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## Sunday School Lesson

### PERSONAL RELIGION

Personal Sunday School Lesson for December 11, 1949

**SELECTION:** "I will put in their inward parts, and in their heart will I write it."—Jeremiah 31:33.

**Text:** Jeremiah 8:4-6; 31:29-34

Passages designated for this week, Jeremiah has things to say about religion. A man's natural tendency, in his worship something for deep in the heart of man being is the realization of something greater than himself. The second thing that has to say about religion is that it exhausts itself in the forms, it is not true but a counterfeit. Third, it declared that religion is a matter of immediate of the individual soul with that He enters into, the life of the individual and fashions after His own image.

Essary condition of the complete development of personality. Just as the man who never develops his taste for beauty to whom a primrose by the river's brim is simply another yellow flower, who never stands in reverence to watch a lovely sunset, is not a fully grown person, so a man who does not allow his innate tendency to worship, to grow, is not quite fully human. Religion is personal because it is an essential element in any richly personal life.

The same writer continues: "Religion is personal because it is a relation to a personal God. It is a relation between persons. All such relations bring an intermingling of spirit. If one of the persons is far greater in power and worth than the other, he dominates the relation and that for the good of the lesser person, who will, if he is wise, recognize the value of such a domination and welcome it. The personal relation of a human being to God involves the complete opening of the human life to the divine which means its transformation and elevation."

There are many who prefer an impersonal religion. They do not

want their religion to affect their lives so deeply. They are those who are sometimes described as "Sunday Christians," those who attend the services of worship with a degree of regularity on Sunday but do not let the influence of the teachings they have heard extend into the weekday sphere of their lives.

There are too many nominal church members and professional Christians making the mistake these ancient inhabitants of Judah made, that is using a formal and ceremonial religion as a sop to conscience that they might live material lives undisturbed. Needless to say, such modern worshippers are fooling themselves and God's warning that "My fury shall be poured out" should constitute as serious a threat to them as to the people of Judah centuries ago.

Jeremiah's task was very difficult. He was called to deliver a message to a people so far gone that his call to a reformed life was frankly characterized as hopeless, notwithstanding the unpopularity that came with it. Jeremiah persevered, "Jeremiah was lowly, despised, persecuted," says Henry Van Dyke, and "He was probably the best hated man in Jerusalem. But he did not flinch from his duty of telling the disagreeable truth. Every age needs prophets who are brave enough to do that—Cassandra on the wall of windy Troy, Dante flying from ill-counselled Florence, Carlyle picturing the shame and danger of complacent England, and our own young men who are proclaiming the peril of wealth-worshipping America."

"The prophets were great; but the prophets were men of God," says the Rev. David Gregg. "Put God into a man's life, and he becomes a Samuel, a Micah, a Jeremiah, a Paul, a Stephen, a Luther, a Calvin, a Knox. What men in history can compare with these men of God, or with their kindred in the different ages? God is knocking at the doors of your nation by his gospel and by his Spirit. Have you opened the doors of your nation to God? How much of your thinking does he control? What place has he in your plans? What proportion of your time does he control? What entronement has his law in your heart? What proportion of your substance do you give him? If we are not as the prophets, it is not God's fault. It is our fault, because we are keeping God out of our lives."

## Neighborhood Yours

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By Maggi Marchand Brown

All week long I have been working on an historical novel dated a hundred years ago. This book had been neglected for a whole decade. There are months of toiling effort in this crudely wrought manuscript and it should be salvaged.

Here I have written of an old Spanish land grant in the unbounded territory of New Mexico, and that was when the Americans came in and took over Santa Fe. In gathering material along the upper Rio Grande, ten years ago, I camped by many a wagon trail. Some days I saw only Mexicans and Indians, who dwell in their separate pueblos, such as Abiquiu and Tesuque, little towns built out of sun-dried mud. Every village had its planting grounds with ditches to irrigate the thirsty beans and squashes, and the good crop was a nice installment on the winter's social security.

