

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR APRIL 11

DAVID ANOINTED KING.

LESSON TEXT—1 Samuel 16:1-13.
GOLDEN TEXT—Man looketh on the outward appearance, but Jehovah looketh on the heart.—1 Samuel 16:7, R. V.

After the events recorded in last Sunday's lesson Samuel retired to Ramah never again to see Saul's face. Samuel "mourned" (16:35) i. e., bewailed and lamented the deposed king. It was noble for Samuel thus to be grieved over Saul's sin; still, God had work for him to do. There is a sorrow that "worketh repentance" which is pleasing in the sight of God, but that idle sorrow which spends itself in unprofitable mourning is detrimental to man and a hindrance to the kingdom of God (ch. 8:7; 15:1). Men may fall but the kingdom goes forward. We do not interpret verse 3 as suggesting any subterfuge on God's part but rather that God refused to pay any attention to Samuel's fear. God answers fear by giving us duties to perform and in their performance we are delivered from our fears.

I. David Chosen to Be King, vv. 4-10. Saul, the clamorous choice of the people, was not succeeded by David—"the man after God's own heart"—for several years after this lesson. God's will in this matter was shown to Samuel progressively: (a) in chapter 13:14 Samuel is informed that God hath sought "a man after his own heart;" (b) in 16:1 he is told to go and find the king whom God had provided; (c) in verse 12 Samuel is at last definitely told whom God has selected. This selection is in accordance with the prophecy made centuries before regarding the kingly scepter (Gen. 49:10). Of course it was high treason, this act Samuel was about to perform, and Saul yet had many friends and supporters (v. 2). God seems to have permitted Samuel to use one avowed purpose to conceal the real one, but "such a course is one to use but sparingly" (Maclaren) God can and does protect those whom he sends (Ps. 34:7) and "man is immortal till his work is done." Just what or how did not concern Samuel for he had God's promise (v. 3). A step at a time was sufficient and in taking each step Samuel was to tell the exact truth.

Thus God guides and tests his servants. Samuel was a judge as well as a prophet (ch. 7:16) and the people of Bethlehem were agitated at his arrival. It may be, too, that these elders were fearful of incurring the displeasure of Saul. There was no occasion for fear, as Samuel's purpose was to sacrifice and his mission one of peace even as the angelic messengers who quieted the shepherds with their message of "peace" when "great David's greater son" was ushered into the world. Jesse was a grandson of Ruth the Moabitess and also a descendant of Rahab the harlot. On his father's side he belonged to the strong tribe of Judah. He was evidently a man of some wealth, certainly in his children. After the sacrifice and before the feast Samuel is made acquainted with the sons of Jesse. The first, Eliab, was tall and good to look upon and at once Samuel fixed upon him as the certain choice for Jehovah.

II. David Anointed King, vv. 11-13. Seven sons are set aside and yet Samuel did not hear the voice of God's approval. In seeming dismay he asks, "Are here all thy children?" Jesse seems to have made a careless and reluctant reply that the youngest was away from home tending sheep. Thereupon Samuel asserts that "we will not sit down (to the sacrificial feast) till he be brought hither." It is from such lowly positions that God is constantly promoting men to positions of responsibility and prominence. Witness Carey, Livingston, Moody and a hundred others past and present. David at this time was about fifteen years old (Beecher). His name means "darling," significant of the affection of his mother, whose name is unknown, but to whom David twice makes reference (Ps. 86:16; 116:16). David was short, compared with his brothers, but had bright eyes (v. 12 marg.) and a fair face—a "comely person" (v. 18). David was agile and strong and though seemingly scoffed at by his brothers and neglected by his father it did not pervert his good nature nor turn him from the performance of his duties. Samuel did not greet David as he had greeted Saul, he may have been disappointed. This gives emphasis to the words in verse 12, "Arise anoint him: for this is he."

David is anointed, set apart, for the kingship, but is not equipped nor does he enter upon his office till later. In this he is a type of Jesus who shall yet reign on David's throne. Verses 13 and 14 tell of the developing contrast in the lives of Saul and David. David the young king, potential only at this time, is a great inspiration to the young of all ages in that: (1) He did his lowly work thoroughly; (2) While doing it he sought to cultivate and improve himself (v. 18); and (3) He gave himself wholly to God; hence the record "and the Lord is with him" (v. 18).

