

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR MAY 10 THE UNJUST STEWARD.

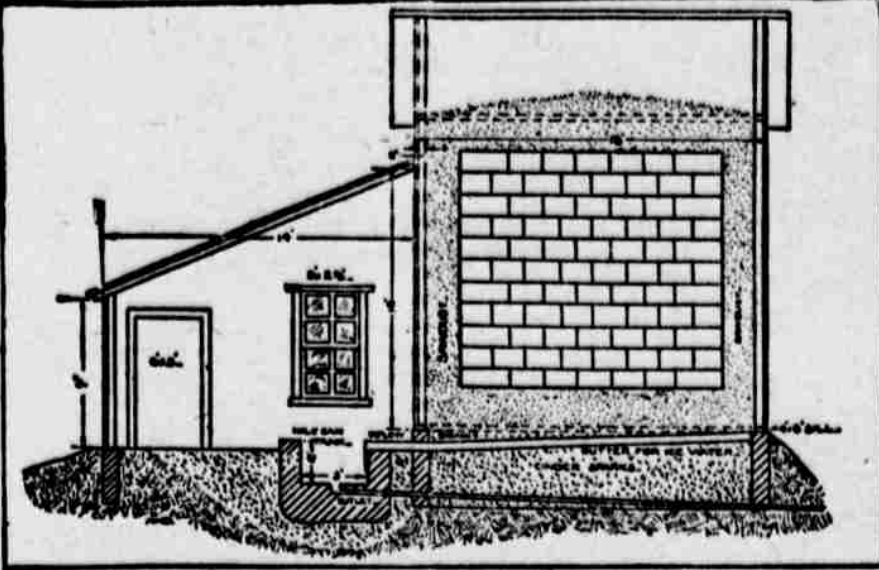
LESSON TEXT—Luke 16:1-13. GOLDEN TEXT—"He that is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he that is unrighteous in a very little is unrighteous also in much." Luke 16:10.

Again in one chapter (and here only) we have before us two of the Master's more famous parables, the unjust steward and the rich man and Lazarus. Both are parables of warning against the common sins of hypocrisy and gluttony. Luke links this teaching with the events in connection with our Lord's teaching about the lost things. There is clearly a close connection. The parable of the lost things was spoken directly to the Pharisees and scribes, that now before us to the disciples. The failure of the Pharisees as stewards of the things of God, the divine law, calls for Jesus, for those gathered as his disciples, teaching that will prepare them to fulfill perfectly the stewardship responsibilities. The story is both positive and negative, is direct against covetousness, and its main purpose to us is how to use money, while we have it, so that it may bring us a recompense in the eternal world when it is gone (v. 9).

Immoral Acts Not Approved.
I. The Unrighteous Steward, vv. 1-3. Our Lord does not, of course, intend that this steward is to be our pattern in every respect. He is taking a "son of the world" (v. 8 R. V.) and showing us that, in the use of money entrusted to his care, he is making provision for the future. He is preparing himself against the time when his stewardship is taken from him. How much more shall a "son of the light" be shrewd, so to use the money entrusted to his stewardship, that when it is taken from him, he has provided for the future. The record does not imply that Jesus approved of the man's immoral actions. He is using the example of an upright steward as a contrast to show how much more is to be expected from God or godly men, Luke 18:6, 7; 11:5-8; Matt. 12:11, 12. Recognizing these facts, the story is perfectly simple and straightforward. The dishonest "son of his age" has a wrong method, though his motive from this point of view is a wise and prudent one, clever in our modern use of that word. This does not condone his fraud, nor does our Lord commend him. The contrast is established in the parable between men wholly of their age, and men, professedly, at least, sons of light. In their dealings with eternal things they had not shown the same astuteness as the former. Luke 15 deals with the heartless contempt of the Pharisees for those who are lost, while the parables of this chapter deal with stewardship—faithfulness (1 Cor. 5:2).
On Higher Level.

