

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

WHAT A CHRISTIAN HOME SHOULD BE.

Luke 10:38-42; 2:51, 52; 2 Tim. 3:14, 15.

May 22, 1921.

Golden Text: Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.—Col. 3:20, 21.

Devotional Reading: Ps. 91:1-19.

Reference Material: Col. 3:18-25; 2 Tim. 1:3-6; Tit. 2:1-8.

Primary Topic: Helping to Make Home Happy.

Lesson Material: Col. 3:20.

Story Material: 2 Kings 4:1-7.

Memory Verse: Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing in the Lord.—Col. 3:20.

Junior Topic: Making Home Happy.

Lesson Material: Col. 3:20, 23-25; 2 Kings 4:1-7.

Memory Verse: Luke 2:40.

Intermediate and Senior Topic: Being a Christian at Home.

Topic for Young People and Adults: The Christian Ideal of Family Life.

Lesson Material: Luke 10:38-42; 2:51, 52; Eph. 5:22-6:4; 2 Tim. 3:14, 15.

We will take these passages in their natural order rather than that given here.

Luke 2:51, 52: Can you picture that home in Nazareth? There was Joseph, the father, a hard-working man, faithful in his duties to those for whom he worked, loving, kind and considerate to each member of his family. He was a true servant of God, obedient to His will, teaching his household to worship, trust and serve the Lord.

There was Mary, the devoted wife and mother, quiet, gentle, loving and affectionate. She was of a thoughtful disposition, often, as she performed her household duties, recalling the wonderful experiences through which she had passed, often repeating to herself what the angels and what old Simeon had said to her, trying hard to discover what they all meant. We can hear her in imagination as she sings the psalms of David as she goes about her daily work, by which she supplied the needs of her family. Day by day she taught her children many useful things, but above all she taught them the law of God.

There, too, were the children. Jesus was the oldest. There were also four brothers, James, Joseph, Judah and Simon, and their sisters, how many of them we do not know. We may feel sure that these children were well trained and obedient, a happy, jolly bunch. They must all have recognized the lovely, unselfish character of Jesus, but they did not know that there was any real difference between him and them.

Luke 10:38-42: The Bethany home of Lazarus, Martha and Mary was a home after Jesus' own heart. He delighted to go there. After a trying day of labor and teaching amidst the opposing and persecuting Jews, He found that home a haven of rest indeed. There He received a cordial welcome from His friends, who were anxious to do all in their power for His comfort and pleasure. No doubt Martha as well as Mary had often sat and listened to Jesus as He taught them wonderful lessons about Himself and His kingdom.

"Dr. James Moffat has an interesting translation of this passage. He thinks 'but one thing is needful'

means 'one dish alone is necessary.' Both sisters sat at Jesus' feet (see the word also, verse 39). Both helped prepare the meal, but Mary returned, thinking the fare prepared adequate. Martha, on the other hand, wished to serve a more pretentious dinner—one of many dishes—in order thereby better to honor the Lord. The whole point of Jesus' words was to defend Martha against herself. He was content with one dish. He did not want His visit to turn her into a drudge. He desired that she also should sit at His feet and learn.—Tarbell.

2 Tim. 3:14, 15: It has been said that if you want to train a boy properly, you must begin with his grandmother. On this principle Timothy was greatly blessed. His mother and his grandmother were both what we would now call Christians. They were themselves students of the Bible, and they taught it to Timothy from his childhood. It is not surprising, therefore, that when Paul came with further instruction Timothy was ready to accept his teaching. Paul was so pleased with his life and character that he took him on a number of journeys with him, and wrote him two letters, which are preserved as a part of the sacred Scriptures.

Blessed is the boy who has a Christian father and mother to train him in the things of God, and blessed are the parents who so train their boys and their girls that they may see them showing in their lives the principles of the religion of the Lord Jesus.

A Precious Memory: No heritage which a son can possess is worthy to be compared for a moment with the blessed consciousness of having done all that he could to make father and mother happy during their lifetime. An impressive little story was recently told by a man whose form is now bent and whose hair is white with years.

When he was a boy of twelve he was returning one evening from the hayfield, where he had been at work since daybreak, when his father met him with a request that he go to town to do an errand for him. Any one who has lived on a farm, and who knows what a day's work, "from sun-up to sundown," means in haying time, will understand how the boy felt.

"I was tired, dusty and hungry," said the old man. "It was two miles to town. I wanted to get my supper, and to dress for the singing class. My first impulse was to refuse, and to do it harshly, for I was angry that he should ask me after my long day's work. If I did refuse, he would go himself. He was a gentle, patient old man. But something stopped me—one of God's good angels, I think.

"Of course, father, I'll go," I said heartily, giving my scythe to one of the men. He gave me the package.

"Thank you, Jim," he said 'I was going myself, but somehow I don't feel very strong to-day.'

"He walked with me to the road that turned off to the town, and as he left me he put his hand on my arm and said again, 'Thank you, my son. You've always been a good boy to me, Jim.'

"I hurried into town and back again. When I came near the house I saw that something unusual had happened. All of the farm-hands were gathered about the door, instead of being at the milking or other chores. As I came near, one of the men turned to me with tears rolling down his face.

"Your father," he said, 'is dead. He fell just as he reached the house. The last words he spoke were to you.'

"I am an old man now, but I have thanked God over and over again in

all the years that have passed since that hour for those last words of my father—'You've always been a good boy to me.'"—Youth's Companion.

