

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By REV. HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST. Dean of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. © Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for August 8

GOD FEEDS A PEOPLE.

LESSON TEXT—Exodus 16:11-20: 17:3-6. GOLDEN TEXT—Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh from the Father, James 1:17. PRIMARY TOPIC—When God's People Were Hungry. JUNIOR TOPIC—God Feeding His People. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—How God Provides for Our Needs. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—God's Supply Adequate for a Nation's Need.

Israel, led by God, is on a journey to the promised land. To reach their goal they must pass through the wilderness. Not only are there weary miles to travel, but there are privations to be endured. Life is like that.

"People may be strong and hopeful at the beginning of a project, and most effusively and devoutly thankful at its close, but the difficulty is to go manfully through the process. Israel was in the desert, and never were spoiled children more peevish, suspicious, and altogether ill-behaved. If they could have stepped out of Egypt into Canaan at once, probably they would have been as pious as most of us; but there was the weary interval, the inhospitable wilderness! So it is in our life. Accept it as a solemn and instructive fact that life is a process... more than a beginning and an ending" (Joseph Parker).

Note how elemental are man's needs in the final analysis—bread and water. The very things we take almost for granted as we concern ourselves with life's weighty interests and profound problems become, if lacking, the only things that have any real meaning. And who is it that can provide them? No one but God Himself.

I. Bread from Heaven. (Exod. 16:11-20).

Observe first of all that this was a divine provision. There are responsibilities in life which we may bear—and must bear, but in the ultimate meeting of our real needs we must look to God.

Secondly, we note that it was a daily provision. What forehanded folk many of us are, and no doubt rightly so, for God puts no premium on improvidence. But once again we must recognize, as did Israel in receiving the daily manna in the wilderness that ours is indeed a moment by moment existence. We plan bravely for the next decade or the next generation, but as a matter of fact it can only come to pass "if the Lord will." Read James 5:13-17.

Finally, it was a limited provision—enough for the day and no more, except for a double portion on the sixth day, and none at all on the Sabbath. These provisions were made clear to Israel, and yet there were those who attempted to lay up for the morrow, and some even went out to seek manna on the Sabbath day.

We marvel at their stubborn obtuseness, but are we not often just like them. Some there are who are always expecting that the laws of both God and man should be set aside for them, but, mark it well, they ultimately come to grief. The spiritual application is obvious, and most serious. God has provided a way of redemption, and has made clear how man should and must relate himself to it. Folly it is to ignore God's plan.

II. A Rock in the Wilderness. (Exod. 17:3-6).

"And the people thirsted"—for the daily manna was not enough—they must have water. Needy, yes, constantly needy are God's children.

God always provides. There is a rock in the wilderness. But what pleasure does a murmuring people find in a rock when they famish for water? It is God's delightful custom to meet our needs in unexpected ways and by means which we do not understand. Even our physical necessities come from unthought of sources.

III. The Bread and the Water of Life.

Let us make certain that we do not miss the spiritual truth of our lesson which is revealed by Scripture itself. Paul speaks in I Corinthians 10:1-4 of this very incident in the experience of Israel, and says that they "did all eat the same spiritual meat and did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." See also John 4:14.

Hungry and thirsty soul, you who are still unsatisfied after tasting all that life apart from Christ has to offer, will you not, just now, take him who is the living bread, and come to the Rock which flows with living water?

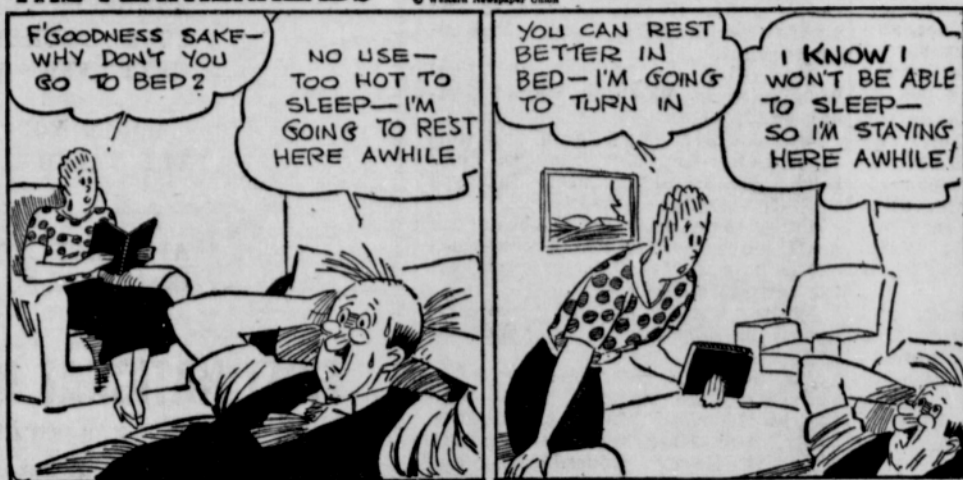
How to Keep Quiet
Character is revealed by small things; it is also hidden by small things. Speech often hides it, and again distorts it, for those who brand themselves by the pettiness of their conversation have sometimes unsuspected depths within; but the surest revealer of character is silence—intelligent silence.

