

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON XI—DECEMBER 15, 1912

Forgiveness.—Matt. 18: 15-35

Commentary.—I. Duty and privilege (vs. 15-20). There is one right way to deal with those who injure others. If one does wrong to another the latter must avoid making the matter public, and should go alone to the offending brother to seek reconciliation. If that effort should fail, then let the one wronged take one or two persons with him and try to remove the difficulty. In case of failure the church should undertake to win the offender. If he will not hear the church, he is to be considered as having no place in the church. II. The forgiving spirit (vs. 21, 22). Then came the parable of the discourse about offenses had moved Peter to make definite inquiry as to his duty in granting forgiveness. It is easy to infer that he had been criticised and even wronged. Impulsive and forward, it would not be strange if he should receive rebuffs and slights from time to time. How oft shall I forgive?—It was easily granted that forgiveness was a duty, but how many times should it be repeated was the question that weighed upon Peter's mind. Seven times? The rabbinical law limited forgiveness to three times, but Peter considered the new kingdom and its principles, as laid down in the Sermon on the Mount, as far more exalted than the old system of conduct, and believed the requirements would be much higher. In placing the number at seven, he thought he had been abundantly liberal. It is evident that he used the number "seven" in its literal sense and not in the figurative sense of a perfect number. 22. I say—Indicating the authority with which the answer was given. Until seventy times seven—It is doubtful whether the original means four hundred, ninety or seventy-seven (seventy times seven, or seventy times seven, as in margin of Revised Version). But in either case it is a symbolical expression for never-ending forgiveness. Love is not to be limited by the multiplication table.—Schiff. It is to be granted "so long as it shall be needed and sought; you are never to come to the point of refusing forgiveness sincerely asked."—J. F. & B.

III. The unforgiving servant (vs. 23-35). 23. The kingdom of heaven.—The divine government in the dispensation of Jesus Christ. Forgiveness has an important and essential place in this kingdom. Would take account—"Would make a reckoning." V. The picture is drawn from an Oriental court. The provincial governors, farmers of taxes, and other high officials are summoned before a despotic sovereign to give an account of their administration.—Cam. Bib. The fundamental moral principle in God's kingdom is righteousness. The great King of heaven and earth will, one day reckon with all of his subjects. Servants—Those who were directly accountable to him. 24. One was brought.—Being so greatly indebted to the king he would not even think of him, hence he "was brought." Owed him ten thousand talents.—This sum is estimated at from ten million to fifteen million dollars. The servant was a ruler of a province or some other portion of the king's domain, and was entrusted with the raising of the revenue, and in keeping back the tribute he might become thus greatly indebted to his sovereign. This sum represents a debt so great that there would be no possibility of discharging it, and thus represents our indebtedness as subjects to our King. 25. Had not when he went to pay (R. V.).—He had collected the revenue and misused it, and therefore was bankrupt. We are bankrupt also, having nothing wherewith to pay our debt to our Sovereign. Commanded him to sell.—Conditions had power to sell insolvent debtors in several countries of Europe, as well as in Asia, in ancient times.—Benson.

26. The servant.... worshipped him. He placed himself in the attitude of a suppliant seeking mercy. He had done wrong and begged for his master's forgiveness. The sinner with his weight of debt upon him can only find relief by applying to God with repentance and faith. We have nothing to pay and no claim upon his mercy. He graciously listens to our plea and pities our helplessness. Will pay these all.—It would seem impossible for the servant to have paid all his debt. It would be impossible for the sinner to discharge the debt he owes to God from his own resources, even though he should live a thousand years. 27. Was moved with compassion.—A fitting representation of the mercy of the King to whom we are indebted. 28. The same servant.—He had just received great mercy at the hand of his master. But one of his fellow-servants. As if he sought for him. Owed him an hundred pence.—A sum equivalent to about fifteen dollars. The sum he owed the king was seven hundred thousand times as large as that due him from his fellow-servant. Took him by the throat.—The law permitted the creditor to bring the debtor to trial.

