

Improved Uniform International LESSON

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Lesson for August 5

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ISAAC'S HERITAGE

LESSON TEXT—Genesis 24:10, 15-20, 34-36, 61-67.
GOLDEN TEXT—I have a goodly heritage.—Psalm 16:6.

The ordinary things of life become extraordinary when we recognize in them the outworking of the plan of God. Our lesson presents one of history's sweetest love stories. It would be worth reading just for that reason, but it is also the account of God's hand in the carrying forward of His promised blessing on the seed of Abraham.

For a long time it seemed that there could be no fulfillment at all, for Sarah and Abraham had no child. Then by a miracle, God gave them a beloved son.

Isaac's remarkable deliverance in the hour when it looked as though he might be taken from his father (Gen. 22:10-12) was like bringing back one who was dead (Heb. 11:18, 19).

He grew into manhood, and Abraham, good father and faithful servant of the Lord, determined that his son must have a goodly wife. So in accordance with Oriental custom he sent a most trusted servant back to their homeland to choose a bride from their own kindred.

The altogether charming story unfolds in our lesson as we see:

I. A Faithful Servant (vv. 10, 15-20).
Full instructions from Abraham and an oath that he would not take a bride for Isaac from among the Canaanites, prepared the servant for his journey. Taking with him a goodly caravan and rich presents from his master, he set out on his journey.

There is much to learn here about the need of parental concern, and their interested action in helping young people to find the right mate. We see the importance of avoiding "mixed" marriages, especially those between a believer and an unbeliever.

We see the need of constant dependence on God, for only He has the wisdom and the knowledge of human hearts which can properly join two lives together. In our day when marriage is so carelessly and casually contracted, these matters need special emphasis.

II. A Fair Damsel (vv. 15-20).
To be good to look upon is certainly a desirable thing in a woman, but it has been far too much exploited in our day. Notice that while Rebekah was very fair, she also had those qualities of character and of experience which prepared her to be a good wife for Isaac.

She was kind and willing to serve; not only did she offer water to the servant of Abraham, but promptly watered his camels. Such an attitude of heart and mind is a great asset to a woman in marriage.

She was instructed in the domestic arts. The fact that she had come to draw water indicated that, and her ability to draw the water showed that she had experienced the duties of woman in the household.

Here is wise counsel for the young man who is interested in marriage, and for his parents as they guide him. Let him look for the girl with the fair countenance if he will, but let him be sure that there is something really worthwhile behind the pretty face.

No woman, no matter how extensive her culture or how rich her family, is ready for marriage until she knows something of the responsibilities of family life and has a will to do what she can for the care and comfort of others.

III. An Honorable Proposal (vv. 24-26).
Abraham's trusted man, perceiving that God had led him to the one of His choice, at once stated his errand. There was no trickery, no smooth double-talk. This was a straight-out proposal that Rebekah come with him to be the bride of Isaac.

Notice that he made known his master's financial position, and made clear the place Rebekah would occupy as the wife of Isaac. That is as it should be. There is a contractual basis for marriage which calls for complete candor and honest dealing.

But there was more here, for Rebekah ultimately responded to the dictates of her own heart when she said, "I will go." (see v. 58). It was **IV. A Love Marriage (vv. 61-67).**
Isaac, meditating in the twilight, presents a fine picture of a man spiritually ready to be a good husband. He had more to offer than riches. Let other young men follow his example.

The tender scene of their meeting, and of the love which welled up in their hearts at first sight of one another, needs no comment.

We do need to say that unless America gets back to real love marriages, our nation is destined for disaster. Matrimony based on physical attraction, improper emphasis on sex, or on convenience, will never be able to meet the stress of modern life. Love can and will do it, especially where those who thus love one another first love God.

Creamed Comments On The Sunday School Lesson

ISAAC'S HERITAGE

Genesis 21: 10-67 for Sunday, August 5.

In this lesson are taught the need to arouse appreciation of our heritage of religious institutions, to develop steadfast loyalty to religious ideals, to emphasize the responsibility of the home in preserving our religious heritage, to illustrate the influence and responsibilities of women in preserving the spiritual inheritance of the race.

V. 10. "And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the gods of his master were in his hand; and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor." Pure progeny was to be maintained in God's appointed family; blood inheritance is of prime importance.

