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Sunday School Lesson

A. D. Cann

FEBRUARY 24, 1946

**WHAT MAKES A PEOPLE GREAT—
 RELIGION IN THE HOME**
Lesson: Deuteronomy 6:4-12

Golden Text: Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. Psalm 45:2.

COMMENTS ON THE LESSON

This is one of the most important lessons of the whole year. It places emphasis on the right kind of home life. People are so often just what the home makes them. Love is the foundation of the home; the home is the foundation of the nation and the home is a symbol of heaven.

I. LOVE IN THE HOME: Deut. 6:4: **The LORD our God is one LORD**—There is only one living, true God.

5. **And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and all thy soul, and with all thy might**—Since God has commanded us to love him it goes without saying that it is possible for us to do so. Service is made easy when love is the impelling power. Is it not wonderful that God is able by his grace to remove from the hearts of his people all that is contrary to perfect love. Love for God includes love for our home. No home is all that it should be until Divine love is the reigning power.

6. **These words**—Refer primarily to the ten commandments. Shall be in thy heart—An inward disposition to keep them.

II. 7. **GODLY EDUCATION: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way**—If children are to obey parents, then the parents ought to obey God. These two facts generally stand or fall together. The Bible should be supreme in the home, the text book for home training; all other literature must rank second in our affections. **When thou liest down and when thou risest up**—There should be a family altar in the home and should be observed either in the morning or evening or both.

8. **And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.** It is a common custom to place a string on the finger or some other such thing in order to remind us of certain duties. In like manner the Jews wore certain passages of the law on the left arm and forehead. The significance of this was that the left arm is nearest the heart, thus shewing that God's law was to have dominion over the spirit mind and body. Since Christians today do not observe these symbols we must be careful to observe the reality back of them.

9. **And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates**—A small metal cylinder containing certain passages of the law was placed on the right hand doorpost. As the Jews came and went from their homes they touched these cylinders. Thus the law was ever before them.

III. 10. **COVENANT: Which he sware unto thy fathers**—God made a covenant with Abraham and his seed, which if they obeyed

would bring blessing: even homes and cities to dwell in. Every home should have a covenant with God so that the home will be a recipient of divine blessing.

II. **And houses full of all good things**—A covenant with God always brings spiritual blessing and often temporal blessings.

IV. 12. **OBEDIENCE: Beware lest thou forget the LORD**—Poverty often results in dependence on God while prosperity results in independence of God. In their prosperity they were to still obey God.

QUESTIONS AND THEMES FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are four essential factors in having a happy home? Emphasize each.
2. Shew the importance of the family altar.
3. Explain the practical application of verse 8.
4. Shew the importance of young people attending as many as possible the following means of grace: Sunday School; preaching service; prayer meeting; camp-meeting; summer Bible School; vacational Bible school, etc.

MARCH 3, 1946

**A PEOPLE FINDING A HOMELAND—
 BOOK OF JOSHUA**

Lesson: Joshua 1:1-4:23:1-11

Golden Text: Thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee—Deuteronomy 8:10.

COMMENTS ON THE LESSON

The name Joshua means "The Eternal is Salvation," and the Greek form of it is the word we know as "Jesus." He was the helper or servant of Moses (Ex. 24:13) and was with him on Sinai. He and Caleb were among the spies who brought the minority report.

I. **CHOSEN LEADER: Joshua 1:1. Now after the death of Moses**—A very touching account of Moses' death is given in Deut. 34. The reason for Moses not being permitted to enter the promised land is given in Numbers 20:12. Joshua is appointed by the Lord as Moses' successor and he proves his ability as such. As Moses' servant he was obedient and thus he demonstrates an indispensable quality as a leader of men.

II. **DIVINE GUIDANCE: Joshua 1:2: Moses my servant is dead**—"The word servant as applied to both Moses and Joshua, is to be understood in a very peculiar sense. It signifies God's prime minister, the person by whom he issued his orders, and by whom he accomplished all his purposes and designs. No person ever bore this title in the like sense but the Redeemer of mankind, of whom both Moses and Joshua were types." Dr. A. Clarke. **Go over this Jordan**—This looked like an impossibility as it was the spring of the year and the Jordan was high. How the Israelites crossed is recorded in Joshua 3.

3. **Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you**—This seems to picture the comparative ease in which they were to conquer the land. It is significant to note the ease in which they conquered when they obeyed.

4. **From the wilderness**—This verse names the boundaries of the promised land.

Joshua 23:1—**Joshua waxed old and stricken in years**—Means that Joshua came to the last

days of his life. A great deal of history transpires between this and the preceding verse, the most important of which is perhaps the miraculous entrance of the children of Israel into their promised land.

2. **And Joshua called for all Israel**—He called for all the representatives of the people.

3. **The LORD your God is he that hath fought for you**—No doubt the people attributed their victories to Joshua but he affirms that the Lord alone gave the victory.

4. **These nations that remain**—This was sort of a cleaning up process after the backbone of Canaanitish resistance had been broken.

5. **He shall expel them from before you**—A conditional promise.

III. **COURAGE ENJOINED: 6. Be ye therefore very courageous**—With unbelievers and scoffers on every side it would require great courage to do all that was written in the law.

IV.—**SEPARATION: 7. That ye come not among these nations—neither make mention of the name of their gods**—"Have no civil or social contacts with them, as these will infallibly lead to spiritual affinities, in consequence of which you will make honorable mention of the name of their gods."—Dr. A. Clarke.

8. **Cleave unto the LORD your God**—To cleave means to adhere; stick; cling.

9. **For the LORD hath driven out from before you great nations and strong**—What the older generation had failed to do God had helped the new generation to do.

10. **One man of you shall chase a thousand**—It is not necessary that Israel be more numerous than her enemies in order to have victory. One with God is a majority.

II. **Take good heed therefore unto yourselves that ye love the LORD your God**—Love is a motive. Perfect love for God is the key to a happy Christian life.

QUESTIONS AND THEMES FOR DISCUSSION

1. From the lesson name four factors in finding location for a home.
2. Given that Canaan is a type of the sanctified life, shew the importance of each of the above factors in living a sanctified life.
3. Give the significance of the word, "servant" as found in Joshua 2.
4. In what respect was the new generation more successful than their fathers? Why?

OBITUARY

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

Mrs. Lucy McLaughlin, aged 78 years, died at her home on January 14. She was a Christian woman and was a member of the Reformed Baptist Church. The funeral was conducted in her home at Hartland by her pastor, A. D. Cann, assisted by Rev. F. A. Dunlop and Paul Mullen.

She leaves to mourn, two sons, Guy McLaughlin, Hartland, and Arthur MacLaughlin, Houlton; two daughters, Mrs. Harry Brown, Houlton, and Mrs. M. A. Smith, Hartland; two brothers, Allan Cummings, Pontiac, Mich., and John Cummings, Houlton and a sister, Mrs. Margaret Hurley, Hartland.

To the sorrowing ones we extend our sympathy.