AMERICAN SPARROWS EAT MANY INSECTS



Song Sparrow—Above, Streaked With Black and Brown; Crown Chestnut, With Black Stripes—Below, White

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)
There are some forty species of sparrows in North America which are helpful rather than harmful and should be encouraged rather than discouraged; at least, this is the opinion of the United States department of agriculture's investigator whose "Some Common Birds Useful To The Farmer" has just been issued as Farmers' Bulletin No. 630. While the English sparrow is noisy and obtrusive, the American species are unobtrusive both in song and action.

These native sparrows, although so seldom noticed by the majority of people, may probably be found in nearly every part of our country, although not more than a half dozen forms are generally known in any one locality. While American sparrows are noted seed eaters, they do not by any means confine themselves to a vegetable diet. During the summer, and especially in the breeding season, they eat many insects and feed their young largely upon the same food. Examination of stomachs of three species—the song sparrow, chipping sparrow, and field sparrow shows that about one-third of the food consists of insects, comprising many injurious beetles, as snout beetles or weevils, and leaf beetles. Many grasshoppers are eaten.

In case of the chipping sparrow, these insects form one-eighth of the food. Grasshoppers would seem to be rather large morsels, but the bird probably confines itself to the smaller species; indeed, the greatest amount (over 35 per cent) is eaten in June,



Field Sparrow—Crown Chestnut; Above, Streaked With Dull Red, Black and Gray; Throat and Breast, Brown; Belly, White.

when the larger species are still young and the smaller most numerous. Besides the insects already mentioned, many wasps and bugs are taken. As a whole, the insect diet of the native sparrows may be considered beneficial. There are several records of potato bug larvae eaten by chipping sparrows.

Their vegetable food is limited almost exclusively to hard seeds. This might seem to indicate that the birds feed to some extent upon grain, but the stomachs examined show only one kind, oats, and but little of that. The great bulk of the food is made up of grass and weed seed, which form almost the entire diet during winter, and the amount consumed is immense.

In the agricultural region of the upper Mississippi valley by roadsides, on borders of cultivated fields, or in abandoned fields, wherever they can obtain a foothold, masses of rank weeds spring up and often form almost impenetrable thickets which afford food and shelter for immense numbers of birds and enable them to withstand great cold. A person visiting one of these weed patches on a sunny morning in January, when the thermometer is 20 degrees or more below zero, will be struck with the life and animation of the busy little inhabitants. Instead

of sitting forlorn and half frozen, they may be seen flitting from branch to branch, twittering and fluttering, and showing every evidence of enjoyment and perfect comfort. If one of them is captured it will be found in excellent condition; in fact, a veritable ball of fat.

The snowbird and tree sparrow are perhaps the most numerous of all the winter sparrows. Examination of many stomachs shows that in winter the tree sparrow feeds entirely upon seeds of weeds. Probably each bird consumes about one-fourth of an ounce a day.

The writer of the new bulletin has estimated the amount of weed seed annually destroyed by these birds in Iowa. On the basis of one-fourth of an ounce of seed eaten daily by each bird, and an average of ten birds to each square mile, remaining in their winter range 200 days, there would be a total of 1,750,000 pounds, or 87½ tons of weed seed consumed in a single season by this one species. Large as are these figures, they unquestionably fall far short of the reality.

The estimate of ten birds to a square mile is very conservative, for in Massachusetts, where the food supply is less than in the western states, the tree sparrow is even more abundant than this in winter.

In Iowa several thousand tree sparrows have been seen within the space of a few acres. This estimate, moreover, is for a single species, while, as a matter of fact, there are at least a half a dozen birds (not all sparrows) that habitually feed during winter on these seeds.

Farther South the tree sparrow is replaced in winter by the white-throated sparrow, the white-crowned sparrow, the fox sparrow, the song sparrow, the field sparrow, and several others; so that all over the land a vast number of these seed eaters are at work during the colder months, reducing next year's crop of worse than useless plants.

TREATMENT FOR FENCE POST

One of the Best Preservatives is Coal Tar Creosote—To Determine Temperature of Creosote.

(By E. O. LONGYEAR, Colorado Agricultural College.)

A small, but satisfactory, tank for the open-tank method of treating fence posts can be made from one of the galvanized steel barrels used for shipping oil and gasoline. These barrels are 36 inches high by 32 inches in diameter and by removing one of the heads with a cold-chisel, or otherwise, a tank 34 inches deep remains.

