

Improved Uniform International **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

LESSON

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Lesson for August 4

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JESUS AND THE SABBATH

LESSON TEXT—Exodus 20:8; Mark 2:23-24; Matthew 12:1-8.

MEETINGS SELECTION—This is the

day when the Lord hath made; we will

rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24.

"The Sabbath was made for man," and was ordained of God for the good of man's body and soul. It was intended to be a day of glad fellowship with the Lord.

Since the Sabbath—the seventh day—was essentially one of rest and worship, the principles which surrounded it and directed its life, may be applied to our day of rest, which is the first day of the week—the Lord's day.

That word "rest" sounds a little strange in this busy world of ours, and yet it is an important one. It means quiet for the struggling one, calm for the troubled, repose for the weary, cessation of labor for the worn-out one.

God in his infinite wisdom saw that without rest man would soon destroy himself, and he made provision for one day in seven when labor should cease and man should be free for that recreation of soul and body which should fit him for the labor of the week.

A Day of Holiness (Exod. 20:8).

God gave his people a holy day to balance up their days of labor and to bring blessing to their souls. On that day he decreed that they should come apart from their labors, turn from secular interests and turn their hearts and minds to the unseen and the eternal. Man would become so engrossed in the things of this world that he would soon forget; therefore, God commands him to stop and worship. That should be sufficient to cause his people to "remember" the day "to keep it holy."

Notice that the day of rest was to be not only for the family, but also for servants and for visitors.

The employer who unnecessarily operates his factory or office on Sunday violates this commandment. Note also that the man who is to rest on the seventh day is supposed to work on the six days. Some neglect to do both.

This matter of keeping the Lord's day holy is one which has tremendous implications in the lives of our children. Many men and women who have had built into their own characters the stalwart virtues nurtured by family attendance at divine worship have not only forgotten their own continuing need, but are destroying the interest of their children in church attendance.

It is serious enough to go astray in one's own life, but to lead one's children astray is an appalling responsibility. Let's keep the Lord's day as a holy day.

H. A Day of Helpfulness (Mark 2:23-28).

The formalists of Christ's day, the Pharisees, had overlooked the heart of God's law and the holy living which it was intended to produce, and had bound up even the observance of the sabbath (which was intended to be a day of rest and gladness) in such a mass of technical "thou shalt not's" that it was a day of fear.

The accusations against the disciples because they had taken and eaten grain was not on the ground that they had stolen, for the law (Deut. 23:25) guaranteed that right to the one who passed through his neighbor's field. The Pharisees contended, however, that the disciples had worked on the Sabbath in picking and hauling the grain.

God's laws are helpful laws, and it is only when men pervert them, or add to them their own traditions and interpretations, that they become burdensome to anyone who is God-fearing and obedient.

H. A Day of Healing (Matt. 12:8-13).

Jesus made it clear that healing of the body (yes, and of the soul) was most appropriate on the Sabbath day; in fact, that is the very day for it.

The healing of the man with the withered arm revealed that back of the Pharisees' professed concern for the Sabbath was a real hatred for Christ. It is an appalling thing that in the house of worship on the very Sabbath day, these men, outwardly so religious, were plotting against our Lord.

Jesus cuts across human hypocrisy and hatred to declare that the true keeping of the Sabbath is to do the work of God. No work of necessity (like plucking the grain) or of mercy (like healing the withered arm) is ever out of place on the day of rest.

A word of caution is needed, for some have sought to interpret this Scripture as providing biblical ground for doing all sorts of things on their day of rest. That day is for man's good, not for his destruction. His greatest good is served by rest, worship, spiritual development, Christian fellowship, and the doing of deeds of necessity and mercy.

The desecration of the Lord's day in our time is a serious matter. Let us not contribute to it.

RURAL CHURCHES

St. Luke Evangelical & Reformed
H. H. Meckstroth, pastor
9:00 Worship service.
10:00 Sunday school.
7:30 The people of the St. John church, Vera Cruz will meet with the people of the St. Luke church for a service and fellowship on the lawn of the St. Luke church. Everybody invited.

Union Chapel Church
United Brethren in Christ
D. H. and Celia Pelet, pastors
Unified morning services.
Sunday school, Thurman I. Drew, Superintendent, 9:30. The annual Sunday school election will be held just before going to classes.

Morning worship, Holy Communion and meditation, "Others" 10:15. Special music by the ladies chorus. Christian Endeavor for youth and adults; election in both groups 7:30.

Evening worship, subject, "My Neighbor" 8:00.

Official board and church election following the evening service. Prayer service and choir practice, Wednesday 8:00.

Sunday morning August 11th we will have with us a Gospel Team from Indiana Central College. Watch for announcement next week.

Pleasant Valley Wesleyan Methodist Church

All services, except Sunday school, will be dismissed Sunday in coordination with the Adams county holiness camp meeting at Monroe. This includes the Sunday morning worship, evening service and prayer meetings. Members are asked to come to Sunday school with a basket dinner and then go to the Monroe camp grounds for dinner.

Monroe Methodist Church

E. O. Kegereis, pastor
Morning worship 9:30.
Church school 10:30.

The evening service and the mid-week service will be suspended in favor of the Holiness Camp meeting.

The Methodist Youth of Adams and Wells counties will meet for an Epworth Forest Rally at the Church at 7:30.

