

Sunday School Lesson Discussion Questions

Discussion Questions on the Sunday School Lesson, Parables of Jesus, for Sunday, March 6.

1. Why did Jesus teach by parables?
2. In what respect is the soul of a man like the soil of the land?
3. Why is cultivation necessary for the soil and for the soul?
4. What must be done to cultivate the soul?
5. What happens to that soul that is not cultivated?

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Creamed Comments On S.S. Lesson

Creamed Comments on the Sunday School Lesson, Parables of Jesus, (Temperance Lesson), Mark 4:1-9; Luke 15:11-14, for Sunday, March 6.

Jesus used parables to teach by story form the common folks, turning aside criticisms of the Pharisees who might consider story telling beneath their dignity, thus paying no attention to them.

V.1. "And he began again to teach by the sea side; and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on land." Jesus' popularity at this time was seen by the large multitude that pressed him for help and for his gospel messages.

V.2. "And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine." These parables were short invented stories which were true to life and from which spiritual lessons were drawn.

V.3. "Hearken: Behold there went out a sower to sow." The sowing was done by the hand swung around the body, the seed being thrown out through the fingers.

V.4. "And it came to pass as he sowed, some fell by the wayside, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up." This parable applies to those who by prejudice, constant neglect, and postponing lessen the power of being impressed by gospel appeals. This is a hardening of the heart.

V.5. "And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth." Here was a mixture of good soil with rocks and stones. The soil was shallow because of its being on rocks. The sun heated the rocks which in turn would cause seed in the soil above to germinate quickly. Here is vacillating because he lacks depth of soul, having little will power.

V.6. "And when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away." The heated rocks would continue to warm the seed or plant and as there was no chance for the roots to go down far, plant vitality ceased and it withered away. The superficial man who accepts the gospel and makes a Christian de-

cision gives up after the glow on his first Christian experiences; he is easily discouraged and easily offended and in a short time gives up trying to be a Christian.

V.7. "And some fell among thorns and the thorns grew up, and choked it and it yielded no fruit." In the soil uncultivated there lie dormant seed of weeds and when the soil is stirred these seed will grow and if permitted to develop will finally choke out the plants coming from good seed. The man whose soul has been stirred to accept Christ as his Savior finds let loose in his mind and heart evil inclinations that had been dormant till now when soul cultivation has taken place. The things of the world, lust, distorted appetites, now assert themselves and the question arises, Shall I give them up? If they are not given up, the better life started will be choked out.

V.8. "And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, some sixty, some an hundred." By thorough and continual cultivation the soil is made good. Here we find a man, earnest and sincere; he makes soul preparation by earnestly seeking the way, casting aside thoughts, desires and motives that are evil; he is persistent in being at his best and doing his best as a child of God.

V.9. "And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." This implies that there is more in the story than appears on the surface; there is a hidden meaning, and careful attention will be necessary to attain it.

V.11. "And he said, a certain man had two sons." In this parable God is depicted as the Righteous One.

V.12. "And the younger of them said to his father: Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living." Here is taught the fact that to every one is given freedom to choose as one likes. That is what gives value to personality. God would not have puppet children.

V.13. "And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance in riotous living." Here is the place for the lesson of temperance. The result of intemperance is seen in the following verse: "And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in the land; and he began to be in want."

self-effacement, too much denial, too much patience, too much faith. Christianity is a monstrous inconvenience for wilful people; it is for this reason that it is usually avoided or rejected, and not because of intellectual difficulties, strenuously though these difficulties be set forth."

Book Review

The Snowden-Douglass Sunday School Lessons, 1949, by Earl L. Douglass, D.D., the Macmillan Co., contains practical expositions of the International Sunday School Lessons, the teachings of each lesson being brought out forcefully by striking illustrations and quotations, and marked by deep evangelical insight. The lessons are useful to ministers as well as to Sunday School teachers, and others in their private devotions.

Tenants operate 55 percent of the farm land in Illinois. Yet a recent survey of more than 300 farms showed that only two-thirds of the farmers had written leases.

