

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR SEPTEMBER 28

REVIEW: JESUS OUR SAVIOUR AND KING, OR PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM.

The method of review should be determined by the grade of the class. For the Primary the review should center in the topic, "Jesus and the Children," the Junior, "Choosing Jesus as Saviour," Intermediate, "Accepting Christ's Program for Our Lives," for the Senior and Adult grades the subject of the church, noting its membership, ordinances, worship, and service. A better way would be to study more fully the parables of the kingdom as set forth in Matthew 13:44-50.

I. The Parable of the Hid Treasure (v. 14).

The usual interpretation of this parable, making Christ the hid treasure for which a sinner must give up everything in order to buy his salvation, must be rejected for the following reasons: (1) Christ is not hidden in a field, but has been lifted up and made a spectacle to the world. (2) Nobody has ever been obliged to buy the world in order to get Christ. (3) Salvation cannot be purchased, for it is God's free and gracious gift. (4) No warrant is ever held out to a man to conceal his religion after it is obtained.

1. The field. This is the world (v. 38). Fortunately this landmark has been made by Christ himself.

2. The treasure. In Psalm 135:4 we are told that Israel, the chosen people, is his treasure. The same truth is set forth in different places and ways (Deut. 7:6-8; 14:2; 26:18; 32:5, 9). When Christ uttered this parable the ten tribes were already concealed from human observation, and as to the rest of Israel it was a prophecy of that which was to follow. The kingdom as to its relation and bearing is now hidden. Christ was primarily sent to the Jews; for their sake the field was bought.

3. The Purchaser: the Son of God (John 3:16).

None but the Son of God had such resources to buy the world.

4. The purchase price. This was the precious blood of the Son of God, which is worth infinitely more than silver and gold and the treasures of the earth (I Peter 1:13, 19; Isa. 53).

II. The Parable of the Merchantman Seeking Goodly Pearls (vv. 45, 46).

1. The merchantman. He is actively engaged in search for pearls. In this search he discovers one pearl of great price. This merchantman is none other than Christ himself. The whole activity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, since the fall of man, has been seeking those who are lost.

2. The purchasing price. The merchantman sold all—impoverished himself in order to buy the pearl. The poor lost sinner could not buy Christ. His salvation is without money and without price. Christ did impoverish himself turned his back upon the heavenly glory (Phil. 2:6-8) to purchase the one pearl of great price by his own precious blood (Eph. 5:25; I Pet. 1:18, 19).

3. The pearl of great price. This is the church. The merchantman will find other pearls of value, but the peerless gem set above all others will be the church which he has purchased with his own blood.

III. The Parable of the Drag Net (vv. 47, 50).

This gives us a picture of the consummation of the kingdom. No one can mistake the meaning here. Note:

1. The sea. This word when used in a figurative sense denotes peoples and multitudes (Dan. 7:3; Rev. 17:15).

2. The drag net. The word "net" in the authorized version is properly translated "dragnet."

3. The net drawn to the shore when full.

4. The assortment made by the angels.

5. The destiny of the bad fish, or wicked men.

He Draws Hearts of Men.

On that day when our Lord Jesus Christ was lifted up, all sorts of people were drawn to him. There were those who loved him dearly at the foot of the Cross. There were scribes, and learned men, and aristocrats, and priests and common people. There were simple peasants from the country, shepherds from the hills, and a motley crowd from the city streets. There were Roman soldiers and Galilean pilgrims. It was a crowd representative of all the world's people, and today when he is lifted up even as of old, he draws to himself the hearts of men.

The Work That God Appoints.

I am not bound to make the world go right, but only to discover and to do with cheerful heart the work that God appoints.—Jean Inezlow.

Pass That Day in Peace.

You have only a day to pass on earth; so act as to pass that day in peace.—De Lamennais.

POULTRY CULTURE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

Clemson College, Sept. 20.—"Artificial hatching of and rearing of chickens is preferable to natural when more than two hundred chickens are reared annually," is a rule which appears in the fifth edition of extension bulletin 16, "Poultry Culture for South Carolina," which has just come off the press. This rule and the details of artificially producing chickens are among the new things clearly set forth in the publication by the author, Frank G. Hare, professor of poultry husbandry at Clemson college, in the 14 pages of text dealing with this subject.

Illustrations of the most suitable incubators and brooders for use in South Carolina are included in this latest edition of the bulletin, so that any one who wishes to hatch chickens this fall or winter without waiting for the old sitting hen may obtain directions for carrying on the work properly.

The new edition is revised and enlarged from the earlier editions, which have been very popular, and is now a complete seventy-two page poultry book, with thorough and up to date discussions of breeds, houses, natural and artificial rearing, feeds and feeding, diseases and parasites, etc., with over two dozen illustrations.

A free copy can be had by asking the extension service, Clemson college, S. C., for extension bulletin 16, "Poultry Culture for South Carolina."

COLORS FAIR.

The colored people of Lexington County are making earnest preparations looking toward the success of their county fair, which is to be held at Lexington on October 24 and 25, following the conclusion of the white fair.

Arrangements have been made with the authorities of the white fair to use the grounds used by the white people and many of the attractions will remain for the benefit of the colored people.

An active campaign is now being put on by the officers of the Colored Fair Society for exhibits from members of their race, and it is hoped by them that a creditable showing will be made.

The officers of the colored organization are as follows:

- President—Rev. J. A. King.
- Vice President—P. N. Summers.
- Secretary—J. H. Leaphart.
- Asst. Secretary—E. Ramey.
- Treasurer—G. I. Richardson.
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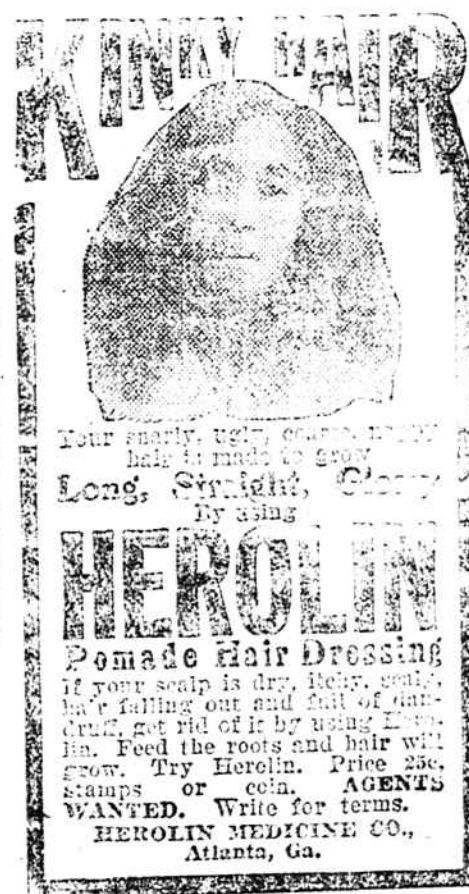
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