

# Corner For Religious News

## Sunday School Lesson!

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Dean of the Evening School, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.) (© 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

### Lesson for December 20

#### CHRISTMAS LESSON

LESSON TEXT—Matt. 2:1-15.  
GOLDEN TEXT—"For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Wise Men Visit the Baby Jesus.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Wise Men Follow the Star.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The Christmas Spirit.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Prince of Peace.

Note: For this Sunday's lesson the lesson committee has given us an option of a Christmas lesson or a summary of Paul's life. It is presumed that most teachers will prefer the Christmas lesson since Paul has been the central figure for six months.

I. The Wise Men Seeking Jesus (vv. 1-2).

These wise men who sought Jesus were either Arabian or Persian astrologers, students of the stars. The appearance of an unusual star attracted their attention. Perhaps they were acquainted with the famous prophecy of Balaam (Num. 24:17). Doubtless through the influence of the Jews who remained in Chaldea, or the direct influence of Daniel extending to this time, they had become acquainted with the hope of a Messiah. The light they had was dim, but they lived up to the best they had. We learn from them:

1. That All True Wisdom Leads to the Savior, for He Is the Fullness of Wisdom.

2. That God's Word Shall Not Return Unto Him Void (Isa. 55:11).

The seed cast upon the Eastern waters brought forth fruit after many days. This ought to bring confidence to many ministers and Sunday school teachers who have not as yet seen the fruit of their labors.

3. The Grace of God Calls Men From Unexpected Quarters.

Some who have the least opportunities give the greatest honor to Christ, while others, blessed with the richest opportunities, shut Him out.

II. Herod Seeking to Kill Jesus (vv. 3-8).

The news brought by the wise men struck terror to Herod's heart. He was not alone in this for all Jerusalem was troubled with him. A glimpse at the social customs in and about Jerusalem in that day will enable us to understand why this news brought uneasiness to the people. They were living in the greatest luxury. Beautiful apparel, sumptuous feasts, palatial houses, etc., led to gross immorality. We can thus readily see why Herod and all Jerusalem should be troubled.

They did not want a Savior who would save them from their sins; they wanted to continue in them. Herod demanded of the priests and scribes information as to where Christ should be born. They were soon able to tell him. These people had a technical knowledge of the Scriptures, but had no heart for the Savior as set forth therein. Conditions much like these prevail today. This reception of the Savior shows that perverseness of heart is the cause of so many being indifferent to Christ, and of their opposition to Him when His claims are presented.

It is true today that the luxuries of wealth, the frivolities of the fashion-lovers, and the gross immorality to which these lead, make Jesus Christ unwelcome in many quarters.

III. Jesus Found (vv. 9-12).

The wise men, having obtained the desired information, started immediately to find Jesus. As soon as they left the city the star which had guided them from the East appeared again to lead them on—not that it had disappeared from the sky, but no doubt the city buildings shut out its light. The star guided them to the place where Jesus was. When they found Him they worshipped Him. In this they displayed true faith. They did not see any miracle, only a babe, yet they worshipped Him as king. Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed (John 20:29). Note God's overruling providence in all this. Many hundred years before the prophet had said that Christ should come from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). God so ordered affairs that Mary should be brought to that city to give birth to Christ. Let us be assured that nothing can thwart the divine purpose. God so ordered that these men should depart another way, thereby defeating Herod's wicked purpose. Through these wise men the Lord gave gifts into the hands of Joseph and Mary before their going to Egypt. Doubtless this served a good purpose in meeting their expenses during their stay there. Truly all things work together for good to them that love God (Rom. 8:28).

#### Life

Life is but a day, and the hours flee. Soon it is high noon, then afternoon, evening, night, when all service ceases. —R. P. Anderson.

#### Simplicity and Purity

"Simplicity and purity are the two wings by which a man is lifted up

#### WHY GO TO CHURCH?

Thought transference takes place when two minds are in personal and sympathetic touch with each other. The teacher, therefore, succeeds as the mind of the pupil is in personal and sympathetic touch with the teacher, and by this means we have built up a national public school system.

Moral and religious life is dependent upon the transference of moral and religious thought and to be vitalized it must come from the Creator of moral and religious life.

What the school is to public education, the Church is to moral and religious education. What the public school teacher is in our educational system, Christ is in the Christian religion. Public school attendance is compulsory but Church attendance is voluntary though more important.

WHY NOT GO TO CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY?

#### Sermonograms

The weakest among us has a gift.

What makes life dreary is want of motive.

We pardon in the degree that we love.

Who upon earth could live were all judged justly?—Bunyan.

The soul of culture is the culture of the soul.—Bushnell.

Hate of one will affect our attitude toward all.—Black.

When the devil throws away his mask he loses his popularity.—Western.

Riches never make men happy; as much may be said of poverty.

The making of friends, who are real friends, is the best token we have of a man's success in life.—Edward Everett Hale.

It will disturb you when you discover that God sees your sins.

Every day should be passed as if it were to be our last.—Syrus.

To carry care to bed is to sleep with a pack on your back.

Working together makes the difference between a handful of junk and a watch.—Mohr.

Character is a matter of choice. We make our choice and our choices make us.

Mix thoughtfulness and kindness and you will get courtesy.—Forward.

You cannot throw light on a subject by a heated argument.—Western Christian Advocate.

No one is useless in the world who lightens the burden of it for anyone else.—Dickens.

To have what we want is riches; but to be able to do without is power.—George MacDonald.

The test of your Christian character should be that you are a joy-bearing agent to the world.—Beecher.

It is indeed a desirable thing to be well descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors.—Plutarch.

