

# INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Course, The Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Ill.)

LESSON FOR APRIL 25

DAVID AND GOLIATH.

LESSON TEXT—1 Samuel 17:5-11. GOLDEN TEXT—If God be for us, who is against us?—Rom. 8:31 R. V.

For forty days (v. 16) Goliath defied Saul's army, encamped near Bethlehem. Three of the sons of Jesse were in Saul's army and to them David is sent with food (vv. 13, 18, 19). These brothers scornfully reproached David when he expressed a willingness to fight Goliath, accusing him of pride and reminding him that he was but a shepherd (vv. 26-29). David's words are carried to Saul and he is introduced to the king.

I. Boastful Pride, vv. 38-44. Fear and dismay were aroused at the very sight of this proud Philistine (vv. 11, 24, 32), yet such fear was foreign to David, for his eyes were not upon man but upon God (v. 37). He related to Saul his exploits not as boasting but as giving him assurance that God was able to deliver him out of the hand of this Philistine. Saul, who had once been a man of like simple faith, is now as much in fear as any of his army. David was perhaps about twenty years of age and verse 56 calls him a "stripling," hence it was that Saul's armor would not fit him (cf. 10:23). Humanly speaking, it was an impossible thing David offered to accomplish single-handed. Even Saul (v. 32) sought to dissuade David, but David was not trusting in man nor depending upon the armor of the king (v. 39; Ps. 27:1-3; Isa. 12:2; Rom. 8:31). David took his familiar staff and sling (see 1 Thess. 5:2) and sallied forth, "strong in the Lord, not in himself; armed not with steel but with faith." Crossing "the valley" (v. 40 marg.) he prepared his sling, with which every Israelite was skilled (see 1 Sam. 13:19-23). On came the giant, a man about nine feet tall (v. 4). "A stalking mountain, overlaid with brass and iron," preceded by his protector (v. 41). Why such a soldier after his period of triumph should desire this added safety is not quite clear. It suggests, however, the sinner's timidity which reveals his essential weakness in that he trusts himself, takes no chances, and is even suspicious of his own supporters. What a contrast! This armored giant and this ruddy-faced, unarmed youth, carrying only the staff, whereas he was wont to fight wild beasts, and his sling! When God calls a man he uses that weapon with which the man is most familiar, and when the church or the Christian soldier seeks to fight in the armor of another, or by using the weapons of the world, it is foredoomed to failure (Ex. 4:2; Judges 3:31).

II. Conquering Humility, vv. 45-51. David acknowledged Goliath's superior armament, yet armed with the name of the God of the army of Israel which Goliath had insulted, his confidence overtops that of the Philistine and he hurls back his proud boast. Furthermore, the victory was to be an immediate one, "this day" (Zech. 4:6; James 4:7). With calm assurance he informs Goliath of the outcome of their conflict, but takes no credit to himself. David had naught but naked faith and the sense of a just cause to strengthen his arm. He would do to Goliath and the Philistines the things that Goliath had boasted he would do to David (vv. 44 and 46) "that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel;" see also v. 47. David's seemingly insufficient preparation is now revealed to be abundant, for he had four stones more than he needed (v. 40). It is thus that God chooses "the weak things to confound the mighty" (1 Cor. 1:27).

III. Summary We have before us three lessons. First the lesson of individual responsibility. A sinful king had paralyzed the effectiveness of the army of Israel. David, "a man after God's own heart," refused Saul's armor, crying out "I cannot go in these." Saul, bound by tradition, must use conventional weapons. Every great advance in the history of the church has been led by some man who struck out boldly, insensible alike to the conventionalism of his friends and the gibes of the enemy. God would have every man work according to himself, not copying, not imitating, but with his own equipment. Second, all the giants of sin have not yet been overthrown. We still have the giants of Intemperance, Unchastity, Graft, Selfishness, Ambition and the Inequalities of our civic and social life. These can only be overcome in the strength of God. Bunyan mentions three giants, Pride, Grim and Pagan; to these we may add, Anger, Untruthfulness, Selfishness and Sullenness.

