

programme, which is expected to be completed by November.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS' STUDY GROUP . . . 3

JESUS IS THE SUPREME TEACHER

By WINIFRED M. MERRITT

Scripture Passage—Matthew 5:7-12

The Gospel according to St. Luke presents Jesus as the Saviour of the World; that according to St. Matthew, the Strong Son of God. The Gospel according to St. Matthew reveals Him as the Supreme Teacher and this alone justifies its position at the beginning of the New Testament, though it was not the first of the four to be written.

As Sunday school teachers, the obligation is laid upon us to make ourselves familiar with St. Matthew's Gospel, in order, first, that we may allow Jesus to teach us His disciples and, secondly, that in our turn may be the better able to teach our scholars.

Mrs Winifred Lamb has written a series of valuable notes on our Scripture passage. She begins by drawing a word picture of a company of men, toiling up a hillside in the blazing heat of the eastern sun towards a spot where Jesus was.

Some of them, no doubt, she says, were fishermen who had left their boats on the shore of the blue lake of Galilee, and others were probably peasants or craftsmen from the fields or towns of North Palestine.

They differed in age, character, appearance and occupation, but they had one thing in common—they wanted to find Jesus.

Sometimes we feel very like that company of men toiling up the hill. Our job as teachers seems so tiring, such very hard work.

Let us go up the hill with the men up the hill and see what happens. These men did not know that Jesus was the Saviour of the world. They did not know He was the Strong Son of God. But they did know He was a Great Teacher, and this was their starting point.

John the Baptist had said that the Kingdom of Heaven was coming with the coming of Jesus and people were gathering there to be around Jesus to listen to His words.

What they heard was not at all what they expected to hear. They thought Jesus would tell them that the setting up of the Kingdom would mean the end of all human rule. That was about to make Israel a great nation, supreme over all other nations.

Instead of talking about the Kingdom, however, Jesus told them about themselves. He described the character of the "salt" of the Kingdom and how that character was to be acquired.

HAPPINESS

The first word Jesus spoke that day was "Blessed" or in other words, "all our translations have it, happy." We all want to be happy.

We wish each other a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. We wish a new birth and brightness every Happy New Year.

What do we really mean when we use the word "happy"? Often we think of terms of freedom from misfortune, of good health, success, prosperity, plenty of money, plenty of good times—all the things outside of ourselves which make life flow smoothly and pleasantly.

Happy are the people, we think, who have lots of money and worldly comforts. Happy are those who are not involved in the world's conflicts. Happy are those who have nothing to worry them.

But Jesus said, "Happy are the poor in spirit. Happy are those who mourn. Happy are the meek." In other words, source of happiness is within us, not outside.

The words "poor in spirit," "mourn" and "meek" do not normally mean with us, but they mean what Jesus used them on the hillside.

Those who mourned were not those who were sorrowful, but those who sorrowed because of the state of their country, and longed to see it freed from sin and evil.

The meek were not gentle, inoffensive folk who let others walk over them, but those who in the face of the triumph of the world, they were those that good would win in the end.

These examples show that we are not teaching them simply about what happened nearly two thousand years ago, but about how those things affect life in the world today.

We have, as it were, to bring the Gospel "up to date." Here, however, we need to be careful. We must discover that the Gospel itself does not revise itself.

What is necessary is to be able to translate the Gospel into modern terms, to show that it can solve our present problems. It has been able to solve those of earlier days.

Mrs Lamb makes this clear by referring to arithmetic, and the rules by means of which the answers to the various kinds of sums are worked out. Rules are the tools, useless unless they give us the results we expect.

The men who climbed the hill to listen to Jesus had plenty of modern terms, to show that it can solve our present problems. It has been able to solve those of earlier days.

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have not come to destroy the rules, but to show you how to use them." What Jesus did that day on the hillside was to explain to the people the principles which lay behind the rules.

There were rules about going to Church, and about keeping the "Thou shalt not" commandments, and those who were so long as these rules were kept, all was well.

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Mrs Lella Stevenson and her daughter, Janet, of the vicarage, North Balwyn, Victoria, in Brisbane this month, to see Jane's New brothers, who are students at St. Francis' College. Mrs. Stevenson and Janet had just returned from travelling 28,000 miles studying refugees and famine areas in India, the Middle East and Africa. Janet, aged 19, is a candidate in the "Miss Australasia" quest.

OLD AND NEW BLENDED

ANGLICAN NEWS SERVICE

London June 24

Bishop Sherwood Jones set the foundation stone and blessed the site of the new Church of the Good Shepherd in the Parish of Wesley with Pyrrad, Surrey, on June 24.

The new church, which will be built within the Parish of St. Nicholas, has been found necessary due to extensive housing development in the area and the resulting increase in population.

The church, which will cost 250 people and will have a cost of about £40,000.

It has been designed to provide a place for the congregation to worship and to encourage worship and draw the congregation as a family around the holy table.

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"LATY GET BISHOPS THEY DESERVE"

ANGLICAN NEWS SERVICE

London, June 24

A call for better bishops better clergy and better laity was made on June 15 by the Bishop of Ely, the Right Reverend N. B. Hudson, at the Ely diocesan conference at Cambridgeshire.

The bishop, who has been in office for 32 years, was speaking as president of his last conference.

He is to retire later this year, on his 65th birthday.

The laity, he said, got the clergy they deserved, just as the clergy got the bishops they deserved.

As long as we have a 'ticking over' laity who are still living in the Victorian age, we must be shaken out of their complacency, to long with the ministry remain a reflection of the body of laity from which they come."

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