V. 15. "And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcha, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher on her head." Abraham's servant accepted his mission so seriously that he engaged in earnest prayer that he might be rightly guided in making the right choice of a wife for Isaac. Marriage is a serious business and it ought to be preceded by much praying.

Vs. 16, 17. "And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her; and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and then came up. And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher." The sign this servant asked in his prayer was seen in Rebekah's giving him a drink and in offering water to his camels. Sometimes the will

Home Education

Generosity

A little child comes into the world with a generous and loving heart; he naturally divides with any one his toys and his candy; but as life opens before him, unless there is a careful parental guidance, there enters the spirit of selfishness.

The guidance needed is that which will induce the child to enjoy sharing what he has with others; it is the "only-one" child that usually grows up selfish. Parents, when they receive any thing for their children, should remember to give expressions of gratitude, thus encouraging expressions of thoughtfulness.

But the greatest praise needs to be given when there is a real sacrifice made by the child in sharing with others—that sharing that is free from expecting any thing in return, the sharing that has in it a service of love.

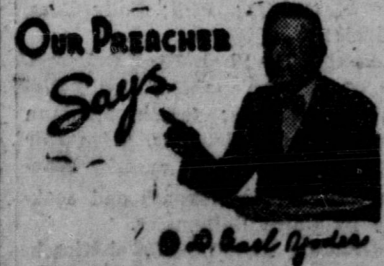
DO YOU KNOW?

1. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born?
2. What significant thing happened at Beersheba?
3. Why was Abraham requested to offer his son, Isaac?
4. Where was Isaac directed to find a wife?
5. Where were Abraham and Sarah buried?

Answers found on page 11.

ANSWERS TO "DO YOU KNOW?"

1. One hundred years.
2. A covenant between Abraham and Abimelech.
3. Because he loved Isaac more than God.
4. In Abraham's native country.
5. In Abraham's native country.
5. In the cave of Macpelah.



We are likely to be envious of those who are more fortunate. But the fortunate people are not always happy. The converse is often, if not more true. It is the people who have agonized through weeks, kept through months, suffered dreadful reverses, kept heartbreak at bay, who have enriched the world, and in being able to do this, they are the most happy.

of God is revealed in humble ways; here the case was clear; Rebekah was God's choice. There can be no mistake when a life companion is both man's and God's choice.

Vs. 18, 19. "And she said, Drink my lord; and she hastened and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink. And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking." There was a quick response on the part of both the servant who ran to meet her and on her part as she hastened and emptied her pitcher of water. Prompt action is required with right choices.

Vs. 34, 35. "And he said, I am Abraham's servant. And the Lord hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great; and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and man-servants and maid-servants, and camels, and asses." The greater blessing was spiritual; but all other blessings went with it, and all of them were from the Lord.

V. 36. "And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and unto him hath he given all that he hath." It was a matter of family record that there was pure blood and pious background in this chosen people of God.

V. 61. "And Rebekah rose and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man; and the servant took Rebekah and went his way." Full consent had been obtained from Rebekah's family. A happy home calls for harmony.

V. 62. "And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi; for he dwelt in the South country." Isaac was in a receptive mood for he put himself in the way of the coming bride. One can take forward steps without being forward.

V. 63. "And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at eventide; and he lifted up his eyes and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming." Isaac in his meditation provided the means whereby the voice of God could be made manifest. The sorrow of his mother was still his and the thought of another home with a happy companion was a matter for profound thought and thanksgiving.

V. 64. "And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel." She did what was considered good from which is not to be disregarded in the process of marriage.

V. 65. "For she had said unto the servant, What man is that, walking in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master, therefore she took a veil, and covered herself." The veil signified chastity, modesty, and subjection.

V. 66. "And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done." There was a complete understanding; true love followed.



The Rev. Dr. William Barrow Fugh, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., is now making the annual official visitation to chaplains in the Pacific Ocean Area as the representative of the General Commission on Army and Navy Chaplains. He made a similar visitation of theatres in Europe, Africa, Asia, and E. America.

The Methodist Board of Evangelism, Nashville, Tenn., recently approved an evangelistic radio program to be sponsored by the Upper Room, its devotional quarterly, and appropriated \$52,000 for establishing a radio department.