II. The Use of Money, vs. 9-13. The value of this parable is in the actual teaching of Jesus which follows the parable. That is introductory, emphasizing the need for wisdom on the part of all stewards. After that we are on a higher level and in a clearer atmosphere. Unrighteous mammon means money, and to make friends "by means of the mammon of unrighteousness" (R. V.) is so to use our money for the godly poor as to win their love and that they may receive us into the eternal tabernacles to which they shall go, see Matt. 19:21; 25:33-40; 6:19; 1 Tim. 6:17-19; Prov. 19:17. As has been said, Jesus does not commend this steward for his wrong use of his master's money, but the steward of God has the right to bestow his Master's goods upon the needy, as that is the very reason they have been bestowed upon him—entrusted to his care. Matt. 24:45; 1 Pet. 4:10. Our entrance into the kingdom will be more abundant because of our liberality with God's money, Matt. 19:21. This does not preclude faith; rather, real faith wrought by love, Gal. 5:6. James 2:18 (R. V.). If we are faithful with that entrusted to our stewardship, God will entrust us with "the true riches." Our earthly riches belong to another (v. 12 R. V.), and we cannot serve "two masters." This story moves within the realm of material wealth, e. g., of mammon. It illustrates the higher wisdom of how mammon is to be used by the stewards of the kingdom of God. Verses 15 and 16 of this chapter reveal to us our Lord's reason for such an illustration. It was directed against the covetous and false stewards, the Pharisees, who "scoffed at him because they were lovers of money." We are to use money so as to make friends, not friends for this present life, but for that life which lies beyond the grave. Stewardship principles are always the same, no matter what the amount, "he that is unrighteous in a very little is unrighteous also in much." This argument is followed by two questions. The answer to the first is that no one ever commits the stewardship of spiritual things to those who are unfaithful in material things. A man shows by his faithfulness in material things whether he is to be entrusted with spiritual stewardship. The second question is answered in that men do not give that which is their own to those who have not been faithful as trustees.

ICE HOUSES AND REFRIGERATION PLANTS



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"For convenience the ice house can be made a part of the structure, so that the ice can be elevated above the storage chamber and directly into the crusher, which can be located in the attic above the primary coils. The space above the cooling room might be utilized as a farm shop or for a cooperage if one were to be installed in connection with an apple orchard. It would not be advisable to attempt to install this system without having an experienced engineer calculate the piping necessary for any given storage room as well as the cooling tank. The question of insulation is also a very important one and should be carefully specified.

"This construction is adapted to small or to very extensive plants. The department of agriculture uses this system in a plant which has been installed at the Arlington experimental farm. The cooling room is 28 by 30 feet with 8-foot ceiling. Sufficient space is thereby provided to store 800 barrels of apples.

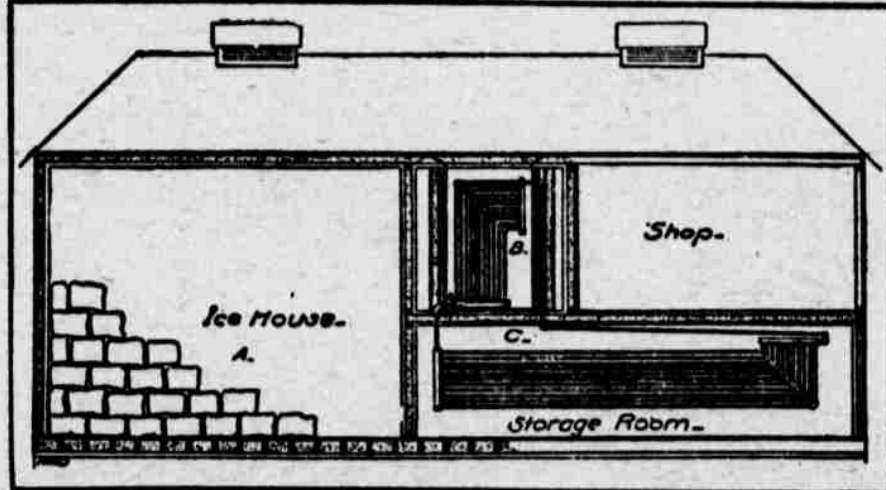
Combined Ice House and Dairy.
"Even where for convenience and economy it is desirable to have the dairy under the same roof as the ice house, it is not satisfactory to attempt

of ice. Ice is one of those luxuries which in many sections of the country can be had for the gathering. The cost of harvesting and storing it is not great as compared with the comfort that it brings.