Clericus Says:

Clericus says: "Most of the reasons given for one's not being a Christian boil down to this: It would cost too much to be a Christian—too much sacrifice, too much

Prayer meeting Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

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Sunday Service

St. Mary's Church
Very Rev. Mgr. Seimetz, pastor
6:00 a.m. Low Mass.
7:30 a.m. Low Mass.
9:00 a.m. Children's Mass.
10:15 a.m. High Mass.
Prayer hour Sunday afternoon at 2:30.

Holy Communion Sundays
First Sunday, St. Agnes Sodality
Second Sunday, Holy Name Society.
Third Sunday, St. Mary's Society.
Fourth Sunday, Children of Mary.
Lenten Services
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Sermon and Benediction.
Friday, 7:30 p.m., Way of the Cross and Benediction.

Missionary Church
Tenth and Dayton, Sts.
H. J. Welty, minister
9:00-11:00 Unified service. Marvin Rupp, supt. The music will again be in charge of the Strubhar-Magary party and Rev. Strubhar will be bringing the message.

6:45 Children's gospel hour. This will be in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Magary.
7:15 Evening service. This will be the closing service of the special revival services with the Strubhar-Magary party. You will not want to miss this last service.
Wednesday 7:30 Bible study and prayer meeting.

Friday 7:00 Teacher training class at the home of Joan Andrews on North Second.
The public is cordially invited to attend any and all of our services.

Zion Lutheran Church
West Monroe and Eleventh Streets
Edgar P. Schmidt, pastor
(Where Beauty of Sanctuary and Service Invite To Worship.)
It is Invocavit Sunday in the Christian Church, the First Sunday in Lent. Two services will be conducted at 8 and 10:30 a.m. The pastor will preach the second of the series of Sermons on the general theme: "Sir, We Would See Jesus." The topic for Sunday is, "Jesus, the Bread of Life."

The Choir, under the direction of David Embler, will appear in the 10:30 Service, singing, "God So Loved The World" from the Crucifixion by John Stainer.
The Sunday school and Bible class convene at 9:15. There are classes for all ages taught by competent teachers.
The Choir will rehearse Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

The Married Couples Club will meet Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. The Rev. E. Schneider of Ft. Wayne will speak. There will also be entertainment and refreshments.

The Doctrine of the Lord's Supper will be discussed at the Lecture on Monday evening at 7:30.

The Church Finance Committee meets Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
The Second Mid-Week Lent service will be held Wednesday evening at 7:30, the service centering around the Cathedral Sound Film, "Journey Into Faith."

The Sunday school teachers staff meets Thursday evening at 7 and 7:30 for lesson preparation and training course.

Saturday Bible school, all grades, 9:15 to 11:30, Saturday.

First Baptist Church
Robert H. Hammond, pastor
Bible school 9:30 a.m. If you are not attending another school you are welcome to visit ours. Ralph Kenworthy, Supt.
Morning worship 10:30 a.m. Every member and those who wish to take communion should be there. Subject of morning message, The Traitor's Hand.
Prayer meeting Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, the ladies missionary society will meet with Mrs. Maude Merriman.

Church of the Nazarene
North Seventh & Marshall Sts.
Ralph A. Carter, pastor
Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Leo Meriman, Supt.
Morning worship 10:30 a.m. The Rev. Carl Williams will preach.
Juniors 6:45 p.m.
Youth service 6:45 p.m.
Evening service 7:30 p.m. The Rev. James Meadows will preach.
Prayer meeting Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

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First Christian Church
E. E. Isenhower, minister
Lloyd Rhodes, supt.
9:30 Sunday morning with the men's class having charge of the services. The men will have the choir, scripture reading, prayer and communion service. Subject "Our Redemptive Crosses."
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening 7:00. Mr. James Anderson leader.

Trinity
Evangelical United Brethren
Madison at Ninth
John E. Chambers, Minister
9:15 a.m. — Sunday School; Chalmers Barkley, Supt. Lesson Study: "Sowing and Reaping." Special Sunday School offering for student work at Purdue and Indiana Universities.
10:30 a.m. — Divine Worship with the ordinance of Holy Communion. The anthem by the Choir will be "On Calvary" by Christie. The Communion offering will go to the support of our missionary in New Mexico.