It is said that 22 of the 25 great historic buildings of France are practically intact, except that some are damaged. The Rouen cathedral, which is the worst injured, suffered less than the Rheims cathedral did in World War I. That these old cathedrals and chateaux should so generally have escaped injury is a matter for thanksgiving.

At the annual sessions in Chicago of the Council of Bishops of the Methodist Church, plans to encourage daily devotions in every Methodist home were announced as one

CHURCHES

First United Brethren
R. R. Wilson, Minister
Sunday school 9:15, Curtis Hill superintendent. Sunday school election.

Morning worship, 10:30; Charles Leader, a missionary to Africa for several years, will be the guest speaker.
Christian Endeavor 6:30.
Evening worship 7:30; sermon: "Malnutrition."
Prayer meeting, choir practice, Wednesday evening at 7:00 and 8:00.

First Methodist Church
Merrill O. Lester, Minister
Lowell J. Smith, Supt.

The Church School period begins at 9:25. The Public Worship period begins at 10:20.

The sermon subject will be "The Higher Citizenship." A cordial invitation is extended to all. Especially do we invite those attending the auctioneer school. The pastor will be at the Epworth Forest Institute during the week. There will be no mid-week service.

Zion Evangelical and Reformed
William C. Feiler, Pastor

Church School at 9:00 a.m. Lutheran Class, superintendent.
Worship service at 10:00 a.m. Sermon: "Finding Oneself." Come and worship with us. Visitors are always welcome.
The Women's Guild will meet at 8:00 p.m. in the church social room.

First Presbyterian Church
"Five Points"

John W. McPeckers, Jr., Minister
9:00 a. m. Bible Class conducted by Mrs. W. A. Lower.
9:30 a. m. Church School. W. P. Schrock, supt.

10:30 a. m. Morning Worship. Sermon: "The Stranger of Galilee." Vocal solo by Mr. Paul Sauer. Special music by the choir. Miss Sanna Kunkel and Mrs. Leo Saylor are conducting the "Toddler's Room" during the service. Children under five years of age are invited.

6:00 p. m. Westminster Youth Fellowship. Dian Linn will conduct the worship while Joan Dixon will lead the discussion on the topic, "You and I are Still Important."

Friday, 7:00 p. m. Choir practice.
Sunday, there will be regular Church School and Morning Worship services.

Church of the Nazarene
North 7th at Marshall St.
J. T. Trueax, pastor

Sunday school 9:30 a. m. Doyle Lytle, supt.
You are invited to our friendly school.

Morning worship 10:30 a. m. Special singing. Reports of delegates to missionary convention. Message from God's word.
Junior church 6:45 p. m. Young people's service 6:45 p. m. Evangelistic service 7:30 p. m. Be one of the crowd in our regular services. Enjoy our friendly spirit, and good fellowship. A special invitation to you.

Special singing, testimony meeting and message from God's word.
Prayer meeting Wednesday 7:45 p. m.

Nazarene District Camp meeting August 10-19 at Marion, Ind.

First Baptist Church
Carey R. Moser, Pastor

9:25 a. m. Sunday School. C. E. Bell, Supt.
10:15 a. m. Morning worship. Sermon by Rev. Albert Swenson. Anthem by the choir. The Lord's Supper will be observed.

7:30 p. m. Wednesday evening, the mid-week hour of prayer. Everyone welcome to this House of God.

of the next steps of the Crusade for Christ toward its four year goal of a million new members. Hope was expressed that five hundred new churches may be formed during that period. The crusade's \$25,000,000 goal for postwar relief and reconstruction recently was exceeded by \$1,000,000.

Asking the churches to double their extended efforts of this year's appeal, the directors of Lutheran World Action, has set as a goal \$10,000,000 during the years 1946 and 1947, and will seek the approval of the National Lutheran Council participating bodies. Representatives from all of the bodies participated in the discussion, argued all angles of the need and how to meet it, and agreed to put the challenge of immediate emergency needs squarely up to the Church.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Low Mass 6:00
Low Mass 7:30
Low Mass 9:00
Low Mass 10:15
Communion Sunday for St. Agnes Sodality.
Last mass followed by benediction.
No services in the afternoon.

