

Sunday School Lesson

WORSHIP IN THE EARLY CHURCH

National Sunday School Lesson For January 15, 1950

PRY SELECTION: "Now the glory of those who believed of one heart and soul, and said that any of the things which he possessed were his, but they had everything common."—Acts 4:32.

Text: Acts 2:42-47; 31-35. Luke wrote about the Christ of his day to the Emperor Nero. "They rescue the orphan who does him violence, who has gives to him who is without grudging. And if a man among them who is needy and they have no abundance of necessities, they go or three days that they supply the needy with their very food."

Lesson today shows how this started in the early days of church. The believers were unwilling to be unwilling to properly while human sufferings were unrelieved. Barnabas, for example, is given special notice because he sold his farm and turned the proceeds to the apostles used for relief. The apostles of this trust fund to care for who were in need.

There is nothing of modernism in all this," says Alex-

ander MacLaren, "but there is a lesson to the modern church as to the obligations of wealth and the claims of brotherhood, which is all but universally disregarded."

"The spectre of communism is troubling every nation, and it will become more and more formidable unless the church learns that the only way to allay it is to live by the precepts of Jesus and to repeat in new forms the spirit of the primitive church."

Love for one's fellow man will make a follower of Christ mindful of the needs of others. Dr. Robert F. Horton refers to this service as Christian Socialism and says that such a socialist "will labor for the weak and unfortunate; he will seek to alter institutions in the direction of mercy and of justice; he will put public interest before private interests; he will attach more importance to life than to property; and, indeed, he will limit the rights of property by the interests of the community. He will admit no rights without corresponding duties; he will define wealth, not in terms of material possessions but in terms of well-being."

The apostles were primarily preachers and were unable to give complete attention to the distribution of charity. As Professor G. T. Stokes says of preachers today: "It is their business to explain the

Lord's will, to translate the idea of the Bible into the language of modern life, to apply the divine principles of doctrine and discipline laid down in the Bible to the ever-varying wants of our complex modern civilization; and how can this function be discharged unless there be time for reading and for thinking, so as to gain a true notion of what are these modern wants, and to find out how the eternal principles of the Scriptures are to be applied to them."

The verses in Acts given for our consideration stress repeatedly the satisfaction which these early followers of Christ had in one another's company. They loved one another because they loved, trusted and wanted to serve the same Lord. They continued steadfastly in the teaching of the apostles; they offered the hospitality of their homes to their brethren and they prayed together.

Dr. E. B. Pressense, in his book, "Christians Life and Practice in the Early Church," says, "It was not only ideas and opinions that were interchanged among the churches of different countries. The bond of Christian love drew them far more closely together, and they expressed their brotherly affection in many practical forms. The Christian who was journeying found brethren in the faith. He was loaded with gifts and treated as a son even in that great city of Rome, where he might easily have been lost in the desert."

In conformity with the generous usages of the first century, the churches sent abundant aims to their brethren in poverty, whether they were confessors suffering at home or Christians condemned to work in the mines. When Christian hearts are filled with the spirit of sharing. When our hearts are warmed with the love of God, our eyes are more clearly focused on the needs of our fellowmen as opportunities to share. We need greatly more of the spirit of this early Jerusalem church in the churches of our times.

INKLINGS

By John Jarvis



Yorkshire

By Miss Ruth Wright (Week of December 29)

Mrs. A. V. Kinchee, mother of Mrs. Witt of Lynchburg, spent the Christmas holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Witt and family.

Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Witt were Mr. and Mrs. Gurewitz of Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Henton, former residents of Yorkshire, have been visiting in the neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bush of Pittsburgh spent the Christmas holidays with her sister and brother-in-law, Capt. and Mrs. Jesse Morse.

Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Robbins and daughter were Christmas dinner guests of Mrs. Gertrude H. Robbins, his mother, in Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Eagle were the Christmas dinner guests of Dr. and Mrs. Bennett in Winchester.

Miss Pearl Morgan will visit with her nephew and family, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Richardson. The guest is of Tyreburg, Me.

During the week the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Witt have been Mr. William Grant, formerly of Yorkshire, but who now living at Vienna; Mr. and Mrs. Greenway of

Bellhaven, Alexandria; and Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Welhalf and daughter, Peggy, of Del Ray, Alexandria.

The Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Richardson were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Buckley.

(Week of Jan. 12th.)

Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Witt were her mother, Mrs. A. Kinchee, his mother, Mrs. W. F. Witt, and grandson, Charles Edward Witt, all of Lynchburg, and her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Gurewitz of Washington, D. C.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Keaton, former residents of Yorkshire, have been visiting here recently.

Capt. and Mrs. Jesse Morse had as their Sunday guests, Capt. and Mrs. Welfred Kafner and son, Mike. Dr. M. C. Robbins attended a

On the SCREEN

"THE BIG WHEEL"

Mickey Rooney has the role of a big-time auto racer, the son of a famous driver killed at Indianapolis, who seeks to emulate his father not only on the track but, for a time, also in the woman and whiskey department. He manages to alienate his employer (Thomas Mitchell), a garage proprietor who marries his mother (Spring Byington) and the racing fraternity as a whole after the death of a colleague, for which he is held responsible. Rooney's heart interest is portrayed by Mary Hatcher.

"TENSION"

While advertised as a "mystery," there isn't too much mystery in this story of Claire Quimby (played by Audrey Totter), who, tired of the humdrum of matrimony and disdainful of the moral code leaves her husband, Warren, a meek man of sedentary habits, whose only interests were his wife and job, to live with a heel named Deager. Claire's deviation from the conventions brought little happiness to her and less to her husband, whose pleas to return home and be forgiven were rewarded only by a brutal beating from the miscreant who had made him a cuckold. The beating, implanted a desire for revenge in the husband, but he stopped short of homicide only to learn later that some one

else had killed Deager. The errand Claire then returns to their apartment and detectives close in to determine the motives and identity of the killer.

Richard Basehart has the role of the abused husband, while Lloyd Gough is the cad of the occasion. Barry Sullivan is the masterful detective and Cyd Charisse is around to restore the husband's faith in women and lovey-dovey.

"LIMPS" INTO JAIL

ORLANDO, Fla.—Picked up on suspicion of theft of a \$20 bill, a man named James told a convict story and was released. However, as he left headquarters, police noticed he had a slight limp to starboard. Closer examination showed the sole of James' left

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- Of what State is Austin the capital?
- Does Nome front on the Bering Sea, Baffin Bay or Hudson Bay?
- Valparaiso is a seaport in what South American country?
- What famous city is located on the Tyrrhenian Sea?
- Is Salonika on the Adriatic Sea, the Ionian Sea or the Aegean Sea?
- In what country is the city of Odessa located?
- Is Franz Joseph Land in the Arctic or Antarctic?
- In what group of islands is Dutch Harbor?
- Is the island of St. Helena, where Napoleon died, a French or British possession?

- The Answers
- Louisiana.
 - Texas.
 - Bering Sea.
 - Chile.
 - Naples, Italy.
 - Aegean Sea.
 - Soviet Russia.
 - Arctic.
 - The Aleutians.
 - British.

We see, by the advertisements, that another "must" book has come off the press.

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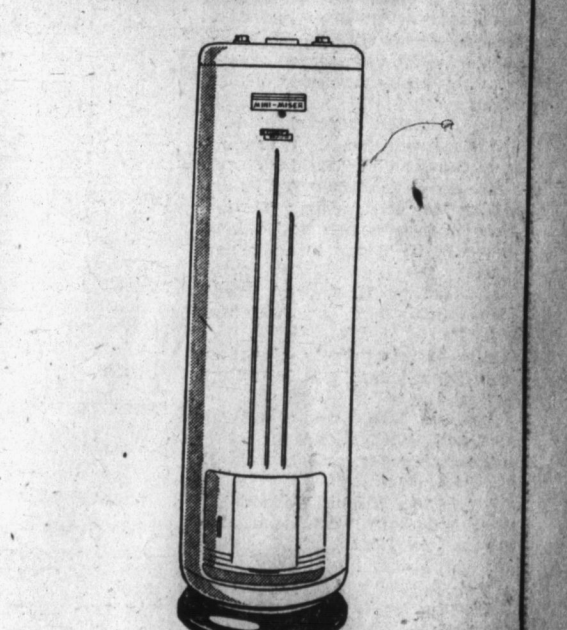
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