29. Fell down at his feet, and besought.—He saw enacted before his face what he had but recently done in the presence of the king to whom he was accountable. The man who owed the hundred pence was just as sincere and earnest as his creditor had but recently been when he uttered the same prayer. 30. And he would not.—He could accept the discharge of a ten-million-dollar debt or even show any mercy to his debtor. (Cust him into prison.) He who had just escaped imprisonment through the mercy of his superior, would exercise no mercy toward his inferior and imprisoned him on a trifling charge. 31. Were very sorry.—It was but natural that the fellow-servants of the imprisoned debtor should feel grief, and should report the matter to the king. This part of the parable fills out the picture and shows the direct spiritual application, for God does not depend upon information given him by men, to govern him in the administration of his kingdom. 32. Thou wicked servant.—His wickedness consisted in selfishness, enmity, ingratitude and want of mercy. He not only merited the epithet applied to him, I forgive thee all that debt—Words that must have pleased his very heart. Because thou broughtest me (N. V.).—He had humbly and earnestly asked for mercy. 33. Then

as I had pity on thee.—The servant is here shown the obligation he is under to his fellow servants, because of the mercy that had been shown him. 34. Wrath—Justly displeased, indignant. Decried him to the tormentors.—He was imprisoned and subjected to further punishment, perhaps by scourging. 35. So likewise.—This verse is an application of the whole parable. "The parable is not intended to teach us that God reverses his pardons to any, but that he denies them to those who are not worthy of them." Those who have not forgiven others their trespasses have never yet truly repented, and that which is spoken of as having been taken away is only what they seemed to possess. From your hearts—When we deal with God more pretensions will not answer. The one who really forgives the trespasses of his brother will not call them up at every provocation.

Questions.—When and where was this lesson spoken? Who came to Christ and what question was asked? What was the meaning of Christ's reply? What leading truth is brought out in the parable? What lesson do we learn from the "ten thousand talents"? How did the servant approach his lord? How must a sinner come to Christ in order to be saved? What did the servants do to his fellow servants? To whom did his lord deliver him? On what condition does the Lord forgive?

## PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic—Golden rule piety.

I. Seeks to win the erring.

II. Exhibits the spirit of Christ.

I. Seeks to win the erring. It required repeated lessons from the Master to bring his disciples to realize that an offender inflicts a worse injury on himself than on the one he offends. How to meet offenses by brotherly admonition and private entreaty was valuable instruction, since the object of Christian piety is to win the erring one. A reprover is like one who is taking a mote out of his brother's eye. It requires cautious dealing. It is one of the severest tests of friendship and Christian love to tell a brother of his faults. Gaining a brother in fellowship and for the kingdom of Christ is no small gain. Private admonition should always go before public censures. God's work should be done effectually, but without undue parade. His kingdom comes with power, but "without observation." Jesus emphasized the importance of having wrongs righted, but urged more concern for the character of the individual who offended, and for his repentance and restoration than for the one injured. 23. The kingdom of heaven.—The divine government in the dispensation of Jesus Christ. Forgiveness has an important and essential place in this kingdom. Would take account—"Would make a reckoning." V. The picture is drawn from an Oriental court. The provincial governors, farmers of taxes, and other high officials are summoned before a despotic sovereign to give an account of their administration.—Cam. Bib. The fundamental moral principle in God's kingdom is righteousness. The great King of heaven and earth will, one day reckon with all of his subjects. Servants—Those who were directly accountable to him. 24. One was brought.—Being so greatly indebted to the king he would not even think of him, hence he "was brought." Owed him ten thousand talents.—This sum is estimated at from ten million to fifteen million dollars. The servant was a ruler of a province or some other portion of the king's domain, and was entrusted with the raising of the revenue, and in keeping back the tribute he might become thus greatly indebted to his sovereign. This sum represents a debt so great that there would be no possibility of discharging it, and thus represents our indebtedness as subjects to our King. 25. Had not when he went to pay (R. V.).—He had collected the revenue and misused it, and therefore was bankrupt. We are bankrupt also, having nothing wherewith to pay our debt to our Sovereign. Commanded him to sell.—Conditions had power to sell insolvent debtors in several countries of Europe, as well as in Asia, in ancient times.—Benson.

II. Exhibits the spirit of Christ.

The parable here given is an comment on the fifth petition of the Lord's prayer. It represents the administration of the gospel dispensation in the family of God. It sets forth the Master's great clemency to his servants, unreasonable severity toward his fellow servants, and the master's just retribution of the cruelty of his servant. The forgiving of the debt was the leading of the debtor. Though the servant begged for time and promised payment, his conduct proved that he had no intention of repaying. His master was lenient and his spirit was merciful. He did not compare his claim upon a fellow servant with his master's claim upon him. Jesus' teaching was that the debt of brotherhood must be kept higher than that of revenge, and that retaliation and revenge must give place to feelings of kindness and benevolence, as though no injury had been done. The disciples were receiving primary lessons in real love for souls, which prompts the most fervent desire to win them to Christ. E. A.

CANADIAN WINS

Many Successes at Chicago Stock Show.

