

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

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Lesson for August 1

LESSON TEXT—Exodus 13:17-22; 14:10-15. GOLDEN TEXT—And the Lord shall guide thee continually.—Isaiah 58:11. PRIMARY TOPIC—A Shining Cloud. JUNIOR TOPIC—Forward March! INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—How God Leads Today. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—A Nation Following God's Leadership.

The destinies of the nations are in the hands of God. Mighty are the warriors, learned are the advisors, clever are the diplomats, and when they have exercised all their human ingenuity and have only brought themselves and their nations to "Wits' End Corner," God must lay hold and bring order out of chaos. Happy is that people where rulers recognize God and seek his guidance.

Israel through the human instrumentality of Moses was ruled by God. He had prepared for them a leader and had prepared the people to follow that leader. Now he brings them forth out of their bondage.

I. "God Led Them" (Exod. 13:17-22).

It is significant that he did not lead them by the easy way to Canaan, by the short route through Philistia but rather led them south into the wilderness.

How often it seems to us that we could improve on God's ways. Suffering, sorrow, affliction, we would shun and would go the quick easy road, where all is bright and happy. But God's way is the best way, even though it leads through the wilderness.

His purpose for Israel was that they might not be disheartened by the warlike Philistines (v. 17). Thus it was really his loving-kindness that sent them the long way. See Prov. 14:12, and Prov. 10:29.

Another and equally important purpose of God was that the undisciplined multitude might in the trials and responsibilities of their journey through the wilderness be prepared to enter the promised land.

The miraculous pillar of cloud and fire was God's constant assurance of his presence with them.

Hardly had Israel withdrawn, and the wail over the death of the first-born in Egypt ceased when Pharaoh regretted that he had permitted his slaves to escape, and set out in pursuit. He represents the world, the flesh, and the Devil in their relentless efforts to hold back those who would follow the Lord. Making a decision for Christ, and experiencing his redemptive power does not mean that the enemy has given up. Temptations, doubts, trials, will come. When you come up out of Egypt do not be surprised if Pharaoh pursues you.

The situation could not have been more difficult. Hemmed in by the flower of Egypt's army, with the Red sea before them—a group of men not trained in warfare—with women and children to care for, and God forgotten in their disbelief and discouragement.

Moses, who was their great leader in the hour of triumph, tastes the bitterness of their hatred and unbelief in the hour of trial. A leader of men for God must know that God has called him and have faith in his almighty power, for in the time of crises he will find those whom he leads ready to condemn him. What is the solution?

III. "Stand Still" (vv. 13,14). Sublime in his confidence in God, Moses bids the people to cease their petty complaining, to abandon their plans for saving themselves. "Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord" (v. 13).

Perhaps these lines will be read by some Christian who is fretting and fussing, bearing all the burdens of the universe on his shoulders. Be still, my friend. God is able to care for you, and for all the burdens which you are needlessly trying to bear. Trusting God will result in real spiritual progress.

IV. "Go Forward" (v. 15). Humanly it was impossible, but "with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27). When every circumstance says "Stop," when the counsel of men is against attempting anything, when human leadership seems to be lacking—just at that hour God may say, "go forward."

If every true Christian who reads these words will respond to the Lord's command, "Go forward," hundreds of locked church doors will be opened, new Sunday schools will gather children to hear God's Word, men and women will be won for Christ. Let us "go forward." The God who brought Israel dry-shod through the Red sea is just the same today!

Enjoyments and Troubles I make the most of my enjoyments. As for my troubles, I pack them in as little compass as I can for myself and never let them annoy others.—Southey.

Faith Given a man of faith, and the heavenly powers behind him, and you have untold possibilities.

Right Kind of Growth All growth that is not toward God, is growing to decay.

THE SUNNY SIDE OF LIFE

Clean Comics That Will Amuse Both Old and Young

THE FEATHERHEADS

By Osborne



Cloudy Weather

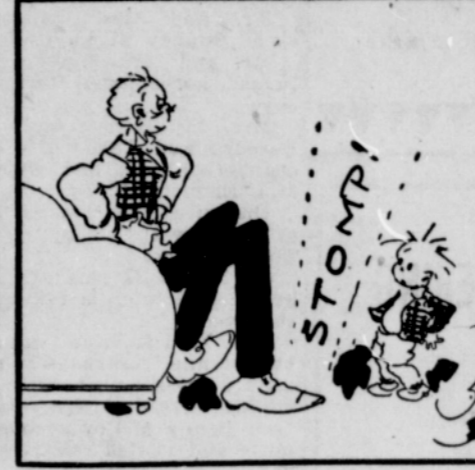


45 Quark



S'MATTER POP—Didja Ever Have a Smile Bumped Loose?

By C. M. PAYNE



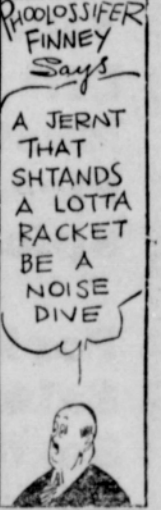
MESCAL IKE

By S. L. HUNTLEY



FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By Ted O'Loughlin



BRONC PEELER—Stick 'em Up

By FRED HARMAN



The Curse of Progress



Gave Heisell Away

"I hope you read the Bible every day?" remarked the Scotch minister to Mrs. McPherson. "Oh, yes," she replied. "I'll just show ye the chapter I read today." She produced the Good Book and opened the pages. Between them lay a pair of spectacles. "Well, I declare," she cried, "here are my spectacles that I have lost for the last fortnight!"

The Cure

Mayor—I've never seen the park so littered with paper as it is this morning. How do you account for it? Park Keeper—The council had leaflets distributed here yesterday asking people not to throw their paper about.

Money in It

Uncle—And what are you going to be when you grow up, Freddy? Freddy—I'm going to be a philanthropist; those people always seem to have such a lot of money.—Pearson's Weekly.

SLOW SERVICE

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

