mind of Jesus the field of grain while undisturbed by the wind. This thought in turn calls to his mind the greater turbans adding in the sunlight as they approached. It may well have been this scene which suggested to the mind of Jesus the field of grain while undisturbed by the wind. This thought in turn calls to his mind the greater turbans adding in the sunlight as they approached.

39. Because of the word of the woman.—Even before they had heard Jesus himself speak.

40. Abode there two days.—This was also contrary to what might have been expected of an orthodox Jew.

41. Because of his word.—John continually introduces the testimony of Jesus himself to his divinity, in connection with the testimonies of other persons which he records in succession in his narrative.

42. The Saviour of the world.—The conception of Jesus Samaritans of the scope of the redemptive work which the Messiah was to accomplish seems to have been broader and deeper than that of most of the Jews themselves.

43. Our own Niagara.—The Zambesi falls have been discovered.

44. David Livingstone called the main fall the most wonderful sight I had ever witnessed in Africa. And when one contemplates the spectacle of one of the world's mightiest rivers, two miles wide, falling sheer 420 feet, it is not hard to agree with one of the greatest travelers and missionaries that ever lived.

45. Our own Niagara.—The Zambesi falls are two miles wide, four times the width of Niagara. In order to preserve the relative proportions of the latter the African falls should therefore be four times its height, or 632 feet.

Its real height of 420 feet is less than three times that of Niagara. This changes its relative proportions decidedly and not in a way to increase its impressiveness.

Some politicians have long fingers and short memories.

Fashion Hints.

FADS AND FANCIES.

One of the latest fashions combines a fur crown with a satin trim. Gimpes of net and lace have long light sleeves.

White, pink, or purple hennins are suitable for hat blossoms.

Lingerie dress novelty introduces a color. It takes the form of embroidery and is likely to be a delicate blue.

Effective gingham for children's frocks are to be seen on every side. The designs are charming and the price moderate.

Earrings are of two sorts, the screw and the drop. Among the latter the hoops and rings of diamonds and pearls are copied from old monarchy pieces.

Dainty watches in gold, crystal, and enamel figure among the most charming novelties. They are worn on the wrists and hang by the chain.

One of the most striking silks in an exhibition of cameo effects is known as the gros de Londres. Many shades are so deftly blended in this fabric that the effect is most pleasing.

A decidedly new and pretty fancy in silks is the union of Grosvenor patterned haffeta with rough, Shantung weaves. The colored silk promises to be much used for waistcoats and draperies.

Far early spring wear an advance note is found in the alliance of flat plaited cloth skirts and coats of the corduroy velvet. The latter either of long high waist, picturesque genre, or the simple little hip coat just shaped to the figure.

There are obvious signs already that some egregious errors are likely to occur in the transition stage of sleeves.

Surveyors of gloves declare they will make large orders for elbow length, for they do not believe that the present elongated sleeve is going to stay.

A plain velvet bow with a jabot just beneath it is a pretty finish for a simple tailor gown, and the little pins in the collar above give just the necessary touch to the neck.

White gloves are always a problem, as they are so expensive. Long ones are the hardest to replenish, but as the leopards don't wear out, cut them off at the wrist and buy some short white gloves which can be easily be added to the old ones. When the wrists are wrinkled the seam will never show, and you will have a perfectly good pair of long white gloves.

With the light fitted clinging skirt which is already accepted by the ultra fashionables, the long, close sleeve is in for at least a revival. But the simple, draped in a more or less severe fashion, is as much sought after as ever.

Many of the finest lingerie petticoats which come over with the hand embroidered and lace trimmed French underwear have silk-lop with flounces of the washable material buttoned on. It is such skirts as these that are greatly used for evening costumes.

All sleeves or no sleeves seem to be the rule for the evening. The latest manifestation is the full length wrinkled sleeve or transparent net which extends below the wide armhole finish. The art in making these sleeves lies in keeping them as transparent as possible. Whatever lining support is given must be diaphanous. The transparent sleeves are becoming to all kinds of dresses, those that are too round and the altogether too thin ones.

Separate blouses to wear with the new close fitted skirts are made of materials that contrast with them or are

PE-RU-NA CHEERFULLY RECOMMENDED FOR COLDS AND CATARRH.

A Prominent Canadian Gives His Experience With the World-Famous Remedy For Catarrh.

Chronic Catarrh Always Begins With An Ordinary Cold.

So Says Dr. Hartman, the Greatest Living Authority On Catarrhal Diseases.

C. H. Parker, Ex-Warden of Compton Co., Quebec, has been mayor of Scotstown for a number of years. He is an influential resident in Scotstown and widely known.

He writes concerning Peruna. Read his letter below:

THE first effect of a cold is a thickening of the mucous membranes of the nose and throat.

This gives rise to a discharge, or at least a stuffiness of the nasal passages. Sometimes fever accompanies the first attack, also a feeling of languor, dullness and aching of the bones.

If no attention is paid to it, the mucous congestion is liable to spread down into the larynx, producing hoarseness and into the bronchial tubes, producing a cough.

Even when this occurs, many people pay no attention to it.

Under such circumstances, the congestion is liable to become chronic, producing a condition of the mucous membranes known as catarrh. Catarrh lasts an indefinite time. Catarrh is essentially a chronic condition and does not leave except something is done to relieve it.

What should be done when a person catches cold is to take a few doses of Peruna.

Taken at the onset, Peruna would break up the cold and prevent all the train of symptoms which usually follow.

But, even in cases where the cold has been neglected and hoarseness or a cough has developed, Peruna can be relied upon to give prompt and permanent relief.

The frequency of coughs and colds in the winter makes Peruna a popular remedy for these ailments.