Here are some questions it would be well for every teacher to ask himself or herself. If they are thoroughly studied and answered, they will solve some of the problems that often give teachers trouble and concern. Such a study may furnish just the opening that is needed to reach the heart of your pupils, so that you can lead them to Christ.

"How much do you know about the homes of your pupils? How much do you know about their home life? How often have you ever called upon or visited them in their homes? Have you ever individually or personally talked with them about their home life? In how far have you used your influence to make their homes Christian homes? Are you improving the opportunities which come to you to give them higher and truer ideals of what the home life should be? Have you made your home a means for helping other homes? Have you ever invited your pupils individually to visit you in your own home, to take a meal or pass an evening? Let me press the question closer still. Is your home the kind of home which has a warm, loving, generous, helpful, Christian atmosphere? Can every one who enters it feel it?"

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES

CHRIST'S SAYINGS.

- M. May 16. A saying about love. Luke 6:27-36.
 - T. May 17. About God. John 14:4-11.
 - W. May 18. About salvation. John 3:13-21.
 - T. May 19. About confidence. John 14:1-3.
 - F. May 20. About friendliness. Matt. 5:43-48.
 - S. May 21. About trust. Matt. 6:25-34.
 - S. May 22. Topic—My Favorite Saying of Christ's, and Why. John 6:63, 68; Matt. 7:24, 25. (Union meeting with the Juniors and Intermediates.)
- What does Christ say about God?
What does Christ teach about sin?
What does Christ teach about service?*

It would be a very interesting and profitable occupation to go through the gospels and see how many things Christ talked about, and to study His wonderful sayings. We have here some of His sayings, every one of which is worthy of more consideration than we can give to them all in the brief time that can be given to one meeting.

A Saying About Love, Luke 6:27-36: Loving our enemies is not in accordance with human nature, but it is God's nature. We can show no truer characteristic of the Christian religion than by showing love to our enemies. By doing this we can often turn our enemies into friends, and so we may be able to make them friends to God. We can never lead any one to God while he is our enemy.

A Saying About God, John 14:4-11: Jesus teaches us that He and the Father are one. He claims to be the equal of the Father. He came to earth that He might reveal God to us. We cannot, even in imagination, see God the Father. Jesus came to earth that men might see Him and learn something of God. We see Him through the eyes of those who lived on earth with Him, and in Him we see God. We see Him as a God of wisdom and power, of love and mercy.

A Saying About Salvation, John 3:13-21: Jesus here gives us in simplest form the gospel plan of salvation. He was to die for sinners to provide salvation for them. The sinner is to receive salvation by believing in or trusting Him. He offers us salvation because He loves us, and He only asks that we trust Him to save us.

A Saying About Confidence, John 14:1-3: If we trust God, there is no

ground for trouble. No matter what may be our lot in this world, we are to have a home in glory, in the Father's home. No child in his father's home will ever suffer for the lack of what a true father can give him. There is no limit to what our Father can and will give us, if we only trust Him.

A Saying About Friendliness, Matt. 5:43-48: Billy Sunday says: "Get acquainted with your neighbors and you will like them better." Most of the enmity and hatred of the world grows out of misunderstanding due to ignorance. It is so easy to see some fault in another and at once to take up a prejudice, where, if we had gotten better acquainted, we would have found that there was much to admire. So instead of hatred, we would find that love was growing up in our heart.

A Saying About Trust, Matt. 6:25-34: Why should we worry about the things that we need? What we are to do is to do our duty and trust God for the rest. The birds sing their songs, build their nests and take care of their young. They are not concerned about the future. God takes care of them. The flowers of the field just do what God wants them to do. They grow and they shed forth their fragrance and their beauty, as God provides their color and their sweetness. Let us do our duty and leave all the rest to God.

My Favorite Saying of Christ's and Why, John 6:63, 68; Matt. 7:24, 25: Christ's words bring life to the soul, when they are received into our hearts. And the soul that builds on them is safe, like the house built on the rock. We can present no securer shield against the attacks of Satan than a saying of our Saviour. So we can find no truer weapon with which to make an attack upon him than the word of our Saviour, which is like a two-edged sword.

Much interest can be given to the meeting by announcing beforehand that each member present will be expected to give his favorite saying of Jesus, and it would be all the better, if each one was asked to tell why it is his favorite.

VIRGINIA STATE C. E. CONVENTION.

May 20th is the time and Lynchburg is the place. The convention will be held at the Christian College, and will begin at 3:30 P. M. on Friday.

Every society in the State should be represented. Delegates will be furnished lodging and breakfast, if they will promptly notify Mr. Roy A. Harrison, 216 Lansing Avenue, Lynchburg, Va. The registration fee is \$1.

This is going to be a great convention. Dr. Francis E. Clark, the founder of Christian Endeavor, is to be there and make one of his soul-stirring addresses. Other speakers will be Charles F. Evans, Southern Secretary; Frank P. Wilson, Virginia Secretary; Rev. W. M. Holderby, Chicago; Rev. Wesley Baker and Dr. Howard Cree, Richmond, and Rev. Francis Hume Scott, Roanoke.

There will be special return rates on the railroad, if 300 attend. Secure certificate from agent when purchasing ticket, so as to get reduced rates on return trip.

ARKANSAS COLLEGE.

Mrs. W. C. Winsborough, Superintendent of the Women's Work of the Southern Presbyterian Church, visited Arkansas College this week. Her strong appeal urging dedication of life to Christian service deeply impressed many of the students. The address in

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