

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

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Lesson for July 18

LESSON TEXT—Exodus 3:13-16; 4:10-16; 5:1.

GOLDEN TEXT—The Lord will give strength unto his people.—Psalm 29:11. PRIMARY TOPIC—When Moses Was Afraid.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Moses Made Ambassador. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—God Stands by His Workers. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Strong in the Strength of God.

Never in a hurry! Who? God. He needed a human leader to bring his chosen people up out of the bondage of Egypt and he spent 80 years getting him ready—40 years learning all the wisdom of Egypt, and 40 years learning the lessons of God, patience and humility, on the back side of the desert.

Infinite and omnipotent is God, and he may move with faster-than-lightning speed. But usually we find him working out his blessed purposes, normally, quietly, but always "on time."

Our lesson brings before us the meeting with God which preceded the appearance of Moses as the head of the nation of Israel in its mighty conflict with Pharaoh. We find him first proceeding with commendable care but then going on in unfortunate humility which amounted, almost to unbelief and which resulted in the substitution of his brother Aaron as his spokesman, but eventually we do see him going about his difficult task with resolution and courage.

I. Justifiable Caution (Exod. 3:13-16).

Neither God nor man dare entrust a high and difficult commission to a foolish man who brusquely "rushes in where angels fear to tread." The fact that one feels fully and unhesitatingly qualified to take over such a responsibility is almost a certain indication that he is not the man to assume it.

The ambassador must have credentials. God's representative has them. When "they shall say"—what an important and difficult situation that creates. The one who speaks for God must expect not only the scornful bitterness of God's enemies, but also the unbelieving questions of those he seeks to serve.

"What shall I say?" asks Moses, and God answers that he may say that "I AM" had sent him. This name of God reveals him as the eternal, independent, self-sufficient, self-existent, immutable, personal being. Consider, Christian brethren, whose we are and whom we serve. Here indeed is "inspiration in excess of duty," real equipment for Christian life and service.

But Moses seems to be unable to see beyond his own human infirmity even in the light of such a glorious revelation, supplemented as it was by miraculous powers, and we find him showing an

II. Unjustified Humility (Exod. 4:10-12).

When God calls a man he knows his limitations—why then should one plead them as an excuse for not serving? The excuse of Moses has been the stand-by of unwilling workers all through the ages. When asked to lead a prayer meeting, teach a Sunday School class, conduct a young people's meeting, thousands have lamely thus excused themselves and missed a blessing.

The perfect answer of God in v.11 merits attention. God made your mouth and mine. He gives us the power of speech. He asks not the eloquence of polished rhetorical periods, or the flights of man's imagination. He wants but the incomparable eloquence of his own words on our lips. Dr. Richard Ellsworth Day in "Bush Aglow" rightly points out that this was the secret of the power of D. L. Moody.

III. Unnecessary Substitution (Exod. 4:13-16).

Loving and patient is our God, but there is a boundary line to that patience. Moses went too far in his humility and reflected on the ability of God, who promptly substituted Aaron as the spokesman.

Gracious was He in thus providing a helper for Moses. But one wonders what Moses missed of blessing and power because of his slowness of heart.

IV. "And Afterward" (Exod. 5:1).

Commissioned, bearing credentials from the infinite and eternal "I AM," and with a strong and eloquent brother by his side, Moses stands before Pharaoh to say in God's name, "Let my people go."

Preparation and the holy privilege of fellowship with God are to make us ready for service. While it is folly to go unprepared, it is double folly to prepare and then fail to go when God commands.

Morning and Evening Prayer

It is well to let prayer be the first employment in the morning and the last in the evening.—M. Luther.

As He Sees Us

As we come to know ourselves through and through, we come to see ourselves more as God sees us.

The Counters of Wise Men

Words are the counters of wise men, and the money of fools.—Hobbes.

THE SUNNY SIDE OF LIFE

Clean Comics That Will Amuse Both Old and Young

THE FEATHERHEADS

By Osborne



Bad Taste

By C. M. PAYNE



Y's Quack



S'MATTER POP—Look What Ambrose Is in the Dog-House For, Now!

By C. M. PAYNE



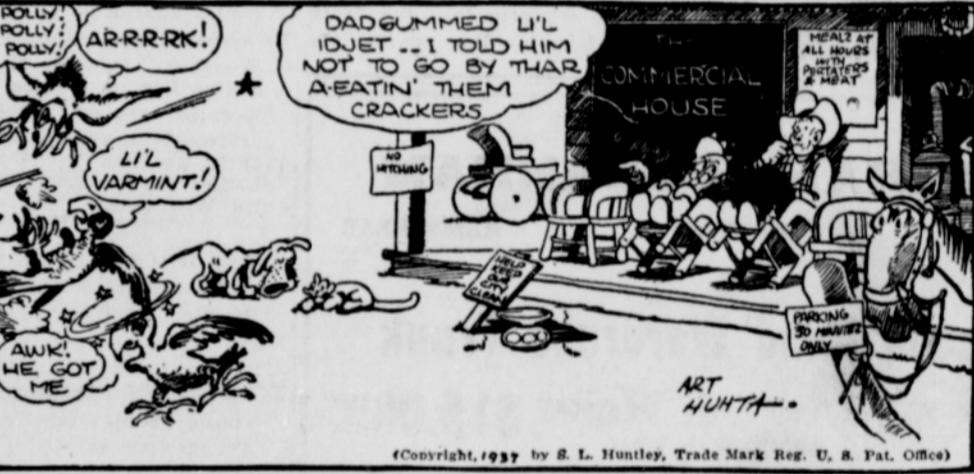
MESCAL IKE

By S. L. HUNTLEY



The Young 'Un Gets the Bird

By C. M. PAYNE



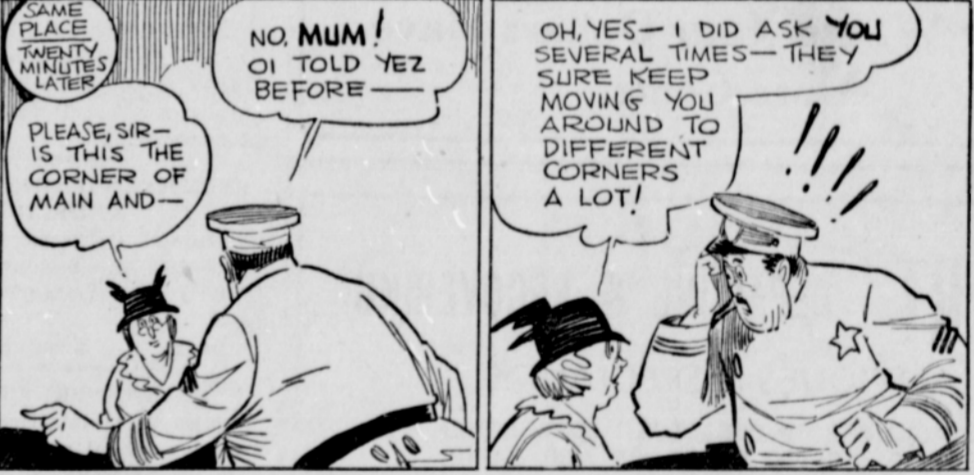
FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By Ted O'Loughlin



Merry-Go-Round

By FRED HARMAN



BRONC PEELER—The Warning

By FRED HARMAN



CALLERS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



The Curse of Progress



Food for Thought

"I am sixty years old," said the rich old man to his friend's wife. "Do you think it would be better for me to tell a certain woman whom I should like to marry that I am fifty?"

CALLERS

