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Sunday School Department

THE LESSON FOR MARCH 1, 1914. PREPARED BY DR. Z. T. CODY IN BAPTIST COURIER

WATCHFULNESS

Luke 12:35-48. The passage which forms this lesson is the conclusion of the address on covetousness which we began to study last week. The subject was not wholly changed, and we would do well to hold in mind that what our Saviour says here is said primarily of the temptation to covetousness, though, of course, his words can have a wider application.

It is also well to hold in mind that this passage is not referring to what we usually speak of as the "second coming" of Christ. At least I think that it does not. The second coming of Christ is that event at the end of all the ages which will bring history itself to a close. It will be followed by the resurrection and the final judgment. It is not possible for us to think that this great event is liable to come at any hour. The Scriptures do not encourage us in this expectancy, and those who try to cultivate it are liable to become fantastic.

But this passage and a great many other passages speak of the coming of Christ into our lives that we can live in daily and hourly expectancy of. We must remember that the Christ who is coming at the end of all the ages is now living and reigning over this world and especially over his church, people and ministers. While he is absent from it, so far as bodily presence is concerned, yet he is present in spirit. He sees and controls all. And it is he who comes in judgment to men at the end of the world.

A young Baptist minister a few years ago was living in gross sin and had been for a good long time. He confidently thought he had so covered his deeds that he could go on. And yet, in an hour, that he thought not and by ways he never dreamed of, he was utterly exposed and was appointed his portion with the hypocrites. This is but a sample.

Now, as Christ came to that man, so he is liable to come to every disciple and especially to every minister. Those who expect Christ to judgment in this life are not confined to individuals. He thus comes to families, to churches, to nations. But our lesson today deals with his coming to individuals. He is thus liable to come any day and any hour. It is not we who are responsible to ever expecting him. He not only comes to judge; he also suddenly comes to bless. It is perfectly wonderful how, as we say, the wheel of fortune turns in a good man's life and he is raised at once to honor and power. In every single instance these are acts of our Christ. Let us therefore study this lesson in the light of these suggestions.

To All Disciples. 1. The figure of the Master, verses 35-38. In that age men had slaves whom they would often require to render unreasonable service; and whom they would unmercifully beat for the smallest offenses. In that age the wedding feast was the convivial occasion and at wedding feasts men would eat and drink until far into the night and would return home at any old hour, and ready to pour out unlimited rage on any poor servant that was not ready to open to him at the first sound of his foot-fall and to wait on him in every detail of his needs and whims. Those servants stayed wide awake all night with their clothes on and their lamps not only burning, but trimmed so they would burn brightly.

Such were the domestic scenes at Christ's feet under tribute here to point the lesson of how his disciples should be ready for him. They must be so living that they will be ready to welcome him. And they must be thus ready all the time, even at those times when it seems impossible for him to come. Note the fact that the readiness which Christ refers to is the readiness of life, "the clothes striped and the lamps burning." It is not enough to be always expecting Christ. This expectancy will do no good unless it keeps one dressed ready to meet Christ. And the "dress" to be worn on this ever present occasion is the dress of a life that accords with Christ's commandments. His truth must be brightly burning in our hearts.

Where men are thus dressed to welcome Christ, they will find him not an unreasoning, whimsical and tyrannical master but the most merciful and loving of all. He will not punish those who will not be punished. The figure of the thief, verses

39-40. I need not draw out the custom of thieves. Suffice it to say that with deliberation they select that hour and way in which to come that are the most unlikely. And if one protects his goods from thieves he must never leave them unguarded. And with this strong figure our Saviour enforces the lesson "Be ye also ready for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."

Especially to Ministers. Ministers live in the midst of holy things and it is something thought that they do not have to be ever on their guard against slipping into the life of the world. Peter was perhaps having some such thoughts but to him Christ seemed to be talking to ministers as to all and Peter was mystified. When he was in that frame of mind he had to ask questions. And on this occasion his brought an answer which reveals that if anything, ministers must be on their guard more than others, and are held on fall.

