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Sunday School Lesson

August 4th, 1946

A. D. Cann

JESUS AND THE SABBATH

Lesson: Exodus 20:8; Mark 2:23-28; Matthew 12:9-13

Golden Text: This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24.

COMMENTS ON THE LESSON

The fourth commandment was given primarily for man's physical, mental, social and spiritual welfare. To ignore the Sabbath Day is to prepare the way for a breakdown somewhere in man's fourfold being.

I. THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT: Exodus 20:8: **Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy**—Notice we are to remember the Sabbath day, not only during the day itself, but all through the week, so that during the Lord's day we may accomplish something for Him. A man who lives seventy years has ten years of Sundays.

II. JESUS IN THE GRAIN FIELDS: Mark 2:23: **His disciples began as they went, to pluck the ears of corn**—They were not stealing for the law permitted what they were doing (Deut. 23:25). They were hungry.

24. **Why do they on the Sabbath day that which is not lawful**—The Pharisees claimed that the picking of the grain was a kind of reaping and the rubbing out of its kernels in the hand was a kind of threshing.

25. **Have ye never read what David did**—The Jews looked upon David as their national hero, and whatever he did would be acceptable to the Pharisees. He judged that the letter of the law should be relaxed in the presence of human need.

26. **Did eat the shewbread**—Which was only to be eaten by the priest. The justifying cause of his eating was that he had great need. (I. Sam. 21:1-6).

27. **The Sabbath was made for man**—Since the Sabbath was made for man's highest welfare, we therefore must not interpret the law in a way that opposes his best welfare.

28. **The son of Man is Lord also of the Sabbath**—He who ordained the Sabbath day certainly has the authority to say how it ought to be observed.

III. A PARALYTIC RESTORED ON THE SABBATH DAY: Matthew 12:10. **There was a man which had his hand withered**—This was a bad case of paralysis and evidently the man had lost the use of his hand.

II. **Will he not lay hold on it and lift it up**—To not do good when we can is to do evil. Thus to leave a sheep in a pit on a Sabbath day would be a violation of the law.

12. **How much then is a man better than a sheep**—A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast, how much more should he regard the life of his fellow man.

13. **It was restored whole like as the other**—The man had the faith and Christ was willing, therefore it was instantly made whole. Jesus' example reveals to us that the Sabbath is a day of rest but not of idleness. We are to cease from regular work of the week, rest our bodies as time permits and give attention to spiritual interests.

QUESTIONS AND THEMES FOR DISCUSSION

1. For what purpose was the Sabbath day instituted?
2. How are we to remember the Sabbath day?
3. Why were the disciples justified in plucking the ears of corn on the Sabbath, and David in eating the shewbread?

August 11th, 1946

JESUS AND HOME RELATIONS

Lesson: Exodus 20:12; Matthew 7:12; Mark 7:6-13; Luke 2:51-52; Ephesians 6:1-4

Golden Text: Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Exodus 20:12.

COMMENTS ON THE LESSON

The ideal home is where there is mutual Christian love between parents and children. If parents will honor God then children will almost invariably honor their parents. Those who do not are the exception to the rule.

I. THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT: Exodus 20:12: Honor thy father and thy mother—It is to treat parents with reverence and affection for they are within their scope of rule the representatives of God.

II. FIFTH COMMANDMENT REJECTED: Mark 7:9. **Ye reject the commandment of God**—When difference existed between God's word and the traditions of the pharisees, they rejected the word and observed their traditions.

10. **Whoso curseth father or mother**—Children may curse or revile their parents by (1) speaking of them in a careless or irreverent way; (2) expression as the "old man"—"the old woman"; (3) by speaking of parents in an impertinent way; (4) by treating parents council with contempt. See Exodus 21:17. (5) By disregarding aged parents.

II. **But ye say**—The pharisees claimed that a vow was to be kept in preference to God's commandment even if the vow was contrary to the commandment.

2. **Ye suffer him no more to do aught for his father or his mother**—Because of a vow not to assist parents, the pharisees keep the vow rather than the commandment.

13. **Making the word of God of none effect**—They disregard the word of God that they might keep their own traditions.

III. THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT OBEYED: Luke 2:51. **Was subject unto them**—Jesus was our example in keeping the fifth commandment.

52. **Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man**—Jesus developed in a fourfold way: intellectually, physically and spiritually and socially. Let all Christians do likewise.

IV. FIFTH COMMANDMENT REPEATED: Ephesians 6:1. **Children obey your parents in the Lord**—Love for the Lord as well as love for parents is a motive for obedience.

2. **The first commandment with promise**—This is the first of the ten commandments with a reward attached.

3. **That it may be well with the**—With individuals in general but not always in particular. Some good and obedient children only live a short time. Those who obey their parents are generally industrious, temperate, honest and their habits generally tend toward prosperity and long life.

4. **Fathers provoke not your children to wrath**—Generally speaking, parents have it in their power to provoke their children to love or to wrath. Parents should be reasonable in their requirements and administer any needed discipline in the spirit of love rather than anger.

QUESTIONS AND THEMES FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is the basis for an ideal home?
2. Name different ways in which the fifth commandment is broken.
3. Show from the lesson that the parent is responsible for the child while the child is dependent and the child is responsible for the parent during the parent's period of dependence.
4. How did Christ honor his parents when a youth?

SOCIAL REFORM

As we again assemble together at Beulah Camp to enjoy the fellowship of one another, with the communion of the blessed Holy Spirit in our midst for the furtherance of the salvation of precious souls, it grieves our hearts to realize the scores of people upon the earth who are not thus privileged. It is not God's will that any should not enjoy the blessings in store for mankind. His love extends over the entire universe. But having created man a free-moral agent it would seem that man is choosing his own way.

During the last few years it has been said that the world is getting better. However, we have but to look about us to realize that morality is at a low ebb, and, rather than getting better, it is waxing worse and worse. Crime and destruction is on the increase. God's commandments are being broken; children are not being taught His commandments by their parents. Much is said concerning child delinquency, too little of parental delinquency. God says, "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

We are seemingly living in a day of broken altars. Family altars have been replaced by bridge parties, clubs, etc. Parents are seemingly too busy to read God's word to their children, too busy entertaining and being entertained, to know where their children are or what they are doing, and Satan is taking charge.

Figures published by the Department of Justice, in the United States for 1944, show an increase in crimes committed by boys from 10 to 18: Murder 47 per cent, assaults 71 per cent, rape 69 per cent, sex crimes other than rape, 61 per cent.

For girls for the same sex offences and prostitution rose 375 per cent, drunkenness 174 per cent, as compared with 1929.

Children today are committing 56 per cent of all crimes.

Child offenders come from good homes, even from many professional Christian homes, as frequently as from so-called "bad" homes; thus proving that we stand much in need of social reform. This proves that good moral environment alone does not build character; the teaching of God's commandments is basic in the moulding of the citizens which our country needs.

We must return to the old paths—the ways of truth and holiness, preach and teach diligently by precept and example.

Respectfully submitted,
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Many are called, but few chosen. Of the many that are called to the wedding feast, if you set aside all those as unchosen that make light of it (Matt. 22:5), and avowedly prefer other things before it, if then you set aside all that make a profession of religion, but the temper of whose spirits and the tenor of whose conversation are a constant contradiction to it; if you set aside all the profane, and all the hypocritical, you will find that they are few, very few, that are chosen. Many called to the wedding feast, but few chosen to the wedding garment, that is, to salvation by sanctification of the Spirit. This is the straight gate, and the narrow way, which few find.—Matthew Henry.