This tank is heavy enough to serve the purpose of post-treating, and may be supported upon two iron cross-bars built into the sides of a brick or stone work fireplace. Such a tank will hold about 10 or 12 posts of ordinary size at one time. One of the best preservatives is coal tar creosote. The posts should be seasoned and the creosote should be heated to at least the temperature of boiling water with the posts in it. By leaving the posts in the creosote while it cools down, a good degree of penetration should be secured with most of the quick-growing soft woods like cottonwood, poplar, elm, and the split cedar posts found on the market. The temperature of the creosote may be roughly determined by hanging a small tin can of water in the tank, and when the water boils, the proper temperature has been reached.

The process of treatment may be hastened by keeping the creosote in the tank hot and removing the posts after about an hour's immersion into an open barrel of cold creosote for another hour, while a new batch of posts is being heated in the tank.

Poultry Overlooked.

There is many a farm where the poultry is considered an unimportant offshoot of the business, but which, if cultivated right "up to the handle," as it should be, would produce more money than all the crops raised.

Animal Protein Best.

Animal protein material produces more eggs than vegetable protein material, and is the most economical. It can best be provided in the form of beef scrap and skim milk.

Easy Money.

Burglar—Come, now, I just beat up the janitor and got upstairs here and I want your purse quick.

Flatdweller—You beat up the janitor?

Burglar—Yes. Here, where are you going?

Flatdweller—It's all right, I haven't any purse myself, but I'm sure I can raise one among the tenants in a few minutes.

SUFFERED FOR FOUR YEARS.

Mr. J. M. Sinclair of Olivehill, Tenn., writes: "I strained my back, which weakened my kidneys and caused an awful bad headache and inflammation of the bladder. Later I became so much worse that I consulted a doctor, who said that I had Diabetes and that my heart was affected. I suffered for four years and was in a nervous state and very much depressed. The doctor's medicine didn't help me, so I decided to try Dodds Kidney Pills, and I cannot say enough to express my relief and thankfulness, as they cured me. Diamond Dinner Pills cured me of Constipation."

Dodds Kidney Pills, 50c. per box at your dealer or Dodds Medicine Co., Buffalo, N. Y. Dodds Dyspepsia Tablets for Indigestion have been proved, 50c. per box.—Adv.

The Unexpected.

"Did you hear about Scuttleigh?"

"No."

"He woke up in the night and went to the wall cupboard for the bottle of Jamaica ginger. He was in such a hurry he didn't stop to feel for the electric light button, but chanced it."

"Dear, dear!"

"He grabbed a bottle that he thought was the right one and took a swallow of the stuff."

"My, my!"

"It burned him painfully."

"Oh, that's too bad! What was it?"

"The Jamaica ginger."

Parliamentary.

Brown—Where's that liver I laid on the table a moment ago?

Mrs. Brown—You never expected to see that again, did you?

Brown—And why not?

Mrs. Brown—You told me that in parliamentary practice, when a bill is laid on the table, it is seldom heard of again.—Harper's Bazar.

Their Kind.

"What do you think of the way that upstart Binks gives himself airs? Here he was talking the other day about the delights of his salad days."

"Well, I could have reminded him that they were not chicken salad days."

Point of View.

Aviator—I must take a vacation!

Manager—To get rested up?

Aviator—Lord, no! Down!

Explained.

Mistress—Are you married?

Applicant—No, ma'am. I bumped into a door.

When prohibitionists have banquets they are supposed to eat the toasts.

BREAKING THE NEWS GENTLY

Liverpool Man Exceedingly Careful That He Should Not Shock the Nerves of His Friend.

In Liverpool there is a man, writes a contributor to Pearson's Weekly, who is famous for his calmness on every occasion. One day he strolled leisurely into the office of a friend.

"I've just had a chat with your wife," he began.

"Why, I didn't know she was in town."

"Oh, she wasn't in town," replied the other. "I called at your house."

"I didn't know she was receiving today," said the husband, with some surprise. "I thought she had a headache."

"She didn't mention it to me," said the calm man. "There was quite a crowd at the house."

"A crowd!" echoed the husband.

"Yes," went on the calm man. "They came with the fire engine."

"The fire engine!" gasped the husband.

"Oh, it's all right," went on the calm man. "It's all out now. It wasn't much of a fire, but I thought you'd like to know of it."

Preventing Premature Burials.