COMMENTS ON THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

RELIGIOUS NEWS GATHERED ALL AROUND THE WORLD

The Presbyterian Board of National Missions must cut its budget by \$500,000 unless there is some readjustment.

The annual convention of the Religious Education Association will be held in Toronto, March 10-13, 1926, the general theme being "Education for Participation in World Affairs."

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan's son is to act as assistant minister when the Doctor begins his six months' term of service as special preacher at First Presbyterian church, Cincinnati, Ohio, January 1st.

Dr. Wm. Chalmers Covert, general secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education, is now organizing a nation-wide interdenominational movement to restore and Christianize the American family.

Nolan R. Best, who as editor of the

Continent has been for years one of the most prominent figures in American Journalism, has become secretary of the Federation of Churches of Baltimore.

A dinner was recently given by the music publishers of Chicago in honor of Charles H. Gabriel, probably the greatest living song writer. The dinner was served in the Grill Room at Marshall Field's.

Dr. Clarence Edward Macartney, former moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, pastor of the Arch Street Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, has been elected professor of apologetics and Christian Ethics in Princeton Seminary.

The committee of educational and religious drama of the Federated Council of Churches announces that its annual religious drama prize has been awarded to Marshall N. Goods, Leicester, Mass., for his three-act play, "Quest Divine."

The bi-centenary has been celebrated of the first sermon preached by John Wesley. The original manuscript of that sermon, now in the possession of Russell Colman of Norwich, England, was displayed, while the parish church still uses the pulpit from which Wesley preached.—The Christian Century.

The Presbyterian General Council in session at Atlantic City, N. J., Dec. 4, adopted a memorial to William Jennings Bryan, late Vice-Moderator of the General Assembly. The memorial was prepared by Dr. Clarence Edward Macartney of Philadelphia, who was moderator of the General Assembly while Mr. Bryan was Vice-Moderator.

Roman Catholics are making large numbers of converts among Negroes. There are now half a million Catholic negroes according to Frank J. Atkins, a Catholic writer, as compared with 4,500,000 Protestants. The Knights of Columbus will raise a special fund of \$10,000,000 for further work among members of the race.

WEEKLY STORY OF EARLY EDUCATION IN THE HOMES

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the spirit of brotherhood today has five years ago? WHY?

#### Lesson Prayer

Dear Jesus, we thank Thee for the spirit of love and good-will that is abroad in our land at this Christmas season. Fill our lives with the joy and peace which Thou didst come to give. We bring to Thee our best, and with it ourselves and our loved ones.

What these Wise Men purposed to find the whole world is unconsciously seeking.

V. 3—"Herod was troubled." When the soul seeks Jesus' angel's rejoice; but Satan sets pride and selfishness to bar the way.

V. 4—"When a wrong wants righting, or a work wants doing, or a truth wants preaching, God sends a baby into the world to do it."—F. H. Boreham.

V. 7—"Herod inquired of them what time their star appeared."—A man may seek the best with the worst motive.

V. 8—"Go and search for the young child; and when ye have found him worship me that I may come and worship him also." Modern Herods still seek the life of the young child.

V. 9—"Heaven itself is in the aged old search for a Saviour."

V. 10—"When they say the star they rejoiced," always a cause of rejoicing.

V. 11-12—"They presented him gifts; gold, frankincense and myrrh." At Christmas time today too many of us instead of giving gifts exchange them. The genuine Christmas spirit spells "self" with small letters, and "others" with capitals.

I know where Christmas dwells; wherever anyone so loves that he gives there is Christmas."—Mary Foot Lord.

#### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

On the Christmas Lesson

The Christmas Spirit—Matt. 2:1-15.

1. How was the world ready for the coming of Christ?

2. What lessons may we learn about Christmas giving from the Wise Men?

3. How may the spirit of unselfishness be developed among children at Christmas time?

4. How does the world reject the prince today?

5. How can we help to bring peace to nations, classes, races and neighbors?

6. Do you think there is more of

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#### Book Review

CHRIST IN HIGH SCHOOL LIFE, by Ralph P. Claggett, The Abingon Press, Cincinnati, Ohio, \$1.00, is a hand-book for daily devotions based on the application of the principles of Jesus to High School problems. The author has provided this need in this little book.

THE APOSTOLIC MESSAGE, by Benjamin W. Bacon, The Century Company, 353 Fourth Avenue, New York City, \$3.50, will be welcomed by scholars, making, perhaps, a parting of the ways for modern interpretation of the historic faith—not so much for scholars as for the intelligent open-minded lay reader.

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY OF THE UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH OF WREN, OHIO, WILL STAGE THE PLAY, "LITTLE MISS JACK," IN THE K. O. T. M. HALL AT WREN, WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 16. THE PLOT OF THE PLAY IS A STIRRING STORY OF THE ADVENTURES OF A GIRL, LOST IN HER FATHER, FOUND IN THE SLUMS, BROUGHT BACK TO THE LUXURIOUS SURROUNDINGS OF HER BIRTHRIGHT, AND IMPERILED BY THE ATTEMPTS OF JEALOUS ENEMIES TO CAUSE HER DISAPPEARANCE. A PLAY WITH REMARKABLE APPEAL, ESPECIALLY FOR AUDIENCES DEMANDING STRONG EMOTIONAL SCENES WITH PLENTY OF HEARTY COMEDY. LIVELY ACTION THROUGHOUT, SUSTAINED SUSPENSE, AND NUMEROUS BIG SITUATIONS. ITS POPULARITY ON THE PROFESSIONAL STAGE IS SURE TO BE EQUALLED IN THE AMATEUR FIELD.

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