Third, Our Helper. See Golden Text. Of all the graces David possessed, faith was the root of each one—faith in a living God. His active faith caused him with nimble feet to attack this blasphemous enemy (v. 48). His faith in God characterizes his entire life, resounds in his songs and strengthened his life of service for Jehovah. It is such faith that strengthens the arm of the true saint of God, that enables him to "overcome" in his own life, to undertake for God and to go to the ends of the earth in his name.

Available for Wear With Various Frocks



A separate coat, which becomes a suit-coat when worn with its own particular skirt, but is available for wear with various frocks, will commend itself to every woman, especially to her who contemplates a journey. Many of these coats have been designed this season, and they have been enthusiastically welcomed. They are shown in tans, grays, black and white mixtures, and in checks. In these neutral colors they go well with frocks or skirts in any color.

One of the newest and smartest of coats of this kind is shown in the picture. It is cut with almost straight lines at the front and back and trimmed in braid and buttons with a crisp military precision. At each side, a little below the waist line, there is an insert of fan plaits, giving the desired flare, and the double turnover collar, set on at the back, is another concession to demands of the vogue.

The skirt to match is plain, fitted about the hips and with a very conservative flare from hip line to bottom edge. It is a little longer than ankle length, but short enough to be a correct tailored model. In nearly all coats of this kind the fit is vague, the waist line either raised above or dropped below the normal, and only a suggestion, at most. In many of them lines are perfectly straight or show a gradual flare from the shoulders down.

### New Towels.

Some of the newest Turkish towels have an initial quite four or five inches long, worked in French knots at the left of the towel, above the border, instead of in the center, as is usually done. For a man's use towels worked with these large letters are very good looking.

Among the newest designs for small guest towels is one of a fine damask of a very small pattern without a woven border. The latter is hemstitched on and consists of an inch-wide hem of colored linen, pink or blue.

The initial may be embroidered in white on the hem or worked on the towel itself in a color to correspond with the hem.

### Separate Coats.

Separate coats are receiving a great deal of attention; motor coats continue to be full length or seven-eighths. Some of the newer coats are of uneven length.

## Headwear for All-Weather Motoring



Now that the return of spring lures everyone to the out-of-doors, devotees of motoring are happily busy getting together their "motor togs." Coats and headwear for rain-or-shine driving must be considered from every point of view, and let no one think that becomingness is not as important in motor apparel as in any other.

But this is a hint hardly needed for the buyer of headwear. Women are accustomed to placing becomingness as the paramount essential when choosing any kind of millinery. In the choice of motor hats there is so great a range this spring that one can afford to be exacting and to look until the very best model is found.

Two motor bonnets are pictured here that may be depended upon for good service. They are made of silk. One of them boasts a brim and is quite like a hat in shape. It is developed in pongee with brim-rever turning up at the back over the folded-over crown. A silk cord and fan of fringed braid supply the decoration and these are supplied in any color demanded.

The bonnet at the left of the picture is made in changeable taffeta piped with a dark color in the same silk.

The "body" possessed by this silk makes it especially well suited to soft crowns. Also, in the better grade, it has fine resisting qualities against dampness, and sheds dust readily. This bonnet is finished with broad ribbons in a soft weave that will not crush. A buckle, made of the silk used in the pipings, over a foundation of buckram, and two flat buttons of the same, are used for trimming.

Many of the new veils are large squares of chiffon hemmed all around. Among them is a novelty showing a square insert of net or lace in the chiffon at one side. This is placed over the face, when the veil is not needed for actual protection, and allows the wearer to see clearly.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

Spring Waists. Spring waists are both novel and wearable. The most noticeable features are the continued use of high collars and the return of jabots and ruffles. That the jabot has returned is good news, for never did women look more attractive than when they wore jabots and ruffles of crisp linen and lace.—Vogue.