6:30 p.m. — Christian Endeavor Societies and Youth Fellowship.
7:30 p.m. — The evening worship service. Sermon theme: "Wilt Thou Turn Back?" The Quarterly Conference will meet at the close of the service.

Tuesday 7:30 p.m. — Women's Society of World Service meeting at the Church. Hostesses: Mrs. Nina Light, Mrs. Frank Kitson, and Mrs. Sarah Arnold. Leader, Mrs. Helen Morgan. Election of officers will be held and Lincoln penny offering received.

Wednesday 7:00 p.m. — Mid-week Lenten Service in the sanctuary. The Choir will sing and special numbers will be given by Mr. R. O. Wynn.
The sermon subject will be "The Call to the Church." A service for the children will be held on the first floor at the same hour.
8:00 p.m. — Choir Rehearsal.

First Methodist Church
Gerald H. Jones, minister
The Church at Study
9:30
The Lenten boxes will be given out during the regular teaching period.

The Church At Worship
David Urick and James Rowley will serve as Acolytes this first Sunday of Lent, known as Invocavit Sunday. The Scripture appointed for the day is Matt. 4:1-11. The searching theme for this Sunday will be found in the words "And he bartered his soul for pleasure."
The Ladies Choir will sing the anthem.

Evening Vespers
The first of a series of services with the Lenten theme will be presented at Evening Vespers. Professor Fred Conkling of Manchester College will be the guest preacher at the 4:30 hour. Miss Helen Hubbard and Mr. Lyman Hann, Jr., will sing a duet. After the hour of worship, fellowship will be enjoyed in the church parlors. Following the fellowship hour there will be classes for all age groups taught by competent instructors. After the hour for study, religious movies will be shown in the sanctuary. The program is so arranged that part of the program or all may be participated in by the whole family.

Youth Fellowship
The Youth Fellowship will meet at the usual time in conjunction with the total service of Evening Vespers.

Wednesday
Throughout the rest of Lent Bible study will be the central theme of the service for prayer. The parables of Jesus are being studied. The choirs will rehearse at their stated times.

Thursday
The Executive meeting of the Woman's Society will begin at 1:30. The General Meeting of the Society will convene at 2:30. Mrs. Watson Maddox has the devotional. Dr. Jones will lead the lesson on the theme "Human Values in Labor." Questions. Circle 4 will provide the refreshments.

LESSON PRAYER:
Lesson prayer: We are grateful for capacities to think, to will and to grow; we praise God that he created us in his image. Grant that our capacities may be so treated as to bring out into the open the image of God within.

Bethany Church
Evangelical United Brethren
F. H. Willard, Minister
Sunday school 9:15 a.m. Lawrence Anspaugh, Supt.
Morning Worship 10:15 a.m. Sermon: "A Test Christians Might Use."
Mission Band, will meet during the hour of worship.
The Sunday school board will meet on Monday at 7:00, and officers and teachers should be present.

The Board of Trustees will meet on Monday evening following the meeting of the Sunday school board.
The Dutiful Daughters Class will meet on Tuesday evening at 7:30 at the home of Mrs. Russell Melchi.
The Dorcas Class will meet on Tuesday evening at the church. Time 7:30.
A fellowship service, and congregational meeting will be held on Wednesday evening. A "carry in" supper will be served at 6:30. A film entitled "God Is My Landlord" will be shown. At the congregational meeting trustees with present proposals regarding the building of a new parsonage and all members of the church should be present.
Junior Choir Practice, Wednesday at 3:45. Senior Choir Practice, Wednesday at 6:15.