That summer I visited with more than one group of Pueblo women who were washing clothes at a stream's edge, rubbing their garments on the burnt black rocks from volcanos. Among themselves they chattered, scolded the children out of the laundry waters, and one spoke a word of English. Why was that? An Indian woman gave me the answer.

"Most of us have gone to the American school at Santa Fe," she said. "We learned many things, but we come home to our own ways. We are not simple people. We are earnest and proud and religious. We are not cowards. Don't you know we lived beside the treacherous Navajos and fearful Apaches for centuries? All that time we kept these valleys for ourselves."

Once in the long-gone time we drove out the Spanish and burned their missions. Afterwards the Mexicans came among us; then we did nothing. They have their towns; we have our pueblos. We don't mix with other people. Our ways are different and better. What makes anyone think we want to trade in our peaceful living for alarm clocks, machine guns, and saloons?"

About the middle of the war, I came upon a native of the same village in Washington. He was a sailor and lonely for the desert when I discovered him at a table in the Munitions Building cafeteria. University Graduate

This young Indian was a graduate of the University of Arizona, having earned his way by hard labor. After the war, he told me he was going home.

Two 20-ampere circuits should be available to assure efficient and economical operation of appliances. One circuit should serve convenience outlets in the dining room and kitchen. The other, outlets in the laundry and kitchen.

When cooking appliances are connected to overloaded, inadequate circuits, they take longer to do a job. Overloading, the engineers state, can cause as much as 10 per cent voltage drop. Thus, a grill or roaster will take 28 per cent more time to heat up, a toaster 31.5 per cent more time than when the wiring is adequate. Appliances, plugged into overloaded circuits, also consume more electricity and produce poorer cooking results.

Living room outlets—Convenience outlets should be spaced every 12 feet along the wall, with one in each wall space three feet or more in length. If you follow this rule, the experts advise, you'll have plenty of handy spots to plug in lamps, appliances, radio and television. Also, lighted decorations can be placed where desired without limiting the use of equipment in other parts of the room.

Outdoor wiring—For a friendly, hospitable entrance provide a lighted house number and a fixture that is bright enough to illuminate the steps. When making these improvements, be sure to install weather-proof outlets on the house wall. They're handy for outdoor decorative lighting, the wiring specialists point out. They're also useful for plugging in gardening and cooking appliances.

## Centreville

By Mrs. Nora Good

The Methodist Church held their annual bazaar Saturday. We want to thank all who helped with it. We sold nearly everything. The next regular meeting of the W. S. C. S. will be at the home of Mrs. Willard Mohler December 16. The school Christmas party will be December 20.

Mrs. Bramhall has moved and Mr. and Mrs. Appel and Patsy have moved into the apartment that she occupied. The Appels are from Arlington.

Carl Nichols went hunting Wednesday and brought home a turkey.

Mr. Sam Evans, who lived near here, was buried at St. John's Church Sunday.

Mrs. Lester Mohler and Mrs. Nora Good went shopping in Clarendon Monday. Mr. and Mrs. Good took Mary Ellen to see Santa Claus in Clarendon on Friday night.

Mrs. Edyth Myers entertained about six women friends Saturday night.

Mrs. Daisy Gentry and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gentry and children had dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Roger Spindle Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Elden Ehinger and children spent the holidays in Adrian, Mich., visiting relatives.

Mr. George Turberville has begun construction on his new building adjoining his store.

Mr. Dye has completed the office building next to the Dye Building. Mr. and Mrs. Leon Waldron are planning to move to Arlington next week.

## To The Homemaker

Are you bothered frequently by blinking lights, fuse blowing and sluggish operation of appliances? If so, you're slated for additional trouble during the holiday season. So state electrical specialists who say these difficulties are results of inadequate wiring.

Appliances and lighting are put to extra use during holiday parties and family dinners, they point out. This places heavier-than-usual loads on the wiring system. The penalties: Slowed down appliances, excessive drops in lighting brilliance, and current interruption on a house circuit.

To avoid these annoyances, the engineers urge that you modernize your wiring now. Up-to-date wiring, they claim, will step up electrical

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