## "LIFE, LIBERTY AND PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS"

A Western Canada Farmer Writes as to Conditions.

A. G. Hansen is a farmer living near Clavet, Sask., and as an old resident of Minnesota, takes strong exception to some of the articles appearing in American papers disparaging the true conditions in Western Canada. The "Cottonwood Current" of Cottonwood, Minn., an important weekly paper in the southwestern part of the state, recently published a letter from Mr. Hansen, which is interesting reading. In his letter Mr. Hansen makes a splendid case for Western Canada against those who seek to deter farmers in the States from settling in Canada. He says:

"The district in which we live is a fair comparison to any other district in the country, made up mostly of settlers from the States. The majority here consists of Americans from Minnesota, Iowa and the Dakotas, with a few Canadians and an odd Englishman. We have been here eleven years, ever since this part of the country was settled, and the majority have done well. If they have not, it is certainly not the fault of the country.

"There has not been a crop failure in this district since settled. This year was the poorest, caused by lack of rain, although a fair estimate of wheat is about twelve bushels per acre, average, and oats about ten. Some farmers got as much as twenty-five bushels of wheat per acre, and we all got good prices.

"The laws of Canada are nearly the same as those of Minnesota, and we enjoy the same privileges.

"So far as the European war is concerned, we suffer to a certain extent as all the world does. Canada is giving a helping hand to her Mother Country, and we American-Canadians firmly believe it is Canada's duty to do so. I have not heard one American-Canadian who has expressed a different opinion. Canada is not compelled to send her soldiers. The service rendered is all voluntary service.

"The accusation that old settlers are considered undesirable citizens and are forced out of business, even in danger of being 'mobbed at their own fireside,' is all false, a mere fabrication in the mind of badly informed correspondents. There are a few who have been discovered carrying letters, others papers and plans to prove them spies, and whose object is to conspire against the government. These have justly been arrested. Such a class of people cannot be considered good citizens, whether living in Canada or in the United States.

"Some people are failures wherever they are, and as an excuse for failure in their country it may seem easy to put the blame on the Canadian people and the Canadian government. Fact is, thousands of people from the United States are emigrating to Canada at the present time, which shows they are not afraid of the Canadian government.

"The government is giving away, free of charge, provision through the winter to farmers in certain districts affected by the drought, and is also sending seed grain to those in need of help. This is very different from driving settlers away from their own homes.

"I have always observed that the people who love their Mother Country most are those who make the best citizens of their adopted country. The glorious 'Stars and Stripes' will always stand for what is good and noble to us, though we live in a neighbor country where we also enjoy 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.'—Advertisement.

After the Meeting. Orator's Wife—Did the people applaud? Orator (with bitterness)—Applaud? They made less noise than a rubber heel in a feather bed!

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From Mrs. Maria Irwin, Peru, N.Y.

PERU, N.Y.—"Before I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound I was very irregular and had much pain. I had lost three children, and felt worn out all the time. This splendid medicine helped me as nothing else had done, and I am thankful every day that I took it."—Mrs. MARIA IRWIN, R.F.D. 1, Peru, N.Y.

From Mrs. Jane D. Duncan, W. Quincy, Mass.

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Bad Language. Thomas A. Edison on his sixty-sixth birthday said to a reporter: "The result of this war will be a German republic that in fifty years will forge ahead of all of us." The reporter, impressed by Mr. Edison's war knowledge, asked: "What language do the Belgians use—Walloon, French, German?" "Humph," said Mr. Edison, "I know well what language I'd use if I were a Belgian."

More. Cobb—Is it a privilege to know Short? Webb—Yes; an expense, also.—Judge.

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## Official Denial

No War Tax on Homestead Land in Canada The report that a war tax is to be placed on Homestead lands in Western Canada having been given considerable circulation in the United States, this is to advise all enquirers that no such tax has been placed, nor is there any intention to place a war tax of any nature on such lands. (Signed) W. D. Scott, Supt. of Immigration, Ottawa, Canada, March 15th, 1918.

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