The figure changes somewhat. In this instance the Master takes a far off journey (such is the exposition) and leaves a steward in charge. This steward was a servant or slave and to a heavier account when the fall. His special business was to see that all the other servants were cared for. He was to be a servant of servants. Such is the minister. Now there are two great prime elements that must be in a minister's character. First, he must ever retain the consciousness and the life of a steward. Let him lose this and he becomes a useless minister. The second is that he must be unselfish. The moment he becomes selfish he ceases to be a true minister. Anyone can see how important these two elements are to a steward who must ever be ready, and a minister is tempted to lose one or both of these elements of character. If he retains them his Lord will make of him what he will. If he begins to "slip," that is, to become a servant, and become a tyrant, or to "drink with the drunken," that is, become selfish and sink into a life of ease and pleasure, if he lose his proper character his Lord will come suddenly and give him his lot with hypocrites. The minister, "who knows his Lord's will," if he fall, will be beaten with many stripes and the ordinary man who does not know but falls, will have only a few stripes.

THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Will Convene in Abbeville on Monday, The 23rd of March (Abbeville Medium)

The court of common pleas will convene in Abbeville on Monday, March 23rd. Judge Bowman of Orangeburg, will preside. The following is a list of jurors by townships:

- Donalds Township—G. W. Sharp, J. A. Black, R. M. Burtis. Abbeville Township—C. Lamar Fitch, J. F. Williams, W. S. DuPre, B. H. Williams, D. E. Pressley, Joe F. Edwards, B. P. Greens, L. W. Keitar, Robert L. Chestnut, R. E. Link and R. C. Perry. Marlott—John Beasley, W. C. Linder, A. B. Posler, W. R. Boyd, D. L. Wardlaw. Diamond Hill—P. P. Simpson, G. T. Hodge. Lowndesville—Ernest Barnes, E. F. Lattimer. Calhoun Mills—E. F. Cowan. Bordeaux—J. B. Henderson, J. B. Full, A. T. Bonaford, W. J. Link. Lone Camp—J. B. Duncan. Dog West—J. C. Hadden, R. F. McGee, L. O. Ashley, J. C. Pruitt, E. W. Sawright.

ARIZONA'S PERCENT COTTON

Crop of 2,100 Bales Brings Price in Liverpool Equal to Egyptian (Washington Dispatch) A portion of the 2,100 bale 1912 crop of Arizona long staple cotton of the Egyptian type, developed by the Department of Agriculture, sold in Liverpool recently for 23 1/2 cents a pound, netting the Arizona growers 21 1/2 cents a pound at their shipping point in Salt River Valley, it was announced today by Secretary Houston. This was taken to indicate that English spinners consider this cotton is equal to the best grades produced in Egypt. A quantity sold to American spinners brought prices which make this a very profitable crop for irrigated lands of the Southland.

Fig—do you believe in metempsychosis? Figs—Come again, please. Fig—It's like this, according to the doctrine, my soul after get through with it may inhabit the body of a jackass. Fig—Well, I don't know any more where it would find more at home. Boston Transcript.

AT THE CHURCHES

Orrville Baptist Church. Sabbath school at 10:00 a. m. W. L. Belcher, supt. Public worship at 11:15 a. m. Sermon by the pastor, Norman W. Stone. Evening worship at 7:00. Mid-week prayer meeting.

Grace Church. Rev. J. H. Gibboney, rector. Phone 855. Services for the second Sunday in Lent. 8:00 a. m. Holy Eucharist. 10:15 a. m. Sunday school. 10:30 a. m. Bible class. 11:30 a. m. morning prayer and sermon. Monday 4:00 p. m. evening prayer. Tuesday 4:30 p. m. evening prayer. Wednesday 10:00 a. m. Holy Eucharist. Thursday 8:00 p. m. evening prayer. Friday 4:30 p. m. children's service.

Central Presbyterian Church. D. Witherspoon Dodge, pastor. The order of services tomorrow will be as follows: Sunday school at 10 o'clock. Mrs. W. S. Ramsey, supt. Morning service at 11:30; at this hour the pastor will see before the people the various activities and agencies of the Southern Presbyterian church. It will be an educational meeting in preparation for the great Every Member Campaign to be conducted the next Sabbath afternoon. Evening services at 7:30. Subject of sermon, "A Great Fall and a Great Restoration." We shall be glad to have any strangers in town to worship with us. The members of the church are especially urged to attend the morning service.