Week Day Mass 6:00
Week Day Mass 7:00
Holy Hour, Friday, 7:30
Very Rev. Msgr. J. J. Seimeiz, Pastor

Missionary Church
Lyle Steiner, pastor

9:30, Sunday school.
10:30, Morning worship.
No evening service.
7:30 Wednesday, mid-week prayer service.

Zion Lutheran Church
Monroe and Eleventh Sts.
Paul W. Schultz, Pastor

Sunday school, 9:00 a.m.
Divine services, 10:00 a.m.
Lutheran Hour, 11:30 a.m.
Missionary society, Thursday, 9:00 a.m.

First Christian Church
Ronald Cochran, Minister

Bible School 9:30, Dorpus Drum supt. Come join the class for you.
Morning Worship 10:30. Communion and preaching services.
"Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is".

Evening Service 7:30. The young people of the church will present a four act religious play entitled, "Loves Triumph." This is a very fine play with a very fine cast to go with it. We believe it to be the best in religious plays and urge every one to attend.

Church of God
Glen E. Marshall, Pastor

9:30-11:20 Unified service.
6:30 Shining Lights.
6:30 Christian Crusaders.
7:30 Evening service.
7:30 Wednesday evening, mid-week prayer service.
7:30 Ladies' Missionary Society. Home of Mrs. Floyd Mitchell.

Jehovah's Witnesses
Kingdom Hall

West of Hanna Putnam Park
Service meeting 7:00 p.m.
Course in Theocratic ministry 8:30 p.m.
Watchtower Bible study 8:30 p. m.

All people of good will are invited to attend these timely Bible studies.

To insure a better U. S. bomb-sight, re-education engineers of the New York Corp. recently provided specially air-conditioned living quarters for a race of pampered spiders in a Newark, N. J. war plant. Reason: Spiders' webs make the best cross hairs for bombsights, and to keep the insects spinning contentedly the year round, they must have controlled climate.

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Special Services And Meetings Of Churches In Area



Plans are going forward for another Youth for Christ rally which will be held at the Berne band shell Friday evening at eight o'clock. In case of rain, the rally will be held at the First Mennonite church. Phil Saint, unusual chalk artist and dynamic youth leader, will be present. Also there will be quizzes, splendid musical talent, testimonies and group singing.

CHURCH FORUM

What is the importance of, and what constitutes, the will of God?

The will of God is simply the program of God. For moral and spiritual living the will of God is of first consideration. But it is hard to comprehend; it takes much study, and besides, much experience; for the will of God is known by both mind and spirit. Where one can not understand and know by scientific methods, one needs to proceed by faith in the promise of God. This procedure produces an experience in which one has satisfactory knowledge. Dr. Weatherhead says the will of God consists of his intentional will, his circumstantial will, and his ultimate will. God wills for man what he intends for his good; but sin frustrates his intentional will so that for the time being his will is suppressed, and may be known as his circumstantial will. But eventually his will prevails and that is his ultimate will.

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Constantin Metallmor, former Director of Finance of the Greek government says, "Our so-called civilized world must humble itself, must bow down to lift high the gospel of Christ which in an hour of drunken madness it has cast into the discarded rubbish heap. Taught in the school of bitter experience, seeing all the false dreams of happiness and prosperity without God fade away, our age would do well, like the people of old, to come back to the way of deliverance and life. Christ who offers to us the best ideal in life and the power to realize it. All else will continue to fail miserably and everlastingly. It is the church that proclaims the gospel of Christ; why not accept the invitation and Come To Church?—D. Carl Yoder.



War Religious Experience

Col. John H. Moorehead, M. D., while at Tripler Hospital in Honolulu wrote the following prayer: "God of Battle, grant that the wounded may swiftly arrive at their hospital haven, so that the safeguards of modern surgery may surround them, to the end that their pain is assuaged and their broken bodies mended. Grant me as a surgeon, gentle skill and intelligent foresight to bar the path to such sordid enemies as shock, hemorrhage and infection. Give me plentifully the blood of their non-combatant fellows, so that their vital fluid may be replaced and thus make all the donor people realize that, they, too, have given their life blood in a noble cause." Why not live the Better Way of prayer and help to make a Better World?—D. Carl Yoder.

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