Willshire Circuit

U. B. Church
L. A. Middaugh, pastor
Willshire

9:30 a.m. Sunday school, Fred Myers, Supt.

10:30 a.m. Class meeting, Charles Samples, leader.

8:00 p.m. Preaching service. Will receive missionary subscriptions for Home Missions.

8:00 p.m. Wednesday, prayer meeting.

St. Paul

9:15 a.m. Preaching service, a missionary talk. Will receive missionary subscriptions for home missions.

10:15 a.m. Sunday school, Eddie McFarland, Supt.

8:00 p.m. Tuesday, prayer meeting and Bible study, Dick Martin, leader.

Winchester

9:30 a.m. Sunday school, Meri Essex, Supt.

10:30 a.m. Preaching service and Communion. Subscriptions for home missions will be received.

8:00 p.m. Friday evening Aug. 2. Rev. Paul Parker will be with us to conduct the last quarterly meeting of the year.

8:00 p.m. Thursday, prayer meeting.

Decatur Methodist Circuit

Homer Studabaker, minister
Mt. Pleasant

Sunday school 9:30; Norval Fular, man Supt.

Morning worship 10:30; special music by Miss Esther Crepps; do not miss this service.

Youth meeting at Monroe 7:30.

Epworth Forest Institute Aug. 11 to 17. Come to church enjoy the fellowship of God's people, class for every one.

St. Tabor Methodist

C. C. Conn, Minister
Bible school 9:30; Ed Koos, Supt.

Morning worship 10:30; theme: The Acid Test of Religion.

Thursday evening prayer meeting 8:00. Scripture studies in Acts 2.

Sunday evening Aug. 4 young people will attend Youth Rally at Monroe.

Make St. Tabor your place of worship next Sunday morning.

John Baker Farm

Sold At Auction

George Schultz, employed at the Central Soya company in this city and a former navy man, bought the John Baker farm, east of Decatur at public auction yesterday.

The high bid for the 52 acres was \$94 an acre, totaling \$4,888. Mr. Schultz is married and it was stated he intended to build a house on the farm. Roy Johnson and Melvin Liechty were the auctioneers.

Trade in a Good Town—Decatur

COMMISSIONERS CLAIMS TO BE ALLOWED AUGUST 6, 1946

Haywood Pub. Co. op. 312.10

City of Decatur Ig. & pow. 323.91

Citizen's Tele. Co. op. 66.35

Clay O. Trounce, clerk op. 6.00

Haywood Pub. Co. auditor op. 78.00

Thurman I. Drew, auditor op. 10.50

Sutton Jewelry Store, treas. op. 19.00

Royal Typewriter Co. treas. op. 94.50

Rose Nesswald recorder op. 5.00

Mr. T. G. Gilling sheriff mil & op. 46.48

John Baker, dep. atty. op. 36.91

Calvin Dubach, druggist op. 99.00

Howard K. Foster, rep. tile dr. 9.10

Fred Thieme Jr. rep. tile dr. 22.40

Fred Isenhardt, rep. tile dr. 68.25

Wilmer Burttman, rep. tile dr. 7.00

W. W. Aschliman, rep. tile dr. 5.60

Calvin Dubach, druggist, tile dr. 10.50

James F. Parrish, rep. tile dr. 7.00

Knapp Serv. Sta. surv. op. 12.27

Clyde Harden, surv. op. 12.95

The Krick-Tyndall co. surv. op. 137.17

Korte Bros. Inc. surv. op. 912.80

Shea Oil Co. surv. op. 49.88

Kocher Ldr. Co. surv. op. 9.31

Lyman L. Hahn, schl. sup. 75.00

Institute 75.00

L. E. Archbold co. agt. mil op. 128.95

Clara Lengerich co. agt. mil op. 112.50

Anna K. Williams home dem. agt. 46.95

Dr. D. D. Johnson, health com. 77.00

Dr. D. J. Jones, health com. 10.85

Legal Directories pub. asses. 7.00

The Commercial Print Shop assessor op. 8.25

Citizen's Tel. Co. assessor op. 15.00

Raymond N. Klass assessor, op. 16.75

C. H. Mueller prob. off. mil 10.10

John Bixler c house Jan. sal. 135.00

Mrs. Emma Miller c. house 55.00

Mr. Carl Barlow c. house op. 17.55

Hosier Supplies c. house op. 11.00

Consolidated Paint & Varn. Co. c. house op. 11.50

Braham Lab. Inc. c. house op. 5.83

C. B. Dodge co. c. house op. 9.00

Grover Cottrell, night watch 8.00

Frank Schmidt c. house op. 5.60

The State Chem. Co. op. 8.40

house op. 26.16

Sanco Prod. Co. c. house op. 8.75

Beerbower & McBride, c. house op. 16.75

No. Ind. Pub. Serv. Co. c. house op. 7.04

Frank A. Kitson, infirm. sup. 150.00

Joanna Kitson, infirm. mat. sal. 53.33

Dr. James M. Burk, infirm. phys. sal. 25.00

Pryor S. Gilbert, infirm. help 60.00

Herbert Kitson, infirm. help 45.60

Ellen Hershey, infirm. help 50.00

Rosella Burkhardt infirm. help 50.00

Rev. E. B. Allwardt infirm. minister 4.00

Don Cook infirm. op. 4.00

Elza Lyncey, infirm. op. 6.75

Martiz Grocery infirm. op. 6.15