Tibbits of Kentucky Folklore

BY

Gladys Wilson Ph.D

WESTERN KENTUCKY TEACHERS COLLEGE

BOWLING GREEN, KY.

SASSAFRAS TEA

Just as pumpkin pie is appropriate to November and plum pudding to Christmas, sassafras tea is the ideal thing for early spring. The earliest visitors to America were struck with the aromatic tree they found growing here and at once believed it endowed with great medicinal virtues. Some of the early explorers carried home a cargo of sassafras. If these people could have come inland a few centuries later, they could have found enough for several cargoes, especially on wornout hill land where only sassafras and persimmon bushes are hardy enough to grow. Europeans were thus introduced to sassafras, and the tea that we enjoy every spring became well known. Charles Lamb, in his essay, "In Praise of Chimney-sweepers," praises highly this beverage, which, he says, is a favorite with the small boys who clean out chimneys. It is effective in washing down the soot they have acquired in their dirty task. However much this heverage may be liked by chimney-sweepers, it is better liked by plain Americans, who annually must go through the process of thinning down their blood after the winter has waned. Burdock bitters will help in this process, but nothing turns the trick like sassafras tea. Coffee is a good beverage and is suited to all seasons, tea is the national drink of Great Britain, but sassafras tea is the brand of the real American. Not to like it subjects one to a strong suspicion of disloyalty to the principles for which our ancestors fought. Some Americans would prefer to replace the red stripes of our flag by stripes colored like sassafras leaves in the fall, a queer blend of pink and orange.

Tea is the poetic side of sassafras; the unpoetic side is sassafras bushes to be cut in the spring before the plowing starts. Look around you today and take note of the great men; nearly every one of them got his start by cutting sprouts, persimmon and sassafras sprouts. The skill required and the patience started these eminent men on the way that led to fame. Undoubtedly the fathers of these same boys were greatly surprised when fame arrived, for keeping boys at cutting sprouts is one of the harder tasks of farm life.

There is still another side to sassafras that few people associate with either tea or sprout-cutting. In the fall no bushes have such exquisite colors. Old fields that are too poor to produce crops of value suddenly blossom out in pinks and yellows and oranges that mock the artist's best efforts. Fencerows are outlined with brilliant bushes. Long ago these sassafras trees have disappeared from most places; now we associate the name only with bushes along the fences and out in the upland fields. No color of autumn is more distinctive than that of sassafras leaves; no flavor is more distinctive in spring than the aromatic sassafras tea. Just why the bush and its various virtues have never found their way into poetry is a puzzle to me.

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THE GARDEN

GETTING READY

By John S. Gardner, Kentucky College of Agriculture

The first gardening activity is breaking the land. This it would have been well to have done several weeks ago, while there was still assurance of cold weather to flocculate the upturned soil and to freeze at least a few of the insects that burrowed beneath the garden's surface to pass the winter. Before breaking, a generous coat of manure should have been spread, which, having become soaked with the late winter rains and snows, would have become at least partly rotted before the sowing of seed and the setting of plants is to begin.

With the almanac and the groundhog tradition as authorities, some cold weather may still be expected, but gardeners should let no opportunity pass to break their gardens, for the time until actual gardening is to begin is short. This being so, it is preferred that the manure used should be at least partly rotted, and, if possible, it should be cut into the soil surface with a disk or with a hoe, before it is turned under.

The garden should be broken deeply. The deeper the seed bed, the more moisture can be held. Moisture is needed for the quick sprouting of seed and rapid growth of young plants. Thus, an early garden results. Moisture is needed, too, to keep the vegetables proceeding at top speed, to give them maximum size and quality. Besides, moisture is needed to put soil fertility into solution so plant roots may use it, as well as that contained in the fertilizer used. Thus, a deep garden results in the greater the moisture reservoir, the greater the assurance that growth shall proceed, even during dry spells. Deep ground breaking is drought insurance.

With deep breaking must go the application of plant material to rot down into humus to make soil spongy, to give it moisture-holding power. Manure makes the best humus, but in its stead may be turned under a sod of legume or grass, or a cover crop sown especially for the purpose. Or, even a coat of weeds and garden debris may be used, though if it is, breaking should take place early enough to be certain they can rot completely before actual gardening starts. It is regrettable to wait to break until just before planting, and to burn off the weeds, for they are valuable matter, in lieu of something better. Good advice, though not timely now except to make memorandum, is so to conduct the garden this year that room may be found in at least one part of it, to grow a winter cover crop, or to arrange for a sure source for enough stable manure during this winter. For, unless human matter of some sort is turned under, ultimately the soil will become worthless for garden purposes, or for any other, in fact.

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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By REV. HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D.D., Member of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.

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Lesson for March 6

SERVING WITH WHAT WE HAVE

LESSON TEXT—Mark 6:1-13.
GOLDEN TEXT—Such as I have give I thee.—Acts 3:6.
PRIMARY TOPIC—When Jesus Went Home to Nazareth.
JUNIOR TOPIC—A Visit to Nazareth.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Jesus Rejected.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Serving With What We Have.