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Sabbath school at 10:30 a. m. Sabbath school at 10:30 a. m. Preaching by pastor, Rev. M. Harrison at 11:20 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. You are invited to join us in our work and worship. "Come with us, and we will do thee good."

The First Presbyterian Church. The services at the First Presbyterian church are open to the public and all are invited to attend. Tomorrow, the calendar will be as follows: Sabbath school at 10 o'clock preceded by the Teachers' meeting at 9:45. At 11:20 and 7:30 the pastor will preach. The choir of the church will furnish attractive music at both hours. You are cordially invited to be present.

First Baptist Church. Teacher's prayer meeting at 9:45. Sabbath school at 10:00. Dr. A. L. Smothers, supt. Public worship at 11:00. Sermon by the pastor, John F. Innes. Subject, "Our Father." Sunbeams will meet at 4:00. Young Woman's Missionary Society will meet at 7:00. This will be the first lesson in Mission study, book used, "China's New Day." The pastor will teach the class and all the young women of the church are invited to meet at this hour. Baptist Young Peoples' Union at 6:30. Subject, "The Character of God." Leader, Miss Inez Kay. Sermon by the pastor at 7:30. Subject, "The Passing of Opportunity." The public is cordially invited to attend and worship with us at all these services.

St. John's Methodist Church. John W. Spence, pastor. Sunday school at 10 o'clock. O. M. Heard, supt. Public worship at 11:30 a. m. Sermon by the pastor. Evening service at 7:30. It is with very great pleasure that we announce that Dr. H. N. Snyder will deliver an address at this hour. Dr. Snyder is visiting the city as the guest of the Y. M. C. A. Special music at both services.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Sunday, March 8th, Second Sunday of Lent. Sunday school promptly at 10 a. m. Holy mass and sermon at 11 a. m. Benediction and sermon at 4 p. m. Low Mass Monday at 7:30. Stations of the Cross. Sermon and benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Friday, March 13th at 7:30 p. m. Rev. E. A. Duff, officiating.

Christian Church. J. T. Dick, pastor. Services tomorrow as follows: Bible school at 10:30 a. m. Preaching and communion at 11:20. Preaching again at 7:30 p. m. Subject for morning sermon, "Jesus, Test of Discipleship." (John 17:15. Subject for the evening sermon, "A Call and the Reason." This church welcomes to its worship and work all who wish to live according to the life of Jesus Christ. It seeks to emphasize the union of all Christians by the New Testament model—no creed but the living Christ, no name but Christian; and no authority but the Bible.

Bethel Church. The home like church. Sunday school at 10 o'clock. Preaching at 11:20 by Rev. J. D. Crout. Services at 7:30 p. m. Preaching by the pastor. All are invited to come and help us as we are trying to help others. If Senator Hoke Smith is to have any opposition it has not yet developed.



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Moore-Wilson Co.

MRS. J. C. HOLLEMAN extends cordial invitation to her many friends and customers to view our first display new hats beginning Wednesday, March 4th. You will find these creations embrace all the extreme and modified styles. Our Suits and Dresses, and Ladies' Furnishings hold many novelties dear to a woman's heart. West Side Public Square. Subscribe for The Intelligencer

Ford advertisement featuring the Ford logo and text: 'Think of the Company behind the car and you'll realize why Fords and Government bonds are bought with equal assurance. Strongest financially—world-wide in scope—largest in volume of output. We build our reputation into the car. Better buy a Ford. Five hundred dollars is the price of the Ford runabouts; the touring car is five fifty; the town car seven fifty—L. O. B. Detroit, complete with equipment. Get catalog and particulars from Archibald Ford, local dealer, Anderson, S. C.'

Autopiano advertisement featuring an illustration of the instrument and text: 'Searchers for Real Musical and Artistic... This instrument has all the devices that are necessary to make a Player-piano "human," and only a little practice is needed to produce artistic results. Many great artists and musicians have commented on the perfect manner in which the Autopiano does its work. You can convince yourself of its artistic qualities by calling at our store today to see and hear the Autopiano. How old piano looks in comparison. Payments to suit your convenience. C. A. Reed Piano & Organ Co., Anderson, S. C.'