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Yuletide Greetings

The Christmas Holly Girl



IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL Sunday School Lesson

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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 24 A LESSON IN TRUST AND PRE- PAREDNESS

LESSON TEXT—Luke 12:13-21.
GOLDEN TEXT—The life is more than
meat, and the body is more than raiment.
—Luke 12:23.
PRIMARY TOPIC—The Story of a
Foolish Rich Man.
JUNIOR TOPIC—A Foolish Rich Man.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC
—Rich Toward God.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC
—True Riches.

Since on October 8 we had a lesson
on the birth and childhood of Jesus,
many will doubtless prefer to have
this new lesson instead of the Christ-
mas lesson.

I. A Warning Against Covetousness (vv. 13-21).

1. The Occasion (vv. 13-15). One of
the company requested Jesus to be
umpire in a disputed estate. Two
brothers were in trouble over an in-
heritance. Christ refused to enter the
sphere of the civil law and warned
against the spirit of avarice. Christ's
mission was preeminently spiritual.

2. Enforcement of the Warning (vv.
16-21). The parable of the rich man
shows clearly that to be concerned
with earthly riches while neglecting
God is the height of folly. The Lord's
warning is of great importance today;
for many are seeking gold and forget-
ting God. Note (1) his increase in
goods (v. 16). His riches were rightly
obtained, for the ground brought forth
plentifully. This shows that a man
may be rich because of the Lord's
blessing upon him. (2) His perplexity
(v. 17). His land was producing more
than his barns would hold. He did not
want it to go to waste. If he had pos-

Christmas Morning



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**Toys for
the Kiddies**

Candies and Nuts
and
Good things to eat
for
All the family

KOONTZS GOOD GOODS

essed the right views of life and a
sense of stewardship before God, he
would have seen that his barns at least
had enough for his personal needs and
that he could have distributed his sur-
plus to the needy and for benevolent
purposes. (3) The fatal choice (vv.
18, 19). He chose to enlarge his
barns and give up his life to ease and
luxury. It ought to be a delightful
task for men whom God has made
rich to devote their time and energy
to the distribution of their possessions
to benevolent purposes. (4) The awful
indictment (vv. 20, 21). God calls
him a fool.

II. The Certain Cure for Anxiety (vv. 32-34).

Having shown the folly of the rich
man who gained gold but lost God, He
now urged the disciples to trust God
and dismiss all anxious care. He as-
sured them that they need not be anx-
ious even for the necessities of life.
Note:

1. The Argument (vv. 22, 23). This
is summed up in one brief sentence:
"The life is more than food, and the
body is more than raiment." The God
who gave the life and made the body
should be trusted to provide food and
clothing.

2. The Illustrations (vv. 24-28). (1)
God's care for the fowls (vv. 24-26).
The ravens do not sow nor reap—they
have no storehouse or barn, yet they
live, for God feeds them. If God does
not forget the fowls, certainly He
would do more for His children. (2)
God's care for the flowers of the field
(vv. 27, 28). If God is so careful of
those flowers which appear but for a
day, how much more will He clothe
His children!

3. The Exhortations (vv. 29-34). (1)
Make not the getting of food and
clothes your chief concern. Trust God
to provide them. (2) Seek the king-
dom of God (v. 31). Those who make
God's kingdom first shall have all their
needs supplied (Phil. 4:19). (3) Be

not afraid (v. 32). God's good pleas-
ure is upon His own, and all good
things will He give them. (4) Prac-
tice self-denial in order to be able to
give gifts to those in need (vv. 33, 34).
The doing of such deeds will tend to
lift the thoughts upward to God—to
trust Him.

III. Be Ready for the Coming of the Lord (vv. 35-40).

Having warned the disciples against
the acquisition of worldly goods while
forgetting God, and shown them the
needlessness of anxiety for food and
clothes, He shows them the blessed-
ness of being in a state of readiness
when the Lord shall come. Convic-
tion as to the certainty of the Lord's
coming is the sure cure for worldliness
and anxious care. This attitude of
heart He made clear by two parables—
that of the returning of the Lord and
that of the thief. The Lord will be so
pleased with those who are waiting
for Him that He will take delight in
sitting at the banquet with them, and
even serve them. The parable of the
thief shows that the time of the Lord's
coming is not known.

A Pair of Stockings

By Christopher G. Hazard

BUDDY SMITH had three ideas
about his stockings—they were
full of feet, full of holes, and they
could be full of presents. It was with
regard to the third idea that he was
paying attention to the second. Will-
ing to go barefoot under the circum-
stances, he was tying up the holes in
his best stocking, with a view to the
Christmas possibilities. His sister,
Agnes, had already hung up a much
longer stocking, with a note attached

in which she informed all who might
be concerned that this one was hers.
But Agnes, like the monkey that used
a rabbit for a muff and kept himself
warm by hugging it, was a little sel-
fish. Not only had she hung up one of
her mother's stockings, but she had got
an advantage over Buddy in the mat-
ter of the chocolate cake in the cup-
board, for there were holes all round
it the size of her little finger.
So it was that on Christmas morn-
ing the shorter stocking had the most
in it.

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