The Source of the Ice Supply.
"The source of the ice supply will vary with local conditions. In many sections lakes, rivers, or large streams will afford a supply of suitable ice without special plan or preparation on the part of man. In other instances, where such natural sources are not easily accessible, small streams or even the water from a spring can be stored in an excavation or by means of a dam, so as to afford sufficient water surface to provide the desired ice supply. The harvest area or surface will depend upon the tonnage to be stored and the normal thickness of the ice in the locality.

"The stream or pond from which the supply of ice is taken should be fed from a source free from contamination or pollution.

The Principles of Ice Storage.
"In order to keep so perishable a commodity as ice it is necessary in the construction of a storage structure to consider carefully those physical and mechanical principles which underlie its preservation. First, to keep well, ice must have a minimum of surface exposed to the air or to the packing material. This is most easily accomplished by piling the ice in the form of a cube. A mass of ice 12 by 12 feet exposes less surface than the same tonnage piled in any form less nearly that of a cube or of a globe. Second, the keeping of good ice depends upon the completeness of its insulation, whereby it is protected from external influences, such as heat and air. Third, drainage is important because the lack of it interferes with the insulation. Fourth, the ice itself must be packed so as to prevent as completely as possible the circulation of air through the mass. The more nearly the mass of ice approaches that of solid cube, both in shape and



Combined Ice House and Cold Storage Plant.

to combine the ice storage with a cold store. When it is necessary to use ice for chilling milk or other dairy products it is better to remove the ice from the ice house or compartment and place it in a specially constructed ice box or refrigerator rather than to attempt to maintain a cold room by storing the ice about and in contact with.

"The chief argument against the combined arrangement is that it prevents the storage of ice in a solid mass. As a result the waste is much greater. Again, the requirements of the storage room and the refrigerator vary from time to time. Advantage can be taken of these fluctuations to husband the ice supply when the two are separate. There are decided advantages in having the ice supply convenient to the dairy house or refrigerator, but it is poor economy to build the refrigerator or cold store inside the ice storage.

Benefits to Be Derived From an Efficient Ice House on the Farm.

"An ample supply of ice is of greater economic importance in the country home than in the city residence. City people can purchase perishable supplies as needed, but the remoteness of country homes from markets often renders it necessary to use canned, corned, or smoked meat products during the season of the year when the table should be supplied with fresh meats.

"Not only is ice appreciated because of its use in the preservation of fresh meats, butter, and other table supplies, but the production of high-grade domestic dairy products is almost impossible without it. Many markets to which milk is now shipped demand that it be cooled before shipment to a degree not attainable without the use

texture, the easier, with good drainage and insulation, will be the keeping problem. The keeping of ice, then, depends upon the shape of the mass, its insulation, its drainage, and its solidity.

Combination of Natural and Artificial Means of Obtaining Ice.

"The home ice supply is sometimes obtained by using a combination of natural and artificial means. Where an elevated water tank is at one's command, a line of pipe can be carried to perforated pipes placed on the ceiling of the ice house and during freezing weather the pressure from the tank can be used to carry water through the perforated pipes to be sprayed into the storage chamber as long as freezing continues. By careful use of this plan on cold nights and during freezing days a supply of ice can be built up in place. The protection of such a supply is the same as that of ice cut and stored in the usual manner.

Masonry Ice Houses.

"Instead of the cheap, temporary construction, ice houses of a permanent nature can be built from brick, stone, or concrete. In these, as in frame-constructed houses, the mass of ice should approach as closely as possible a cube in form. If the masonry house is to be used in the same manner as the temporary house no inside lining will be necessary."

Feed a Variety.
If you have several kinds of rough feed on hand it will be a good plan to mix them up in feeding. Stock-like a change of feed as well as you do, and if their breakfast can be of one kind and their supper of another, so much the better.



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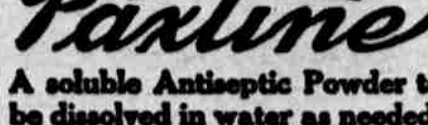


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