The fear of being buried alive always has been, and is, so widespread that the French Academy of Science some years ago offered a prize equal to \$7,500 for the discovery of some means by which even the inexperienced might at once determine whether, in a given case, death had ensued or not. A physician obtained the prize. He had observed the following well-known signs: If the hand of the suspected dead person is held towards a candle or other artificial light, with the fingers extended and one touching the other, and one looks through the spaces between the fingers towards the light, there appears a scarlet red color where the fingers touch each other, due to the blood still circulating; it shows itself through the tissues which have not yet congealed. When life is entirely extinct, the phenomenon of scarlet spaces between the fingers at once ceases. The most extensive and thorough trials established the truth of his observation.

Final Opinion.

"I see there is an exodus of foreigners in Mexico."

"Well, instead of them fool foreigners joining in any such nonsense, I think they ought to get out."

Not the Same.

"Have you caught any of the divine afflatus from the coming of the spring?"

"No; all I've caught is the influenza."

The War Geography.

Knicker—What is an island?

Bocker—A body of land entirely surrounded by a war zone.

At the Races.

"That horse was pulled."

"Yes, and I was plucked."—Baltimore American.

If you want a middle-aged woman for housework you should advertise for a girl.

Keeping a man's nose to the grindstone doesn't sharpen his wits.

OUR COAST DEFENSE

In these modern days of heavy armament and scientific war equipment, much thought has been given to our coast defense. The question of preparedness is one that concerns all patriotic Americans for it is always the unexpected attack that causes consternation.

This is also true in matters pertaining to health. That great enemy of health—Stomach trouble—may spring an unexpected attack at any time and it is well to be prepared by always keeping a bottle of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters in the house. It is your bulwark in time of distress.

Be on guard at all times, and as soon as you notice the appetite failing, digestion becoming impaired, the liver inactive and the bowels refuse to perform their daily functions, commence taking the Bitters. Prompt action, together with the aid of this medicine, has been the means of preventing much suffering from Sick Headache, Nausea, Poor Appetite, Indigestion, Constipation and Biliousness.

Don't trifle with your health, but rather help Nature when weakness is manifested. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is Nature's ally, and these together, form a combination that is sure to result to your welfare. Try it today, but be sure you get Hostetter's.

SEPARATED LAMBS AND GOATS

Governor Knew What He Was Doing When He Told Anecdotes of Ancient Vintage.

The governor of a southern state came to his office with a friend one morning to find a number of men waiting in the ante-room. Pausing an instant, he told a story that was a decided "chestnut." When he got inside the private office the friend said: "That was a horribly old one you sprung on those fellows."

"I know it," chuckled the governor, "but did you notice that one that laughed?"

"Well, I noticed that three or four did."

"Those," said the governor, "are the fellow who won't get in to see me. They are the ones who have favors to ask."—Rehoboth Sunday Herald.

Method in His Madness.

"Do you realize that your long sermons are rather tiresome?" asked the young parson who was new at the game.

"I do," replied the wise parson, who was beginning to carry weight for age. "That is why my congregation gives me such long vacations."

The Way to Do.

Friend—I see you adopt the policy of a good housewife in managing your theater.

Manager—How so?

Friend—You always keep your house in print.

Just That.

"The Germans are going to mobilize the elephants in a menagerie for heavy work. That's new line, isn't it?"

"Quite so; a sort of trunk line."

Its Result.

"What do you think of this business of the Germans taking a Frye?"

"They are apt to find themselves in a broil."

Superstition is what prompts a person to believe a horseshoe over the door has more virtue than a look and key.

Comparative Food Values

1 pound of rib roast beef
1 pound of Grape-Nuts food

Comparative Cost per Pound

1 pound of rib roast beef
1 pound of Grape-Nuts food

It would be difficult to find a food that affords the same abundance of true nourishment, at so low a cost, as does the famous wheat and malted barley food—

Grape-Nuts

At three-fifths the cost, a package of Grape-Nuts supplies nearly one-third more nourishment than a pound of rib roast beef. And besides, in buying a roast you pay for about 20% refuse, and there's a shrinkage in cooking.

Grape-Nuts food comes ready cooked and every particle in the FRESH-SEALED package is good to eat. Its rich nutriment includes the 'vital' salts that are necessary for brain, bone and sturdy muscle. Grape-Nuts is delicious—easily digested—economical.

Thinking people everywhere are more and more adopting Grape-Nuts—

"There's a Reason"

Sold by Grocers everywhere.