Zion Evangelical and Reformed
William C. Feller, Pastor
Church School at 9:00 a.m. Wesley Lehman, Supt.
Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. First Sunday in Lent. Sermon: "The Father's Will Supreme." Let us resolve to be in the Lord's House each Sunday during the Lenten season.
Official Board meeting in the church parlor on Monday at 7:30 p.m.
Midweek Lenten service on Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. An illustrated service, "Let Me Keep Lent."
Senior choir rehearsal on Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. following the Lenten service.
Women's Guild Lenten Quiet Hour service in the Church Sanctuary on Thursday evening at 8:00 p.m. Theme for the service is, "The Healing of His Wounds." The business session will follow the service. Members are reminded to note the change in date.
Catechetical classes on Saturday morning: seniors at 9, juniors at 10 a.m.
Come and worship with us.

Church of God
Cleveland Street
(Two Blocks Northwest of Hospital)
Bernice A. McCurdy,
Dwight R. McCurdy, Ministers
9:30 a.m. Morning worship, sermon "The Supreme Good."
10:30 a.m. Church school, Mrs. Floyd Mitchell, and Mr. Emery Hawkins, general superintendents.
6:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship, Miss LaVon Strickler, president, Mrs. Guy Agler, counselor.
7:30 p.m. Sunday evening Services, Sermon, "Christ Reconciling the World."
The Public is invited to all Services.
6:30 p.m. Wednesday, girls choir practice.
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, midweek prayer meeting. A Christian film will be shown.
8:30 p.m. Wednesday, sanctuary choir practice.
How the Church of God Serves:
1. Two helpful Services every Sunday.
2. A high-grade Sunday School, with Qualified Teachers.
3. Classes for all Ages.
4. Women's Missionary Society.
5. Men's Brotherhood.

Woodrow Wilson once said, "Our civilization can not survive materially unless it be redeemed spiritually. It is not the law's function to do that. What redeems men spiritually is deep and inward, individual and personal. It works through homes, schools, churches; it comes in the still small voice of conscience. It is the message of

Christ's gospel to men's souls; its consummation is man's welcome to God's spirit so that life is personally transformed.

The Church is God's plan of furnishing the spiritual means for man's transformation. Why not accept the invitation and COME TO CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY?

—Rev. D. Carl Yoder.

6. Mid-week Prayer Meeting.
7. Two Splendid Choirs.
8. Salvation for the Sinner.
Sanctification for the Believer.
Divine Healing for the Sick, & Unity of all God's People.
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"Where a Christian experience makes you a member." (Acts 2:47.)
We pray for the sick.

Nuttman Ave. United Brethren
George E. Weaver, pastor
Sunday school 9:30 a.m.
Morning worship 10:30 a.m.
"What Do I Mean to God?"
Christian Endeavor 6:30 p.m.
Evening service 7:30 p.m.

The Better Way
Communism
If Communism could be considered simply as expressing the desire for social justice, its Christian possibilities would be evident. But Communism as it has developed has become totalitarianism, making the state the god, and the citizen the pawn. This philosophy of life, through educational systems and positions of public trust, is making world-wide infiltration. Instead of leveling up to the ideals of brotherhood, the principle of equality is perverted to level men down to the status of tools of the state. While they denounce every step taken by the United States in the name of democratic government, the Communists defend every step taken by Russia in the name of totalitarianism.

The Communist principle of inevitable class war presupposes dictatorship, to enforce its worldwide aspirations. By contrast, the moral law and human dignity have their power in the individual, not in the state. They are as strong or as weak — as individuals and their democratic institutions permit them to be.

—James W. Fifield, Jr.

Do You Know
1. Who said, "He that is not with me is against me?"
2. Can you finish: "Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel . . . ?"
3. Who said and to whom: "A sword shall pierce thru thy own soul, also?"
4. Of what was Moses speaking: "This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat?"
5. Finish: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with . . ."

Do You Know Answered
1. Christ (Matt. 12:30)
2. " . . . and afterward receive me to glory." (Psa. 73:24)
3. Simeon to the Virgin Mary (Luke 2:35)
4. Manna (Ex. 16:15)
5. " . . . all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." (Deut. 6:5)

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A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for. — J. A. Shedd.

It is not what we take up, but what we give up, that makes us rich. — H. W. Beecher.

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The cross is the ladder of heaven. — T. Draxe.

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No man's religion ever survives his morals. — South.

There is more to life than increasing its speed. — Gandhi.

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