Chicago, Dec. 9. Lord Gleniffer, the seven-year-old Clydesdale stallion, imported and owned by Graham Bros. of Clarendon, Ont., was awarded the grand championship for Clydesdale stallions at the International Live Stock show today. Graham Bros. also won first and fourth in aged stallions, with Bright Smile, first in two-year-olds with King of All, and second in yearlings with Albert.

Some of the shorthorn awards were made today. Mr. Casswell, of Saskatoon, was awarded third place in two-year-old bulls on Gairford Marquis, the grand champion of the Canadian National exhibition this year, and who was reserve champion here last year. (Casswell also won second in the junior yearling bulls on Lavender Marshall.

In Aberdeen Angus, J. D. MacGregor, of Brandon, Manitoba, won first in three-year-old bulls, with Leroy Third, of Meadowbrook; second in two-year-olds with Expert of Dalnany, first in aged cows and first in two-year-old cows.

# FARM GARDEN

PREPARING STOCK FOR WINTER.

Every farmer should be prepared for the winter.

Often we see calves shivering in fence corners beneath a drizzling rain or in a sleety blast, and the farmer quite heedless of the suffering caused the poor animals, and the great loss to himself. Fools, sheep, and even the larger animals "hardened to the blast," lose in value and in flesh at this period of the year.

One night out in this weather may leave its effects for months on the animal, lessening their vitality and power to withstand the rigour of a Canadian winter.

A few nights in the lee of a wire fence, or the shelter of an old tub, may prepare the body for a successful attack of some of the diseases following a chill.

All animals should be sprayed with some of the insecticides before being put into winter quarters.

Comparing all the insecticides I know of (and I have used many), my choice is Kerosem Emulsion; not that it is more effective, but because it is cleaner, nicer to use, and probably the best cleanser of the skin in use. Where cattle, horses, sheep and hogs have been properly sprayed to keep flies off during the summer, there is no danger of any of the diseases following a chill.

If the weather will permit it, a little time may be well spent in cleaning up the refuse vegetation of the garden and burning surviving weeds and other rubbish, so that all will be clear for early work next spring. When that is done, a liberal dressing of manure, preferably well decomposed, in order to be as free from vital weed seeds as possible, should be applied and plowed under. Such soil, if properly drained, should be in good order for planting very early potato and other crops, which are most appreciated for the home and profitable for the market. A little extra preparation in the late autumn will greatly hasten operations and make the spring work more pleasurable.—Farmer's Advocate.

There is no more effective vermifuge on the market than Miller's Worm Powders. They will not only clear the stomach and bowels of poultry, but will prove very serviceable medicine for children, in relieving the infantile system and maintaining it in a healthy condition. There is nothing in their composition that will injure the most delicate stomach when directions are followed, and they can be given to children in the full assurance that they will utterly destroy all worms.

In spraying animals be sure to spray round the base of horns, in and about the ears, between the legs and all over the body. If coat is very thick, use a carder, and card till the spray enters to the skin.

One spraying is not enough. It should be repeated in a week.

Keep a good lookout during the winter, and if need be, spray again.

Any proportion of this formula may be made, and only that quantity which can be put on the day it is made, as there is a tendency for the oil and water to separate.

This mixture put on working horses daily checks annoyance from black flies, bot flies, horn flies, etc.

This preparation if put on milk cows after milking has no ill effect on the milk, which cannot be said of some of the other preparations.

Before putting cattle in the stable, see that the doors and windows are all right and tight, and the ventilators in order. It is easier and better to open them and doors when too warm than to fix up to keep cold out in bad weather.

Comfortable quarters for all animals is a saving of feed. Have water handy and in a sheltered place.

There could not be a worse feature about any farm than shovelling snow and cutting holes in the ice for water to the may drink. Give them a chance to have a drink in a sheltered place, and they will take on flesh more readily, and give a better flow of milk.

Whitewash the stables everywhere—overhead, stalls, manger, and everywhere where it can be sprayed on, and it will act as a disinfectant and make the stable light and cheerful.

Tody Jennie tells me young Wendy proposed to her last night. Wendy: I don't know him. Is he well off? Tody: Certainly is. She refused him. T. H. B.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Apples have to be pretty cheap when it doesn't pay a farmer to pick and pack the crop in his own orchard.

Drips count up when there are enough of them. The many small incomes from orchard and garden go quite a way towards rounding out the yearly revenue of the farm.

So persistent and continued are the ravages of the Gypsy and Brown-Tail Moths that the United States Department of Agriculture propose to quarantine a large extent of territory in Eastern New England, Maine and New Hampshire. Shipments of plants would have to pass inspection before going out of the areas in question.

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Before putting cattle in the stable, see that the doors and windows are all right and tight, and the ventilators in