Progress
No man who feels the worth and solemnity of what is at stake will be careless as to his progress.

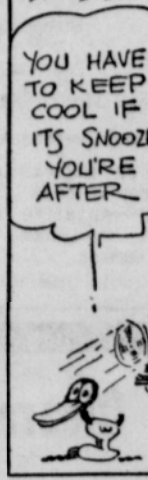
Fun for the Whole Family

THE FEATHERHEADS

By Osborne

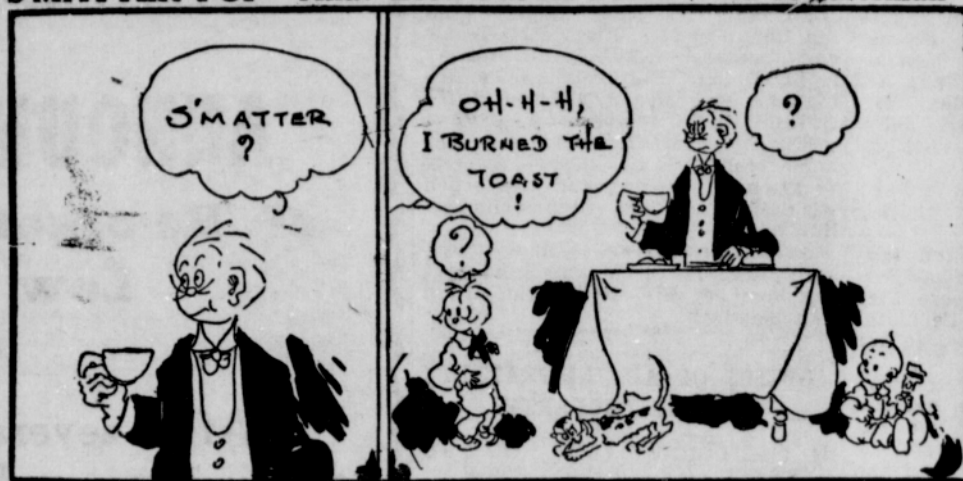


DOZE DAZE



S'MATTER POP—Aha! Look Out for a New Kind of Salesman

By C. M. PAYNE



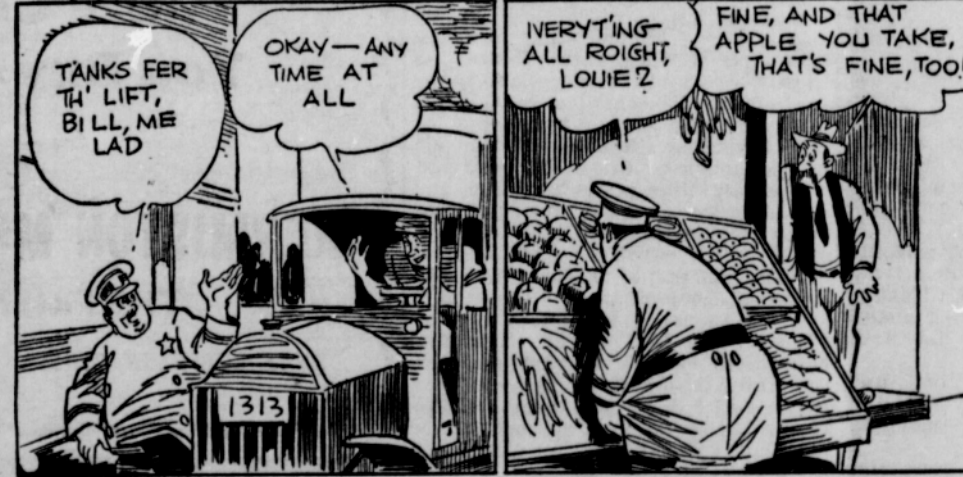
MESCAL IKE

By S. L. HUNTLEY



FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By Ted O'Loughlin



BRONC PEELER—Pete's a Harmless Gunman

By FRED HARMAN



The Curse of Progress



The Remorseful Gossip

"Sometimes I wonder whether there is any truth in the old saying, 'Be good and you will be happy.'" "What's the trouble?" "I made up my mind the other day that I would be truthful and obliging. I answered every question anybody asked me." "And told the exact truth?" "Yes. And none of the people I told the truth about now speak to me." **The Reason** John—Did you hear what they did with the horses that had their tails burnt off when the stables caught fire?" Jim—No, what happened to them? John—They had to be sold wholesale. Jim—But why wholesale? John—Because they couldn't be retailed. **Mother's a Detective** Betty—How did mother discover you hadn't taken a bath? Billy—I forgot to wet the soap.

THE CANDY BOX

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