A number of the best people of various countries have given testimonials as to the value of Peruna in such cases.

Followed Dr. Hartman's Advice—Restored to Health.

Mrs. Samuelle Vignean, Avro au Bord, Isle de La Magdalen, Canada, writes:

"I write to tell you that I am perfectly well. I took only three bottles of your Peruna according to your advice and the directions in your book and it restored my health."

Trimmed with a vivid color. Blues, dull green, and a Chinese pink surmount skirts of brown or black cloth. Dainty silk muslin blouses in pale tints in various tones, such as grayish blue, faded pink, etc., are incrustated with Venetian lace or with motives of embroidered cloth.

One of the fancies to develop lately in the millinery world is the hat covered snugly with black satin, black felt, or black velvet, and trimmed with large colored choix of contrasting tone. Different tones can in this way be introduced to harmonize with the costume with which the hat is to make a part. The tweed suits, striped in two or three colors, are admirably matched in this way.

APPROPRIATE.

Here is a tip to milliners: Who get up headgear togs: If women must wear mushroom hats—Why not turn them into frogs?

A LARGE PACKAGE.

"Anyway," said Swigg, "you never saw me with a bigger load than I could carry."

"No," replied Diggs, "but I've seen you when I thought you should have divided the package and made two trips."



C. H. PARKER.

"I had several attacks of colds from time to time and finally a severe attack developed into catarrh."

"I was advised to use your celebrated catarrh remedy, and after taking three bottles I find myself completely cured, and I no longer suffer from catarrh or colds."

"I can cheerfully recommend Peruna for colds and catarrh."

If Peruna had no other medicinal value than the promptness with which it relieves common colds, it would be well worth while for any family to keep it in the house constantly.

HEART-BREAKING.

President Manuel Amador of Panama tells this little tale of a certain Cuban millionaire:

"An unfortunate man once obtained access to this millionaire and started to lay before him his woes. He depicted his wretched poverty in most vivid colors. Indeed, so graphic was the man's sad story that the millionaire felt himself affected as he had never before. With tears in his eyes, he summoned his servant and in a quivering voice said:

"John, put this poor fellow out. He is breaking my heart."

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DAINTY NECKWEAR NOVELTIES



The New Bow Ends

THE important addition to the new tailored blouses for spring are the collars and cravats.

The wrong choice in this line makes or mars the waist.

Every woman is not a master in the art of dressing her neck.

She may know how to choose her gown, the best hats to wear, and yet she may spoil the whole costume by the fit or style of her collar.

Most women invariably do the wrong thing when it comes to the dressing of the neck. Either they put on too many frills for the tailored suit, or wear the wrong kind of a collar for the more dressy blouse.

Often a great mass of fluffy tulle is added when that is the very touch the face cannot stand.

When a collar is worn without a ruching when the hollows of the neck cry

out again, for just such a help.

One, a great bunch of ruching is put in when the fullness of the chin demands just the least line of white at the top of the neck.

One of the most frequent and fatal effects is to wear a stock or collar of any kind that has an uneven meeting at the back edge.

A collar that is pinned on any way, wear the wrong kind of a collar for the more dressy blouse.

There is quite an art in putting on the turnover collar.

The woman who does not like the grid of a collar button on the back of her neck uses instead a small flat pearl button, which she sews on the

neckband.

In front she uses a gold or mother-of-pearl collar button, and the latter is really very much the prettier.

She knows that the right way to fasten the collar in front is to join the two outer edges at the top with a bar pin. A very small one is used, then a larger one holds the stiff square cravat at the base.

The really fashionable tie is the small butterfly shaped one of embroidered linen or mull and very often is further adorned with a lace edge.

There are a number of pleated cravats this season that are lovely. They come in all colors and are attractive without being around the neck.

They are usually made of fine mull or lawn in white or pastel colors. They are nearly always accordion pleated, edged with lace and feather-stitched.

The new lace stocks cannot be too high under the ears and the back of the neck.

They must not, however, under any circumstances look uncomfortable, so it will easily be seen how perfect must be their cut.

They fit the neck very close and are all well boned behind the ears and in the middle of the back. The bones under the chin are seldom used nowadays.

A curving line extends upward from the middle of the front toward the top of the neck, ever so slightly to the left. Its height corresponds to the height of neck, but must be worn as high as possible.

Of Mull and Lace

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E TO CREDITORS

MES J. TEEPLE, DECEASED

To Sec. 28 of Chapter 129 of the Statutes of Ontario, 1897, notice is given that all creditors and others who have claims against the estate of James J. Teeple, deceased, of the Township of Yarmouth, County of Elgin, yeoman, who died on the 14th day of January, A. D. 1908, are to present their claims to the Executors of the said James J. Teeple, to-wit: Messrs. J. E. Aylmer and J. W. E. Aylmer, on Friday, the 24th day of February, A. D. 1908, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at the Law Office of W. E. Stevens, in the City of Toronto, Ontario, for the purpose of proving their claims and of receiving dividends thereon. The said James J. Teeple was a resident of the Township of Yarmouth, County of Elgin, Ontario, at the time of his death. The said James J. Teeple was a yeoman, and was a resident of the Township of Yarmouth, County of Elgin, Ontario, at the time of his death. The said James J. Teeple was a yeoman, and was a resident of the Township of Yarmouth, County of Elgin, Ontario, at the time of his death.

LABOR PROBLEM

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Notice to Creditors

R OF ISAAC ATKIN OF THE

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WENTWORTH

rely given that Isaac Atkin, of

Aylmer, in the County of

Wentworth, has made an

assignment to William

W. E. Stevens, of the County

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