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National Temperance Study Course

Junior Lesson

Lesson Three — October 28th
SHIRLEY AND BRUCE GET READY FOR THANKSGIVING

By Ruth Lucas Smith

The Junior Boys and Girls were getting ready for Thanksgiving. The boys were planning a hike the Saturday before, and they would bring back coloured leaves and interesting things from the bush for decorations. The girls were busy at the church making ready suitable containers. They painted some baskets that were looking a little shabby, and sorted out the large and small vases and washed them. The group that Shirley belonged to was creating new vases. They collected suitably-shaped jars of different sizes, and from a number of magazines cut out bright-coloured pieces from the advertisements, and pasted the little pieces all over the jars. With paint they outlined these pieces in black and then shellacked them. The vases were quite attractive and the group was very pleased.

Shirley had taken some brushes and a bottle of shellac from her family's work bench. When Shirley got home she put her brushes to soak as usual and said to herself, "Tomorrow after school I will clean them." Shirley wouldn't forget, because in the Richardson's house anyone who left dirty brushes had to pay ten cents per brush out of their spending money. It

was one of the rules the family had agreed upon because all of them at some time had gone to work at the bench, and found things in a mess. Now this plan was working well.

Next day, when Shirley came in after school, she had a little lunch and then went down cellar to clean those paint brushes. She took them out of the water and poured coal oil into an empty bin, and worked them up and down. Only the one that had been in the paint was being cleaned—the others were stiff and sticky as before. She tried again and again, and then thought perhaps she should have used turpentine. So she cleaned out the tin and poured in turpentine. But no use—they were still full of shellac. Now it wouldn't have been so bad if she had taken just one brush for her own use, but she had loaned brushes to two other girls. When Dad had forgotten to clean two he had to pay twenty cents. So there would be no doubt about her having to pay thirty cents. It would take a week's spending money, and she was starting to save for Christmas.

Bruce came home. She told him her trouble, but he didn't know what to suggest. He had a chemistry set but there wasn't anything in the guide book about cleaning paint brushes. "Shirley," he said, "I feel real sorry and I'll lend you a nickel from my next pay."

"Thanks a lot, Bruce; I hope I won't have to borrow—we'll see," replied Shirley.

Dad and Mum got home at the same time. Shirley had supper almost all on the table, and it was no time until everyone was sitting down ready for a good meal and friendly chat. Right after grace Shirley made haste to explain what had happened. After they had listened intently, Dad said: "Well, Mother, what do you say to that? Does she have to pay or doesn't she?"

Mother was all smiles and said, "I'll tell you before you worry about paying. Try alcohol." "Alcohol," cried Shirley. "We haven't got any, have we? I thought this family didn't use alcohol."

"No, we don't drink alcoholic beverages, but we have wood alcohol in our house. It is on the top shelf of our bathroom cupboard, with the untouchables. It's poisonous."

"Do you have to have a licence or permit to buy it?" asked Bruce. "No; you need a licence or permit to buy liquor or wines, which contain ethyl alcohol, but you buy methyl or wood alcohol in the drug store and sign your name. The drugist has to keep a record of the people who buy poisons—in case they put them to wrong uses," said Mother.

"You see," said Dad, "shellac varnish is soluble in alcohol. Without alcohol we wouldn't have such a beautiful finish on our table. Several things that will not dissolve in water will dissolve in alcohol."

"Well, alcohol isn't all bad is it?" said Bruce. "By no means," said Dad. "Alcohol has six hundred good uses, but as a beverage it is dangerous. It is something like fire that can either warm a house or burn it to the ground. Alcohol used for right purposes is a wonderful servant of man, but it becomes an enemy if he drinks it."

"What else is alcohol good for?" asked Bruce. "The bottle in the bathroom was bought when your grandmother was ill. We used a great deal of it to rub on her back and keep the skin from breaking out in bed sores," Dad explained. "Alcohol is a good disinfectant. But it has many other uses. It is used in large quantities in making rubber, plastics, munitions, moving-picture film and many other things."

Shirley could hardly wait to climb to the top shelf for the alcohol. All the family went down to the cellar to see what happened. "Hurrah! it works," shouted Shirley, "the brushes are softening—one more dip and they will be clean again." Everybody went upstairs feeling happy. Shirley didn't even ask if it were her turn to do the dishes. She just set to work and soon they were all done. That night when she went to bed she said, "Thank you God for all the new things there are to learn every day. Thank you, too, for my parents who are so patient in all their teaching."

When she got into bed she thought—perhaps I can add this idea to our Thanksgiving Litany at Sunday School on Sunday. And she did.

QUESTIONS

1. Explain what Bruce's father meant when he said alcohol was something like fire.
 2. If alcohol is one of God's good gifts to mankind, is it all right to use it in any way we like? Give your reasons.
- Children 9 years and under answer question 1. Those 10, 11, 12 years answer both.

INTERMEDIATE-SENIOR LESSON

Lesson Three — October 28th

WORK TO EXCEL

(Read Genesis 3)

Have you decided yet on a life work? When you do, you will want the best possible training so that you may become a good workman. Genesis is a fascinating book. It teaches many lessons that are true to life today. If you read the third chapter you will see that it is very close to your own experience. It sets forth the fact of choice. There is a difference between good and evil and we have to decide which



NOBEL WINNER — Dr. Max Theiler, Rockefeller Foundation Researcher in New York, won the Nobel prize for medicine for his work in developing the first effective vaccines used against yellow fever. Nearly 50,000,000 persons are estimated to have been inoculated against the dreaded mosquito-borne disease with vaccines developed by him. Although long a resident of the U. S., the 52-year-old scientist is a citizen of South Africa. He was born in Pretoria.

