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Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1949

THEME—The Great Invitation.

Isaiah 55: 56:6-8.

The Invitation is to Life. Human life has two aspects, the physical and the spiritual, and to live truly and fully, the latter must be given its proper place of dominance. But the material element in life is obvious. Hunger, thirst, cold, and heat will not be ignored and human beings are easily led into taking so much and such anxious thought for food and raiment, that they have little time for anything else. Success in the pursuit of material things becomes their great aim.

Life becomes tolerable only when the goods of the spirit are given a place, even though it is a minor one. But life becomes rich and satisfying only when the riches of the spirit are given first rank and their pursuit becomes the chief end of it.

Hence the great invitation emphasizes the seeking of true riches

Yet men and women go on spending the precious currency of hours and days for that which is not bread. In a recent novel, "The Inheritance," Mr. Allen Seager depicts the degeneration of a community whose people had no goal in life other than the getting of things. They are shown as the inheritors of a tradition of violence and greed that had been useful when log houses had to be built and the forest cleared, when there had been Indians to fight for the land, or even when the coming of the railroad had been a realized dream. Now the carryovers of that tradition are as destructive as slow poisons.

On one of the first pages a very old man, a gold-caressing president of a bank is saying:

"And my question is this: What becomes of me? Where do I go when they have laid Ancil Bailey in Oakwood cemetery? What happens. The answer is, of course, 'Nothing. Nowhere.' I feel as if I had been promised something, and my fear is really anger, I suppose. I say, 'Is this all?' You'd laugh to hear me talking to myself at night. 'Is this all?' I say and I know I'll

Mrs. Henrietta Brown Becomes Bride Of Reverend Riley Bell

Mrs. Henrietta Brown was married Wednesday, November 9 to the Rev. Riley Bell, a retired minister and assistant pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist church.

The Rev. R. L. Moody has just returned from a trip to Kansas City where he attended a series of meetings of the Church of God. Rev. Mr. Moody, a student at Cotner College and pastor of the Northside Church of God does extensive work in the department of religious education.

hear nothing for an answer. Then I begin to sweat to think that I, the real me, will be shut up in the coffin, because I am satisfied, I guess this is what will happen. But, as I say, I feel as if I had been promised something more."

Almost at the last page a younger man is saying:

"And if we make the grade and get all this money, all we'll do is sit on the porch of the Country club after we retire and feel cheated, wondering what we did with all our time, resenting the hopes we had that told us once there was something big to do." (From the New York Times Book Review, April 18, 1948.) Thus modern literature testifies to the uselessness of trying to find life in the possession of lifeless things. From all this petty and childish worship of things which chains man to the earth and shuts him away from the stars, God's invitation calls us. It calls to heroic living, to the rich enjoyment of what old Ancil Bailey and many like him have lost, the something that was promised them which they did not take when they could have had it and missed only when it was too late.

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