

The Voice

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"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people."

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EDITORIALS
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Sunday School Lesson

Zephaniah Calls to Repentance.

Scripture — Zephaniah 1:12-18; 2:16-20.

Memory Selection—Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness; it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger.

When a locomotive finishes its trip and goes into a roundhouse, three things are done to the engine: First, it is given a good cleaning; second, it is turned around until it faces in a new direction; third, it is given a new motive power by stocking it up with fuel. The roundhouse is a very homely but suggestive illustration of what repentance does in a person's life. Real repentance, such as Zephaniah was asking for does three things to a person: it brings him cleansing for past wrongdoing; it turns his steps in a new direction with a new purpose, and it gives him new power for achieving that purpose.

Real repentance brings forgiveness. But it must be a repentance in which the heart is truly moved. Forgiveness is not a process like paying a bill at the grocery store—a mechanical transaction in which an account is wiped out, or a debt canceled which never could have been paid. Forgiveness means much more than that. It means the awakening of conscience. It means a sense of sin, as against a father.

Let us try to bring this lesson down to practical terms. We often think of repentance as a great act done once and for all, which changes the course of a person's life. That does frequently happen; but repentance is also concerned with things which happen every day, what we are accustomed to regard as small things. We should repent about many things: about habits of thinking and speaking, about all the personal peculiarities which hinder us from becoming

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truly Christian in character. Sherwood Eddy tells in one of his lectures that the erection of the great Madras Young Men's Christian Association building was held up for months after the site was chosen, the plans drawn and the money provided, because two shanty owners would not give up their land in the center of the plot. What is the name of that shanty in your mind which is holding up the great building of character and service which God is anxious to erect and for which he has the plans and the means ready? Do we take time enough to think of God as being grieved over the sins we so carelessly commit over and over again?

PRESENT-DAY APPLICATION By Frederick D. Jordan Los Angeles, Calif.

Announcements of God's wrath are in reality a summons to repentance. So often it takes a sudden calamity in one's life to awaken him to a sense of his unsaved condition. Sometimes it is the death of a loved one, sometimes financial loss or a severe illness. We so often lead careless lives and are indifferent to our religious duties as long as things are going well with us. God is never indifferent to our conduct. Our lesson also indicates the way to blessing and divine favor, not only for that time but for today as well. All pride and haughtiness must disappear, we must trust in the Lord, we must be truthful and righteous in our dealings with our neighbor. We can each think of someone in our church or community, humble and devout, and full of good works who has acquired a "name" for himself or herself and is honored in the minds and hearts of the people above persons of wealth and social standing.

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by **JAMES C. OLSON**, Superintendent
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

U. S. highway No. 26, from Ogallala to Henry and on into Wyoming, not only takes you through one of the most scenic sections of Nebraska, but also one of the most historic.

The North Platte Valley, of which Highway 26 is the principal thoroughfare, was on the route of the great migration to Oregon, Utah and California, and the modern highway closely parallels important segments of this trail. I'd like to mention a few of the important trails-related landmarks and historic spots that may come to your attention as you travel Highway 26 from Ogallala to the state line.

At Lewellen you'll be in the area where the pioneer Mormons camped in 1847, and where Appleton Harmon, a member of the group, worked on his famous roadometer, a device to be attached to a wagon to determine the distance travelled. More important, you're not far from Ash Hollow, an important early Indian hunting ground, and one of the roughest stretches of all for the emigrants. Ropes were used to ease wagons down nearby Windlass Hill, and the early diaries frequently mention casualties to men, beasts and wagons during the treacherous descent.

Not far from Lewellen, you'll cross Blue Water Creek, the site of General William S. Harney's famous encounter with the Sioux in 1855. Between Broadwater and Bridgeport you'll pass the marked grave of Amanda Laman, one of the thousands who died on the long journey to Oregon.

At Bridgeport you come to the junction of the east-west trails with the north-south trail connecting Sidney with the gold fields of South Dakota's Black Hills. Not far from town is the site of old Camp Clarke Bridge, a highly important link in the Sidney-Black Hills trail, and the occasion for an annual celebration in Bridgeport. Not far from Bridgeport are Court House and Jail rocks, the first of the weird formations which excited the attention of the early travellers.

South and just across the river from Bayard, you'll see what many of the emigrant believed to

Rating the Records A Spiritual Treat

By J. Henry Randall for ANP
The spiritual is a rather unique type of song. In one instance, it can express sorrow, pain and despair; in still another, it can express hope, and faith and finally, a joyful exuberance which fills one's very being with a warm and satisfying glow.

There is a no rigid pattern for spirituals. They are not, as would be supposed, confined to the cloistered atmosphere of religious environments. Rather, they may be heard in many of the mediums which serve as an outlet for songs of other types.

Today, the spiritual is rapidly taking its place along with popular, blues and the various types of tunes, as one of the major categories of music appreciation. As a result, there is an awakening to the fact that there is much excellent music that has been overlooked by the general public.

One of the best examples of spirituals is a group done by the Golden Gate Quartet. Issued formerly in the shellac version—four 10 inch records—it is now out on 33 1/2 LP, entitled "Golden Gate Spirituals." The Gates are perhaps the foremost group of spiritual singers in this country. They have done much to increase the general popularity of this type of music by their high-spirited arrangements of rhythmic numbers and superb harmonies on the more solemn selections. They combine with musical fire and verve the very best in rhythm harmony and spirit.

In the collection are no restricted signs (up in Heaven), Joshua Fit De Battle of Jericho, Swing Down Chariot, God's Gonna Cut You Down, Jezebel, Blind Barnabus and Wade in the Water. There is also the romantic ballad with rhythmic accompaniment, entitled I Will Be Home Again, which again shows the Gates dish-

be the outstanding landmark on the entire trail—Chimney Rock. This famous spire, arising abruptly out of the valley's floor, was commented upon by virtually every diarist who passed it. I devoted an entire column to it some time ago.

ing up some fine harmony, rhythm and spirit and is a reminder that though the quartet is noted for its spiritual singing, it is no less a leader in the popular ballad field (Columbia).

Another spiritual treat is the pair by the Robert Ross Singers with organ accompaniment. Ross, who is heralded as the male counterpart of Mahalia Jackson, solos on Speak to Me Jesus, a slow traditional hymn and then leads the chanting Singers in a spirited I'll Tell It (Apollo)... A pair of harmonious chants is offered by the Soul Stirrers on I'm Living on Mother's Prayer and Feel Like My Time Ain't Long (Speciality)... A familiar hymn I Need Thee, is gospel sung by the Mary Johnson Davis Gospel Singers, who also give chant support to Jeff Bank's solo on He Has a Way That's Mighty Sweet (Atlantic)... Brother Joe May and Sister Wynona Carr team on two originals by Miss Carr of What Do You Know About Jesus and I'll Serve You Lord Until My Dying day (Speciality.)

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