We will choose. To make wise choices, we need discipline. We have to work out a standard of values for ourselves. This requires the exercise of reason and good judgment rather than following fancy and obeying impulses. Jesus gave us a good guide in making decisions. He said, "By their fruits you shall know them."

Suppose that instead of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, you should consider the social custom of using alcohol as a beverage. You will have to make your individual choice about this. It should be your own personal decision. The temptation is to treat it lightly because social drinking can be made very attractive. But follow through. Drinking a toast in alcohol may have glamour, but intoxicated people are not glamorous. They do silly things. When they sober up, they have feelings of guilt and remorse. They may have caused an accident or broken a friendship. What about the standard of values? Judged by results, which is better, intoxication or sobriety?

God Put Man to Work

There is another big truth in the third chapter of Genesis. It stresses the importance of work. It pictures man as placed in charge of a garden.

Now God's garden is the jungle, the uncultivated, the plain abounding in fruits and roots and berries with animals and fish at hand to be caught and eaten. All that primitive man had to do was pick or kill, and eat. However, there was some uncertainty. Some years food was plentiful. Other years it was scarce. The best areas were always overcrowded and there was fighting for these areas.

Then came knowledge. Man dug up a plant from God's garden and planted it near his own home and kept other plants away. And when the fruit came it was bigger and better than in the wild state. Knowledge led him out of God's garden into his own. He also caught a pair of animals and fed them so that they might provide food and help him with his work. As time went on, others followed suit, until today wild life provides a very small part of our diet, the exception being fish. Since that time man has learned many skills until today he exchanges all kinds of goods and services for food and clothing and the luxuries and necessities of life, using money as a medium of exchange. This means that instead of every man shifting for himself, every man and woman has now become necessary to everyone else. Our system is like the motor of an auto. If something goes wrong with a spark plug or even a wire, it throws the whole thing out of commission so that it runs badly or not at all. More than ever before we are dependent upon every person doing his best.

Alcohol Reduces Efficiency

Suppose you should go to a garage and say, "I want to buy a spark plug," and the salesman should reply, "Here is a new one but it's too good. Let's bend the points a little so it will not work quite so well." You would be angry, wouldn't you? Yet that is what alcohol does to people. On the whole it prevents them from working quite so well as they would otherwise. At first its effects may not be very noticeable, but the more a man drinks, the more it interferes with his work. If he belongs to the unfortunate five per cent. for whom drinking means complete loss of control, he will be unable to carry on any sustained, effective work at all.

Unless he has someone to support him, he will probably drift to the slum areas of our great cities or wander through the countryside looking for a hand-out. And remember, the persons who end up this way are not always those who never had an opportunity to start with. They often include doctors, lawyers, and other educated, even brilliant men who might have lived respected and highly honoured lives were it not for alcohol. When a man starts drinking he is taking a one to twenty chance of ending up thus.

Alcohol Causes Loss

In a survey, Dr. Benson Y. Landis estimated that in 1940 the indirect cost of alcohol to the people of the United States about equaled the amount of taxes paid by the liquor industry. Sir Josiah Stamp, noted British economist, has estimated that the wealth of Great Britain is reduced by eight to fifteen per cent. because of liquor. Certainly an industry which takes from a nation in damage as much as it pays in taxes, is not very profitable to the nation. It doesn't do much more than pay

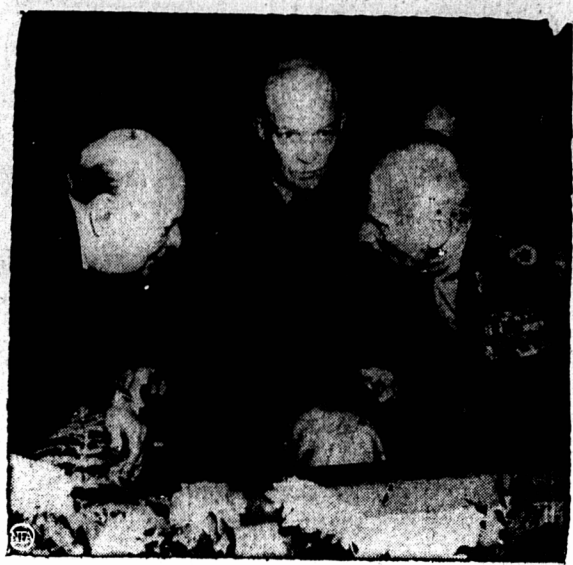
for the damage it does. When a boy or girl breaks a pane of glass we say, "Replace it. Pay for the damage." But we do not say, "So long as you pay you may break every twentieth pane, and if you crack others it's all right." If we feel the act was fitful we demand of the child and his parents that he be not allowed to play with glass. As you boys and girls grow older you will have to decide whether an industry has a right to profit at so great a cost to the nation even if it pays the damages.

This is not to mention the huge sums spent on liquor which would normally be spent for necessities. A pane of glass can be replaced much more easily than a broken life. Yet we must remember that the industry will thrive so long as people clamour for liquor. Nor will the Government prevent or control its use so long as the majority of older people insist on having it. There is only one way to overcome this menace to the nation. ABSTAIN from its use. Even if you should be able to control your drinking there are those who will not be able to do so. If you choose not to drink perhaps they will, too. By abstaining you will help yourself and save them.

For Discussion:
Discuss Paul's advice to the Thessalonians that if any would not work neither should he eat. 2 Thess. 3: 10.

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways does alcohol cause loss to industry?
2. What can you do to help prevent this loss?



OLD CHUMS—Three wartime leaders get together to talk over old times at the annual reunion of the British 8th Army "Desert Rats," staged in London. The old chums are: (L-R) Winston Churchill, former Prime Minister; Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme Allied commander in Europe, and Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery. Ike flew from his headquarters in Paris to attend the affair.

REGION'S LARGEST
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