One of the difficulties we mortals face in dealing with spiritual things is that we interpret things in the realm of the spirit according to the principles and measurements of the physical world. We are quick to say "We cannot" on the basis of logical human reasoning, when an appreciation of the power of God operative on our behalf would enable us to say "We can," and having left God out of our thinking we find that indeed we cannot.

The lesson before us presents two pictures from our Lord's second visit to his home country, Nazareth. On His first visit they had tried to thrust Him over a cliff, a dark list of wicked things, but perhaps the most destructive and distressing of all is the foundation sin of unbelief. When we think back to the underlying reason for any sin or weakness in man it will be found that there is a failure to believe God. Men do not believe what He says about sin and its penalty, nor do they believe Him when He offers them grace and strength for victory.

At Nazareth the unbelief which limited the Son of God revealed itself in two questions—

1. "Whence hath this man these things?" (v. 2).

They could not deny His mighty works for they had taken place in His person. "Is not this the carpenter?" (v. 3). Essentially this was envy, "the difficulty of acknowledging the superiority over themselves of one of their own number" . . . (Morgan).

We are ashamed of the attitude of the men of Nazareth, but we follow in their footsteps. Heavy among the burdens a Christian worker must bear is the unbelief and ridicule of his own people. Because a man has sold us groceries, or painted our house or driven a taxi in our town we cannot see how he could ever be a preacher or a missionary. Well, he can, and it is such folk that God often calls.

2. "What is this wisdom?" (v. 2).

The wisdom of Jesus was the wisdom of God (John 7:16). But how could they know that? How can we know? In John 7:17 Jesus gave the answer: "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." We see then that the reason for their unbelief was really an unwillingness to do the will of God. The controlling motive of their life was wrong. Had they been moved by a desire to do God's will, and, a purpose to live in accordance with His precepts then there might have been failure in that earnest effort), they would have known that Jesus had His wisdom from God.

II. The Power of Divine Commission (vv. 7-13).

Just as unbelief hinders even the Son of God, so faith in God and obedience to His command makes of weak and poorly equipped men the mighty servants of God. In fact, their very dependence on Him for all things sets them free to devote themselves fully to the ministry of preaching and healing.

Note that they went "two by two." We have forgotten that divine plan, and often send men into remote and dangerous pioneer work alone. Men needs fellowship, he needs counsel and control.

Consider how they were to learn to trust God for their daily sustenance (vv. 8,9). They suffered no lack (see Luke 22:35). These rules for the life of religious workers were modified later (Luke 22:36), but the principle remains the same—the man or woman who is not ready to depend on God for everything had better not set out to follow Him. It is a blessed and delightful life!

Resisting Interference

It is sometimes pretty hard to do something you feel is right against the interference of all the world and her little brother. Sometimes it's a good thing to say "right or wrong, that's my story, and I'm going to stick to it," no matter how many well-meaning friends may advise otherwise.—Chloe Vapel.

Mother's Work

"The future destiny of the child is always the work of the mother."—Napoleon.

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THE SUPREME ISSUE IN THE SENATORIAL RACE

(Woodford Sun)

In the senatorial race between Governor Chandler and Senator Barkley, the personality of the two men and their personal ambitions play into insignificance compared to the supreme issue involved.

We believe that the matter of the preservation of our form of government, or the prevention of very serious and dangerous change in th it, may be greatly, and even vitally, affected by our selection of a United States senator at this critical period in national affairs.

A senator of the United States is a member of a co-ordinate branch of the government, which, under the Constitution, is equal in power to the President himself. One of the special functions of a senator is the preservation of the powers of his state. The best authority on the intentions of the fathers of the Constitution is found in the Federalist, a collection of papers written by some of the framers of that document, to explain it. In the section "On the Constitution of the Senate" it is stated:

"The equal vote allowed to each State is at once a constitutional recognition of the portion of sovereignty remaining in the individual States, and an instrument for preserving that residuary sovereignty."

Senator Barkley is a man of high personal character and unusual abilities. We would be the last to deny that. We have not the slightest wish to deny it.

Is Senator Barkley preserving that residuary sovereignty?

We have seen Senator Barkley willing to pack the Supreme Court, one of the three equal branches of the federal government, subservient to the presidential office. He is apparently willing to help pass the wages and hour bill under which of its principle is one admitted by our ablest in time a group of office holders in Washington might regulate a shoe-shop in Versailles which bought its blacking in Cincinnati. We have seen him apparently willing to help pass the anti-lynching bill, which would introduce a federal power over state courts which must enormously increase the power of the federal, which has grown, and will grow. (We are all against lynching. All decent people abhor it. But this is not a humanitarian, but a political bill.)

Many, many times we have voiced our extreme gratitude to President Roosevelt for saving this country from nation-wide bank ruptcy when he took office, and his wonderful work for the farmer. We have admired his skill in handling our foreign policy. When he asked for such emergency powers as were never granted to a president before, we urged that they should be granted. But when Mr. Roosevelt, in his natural impatience to right wrongs, asks for legislation which, in its consequences, will destroy the sovereignty of the states, and concentrate all power at Washington, we feel that we are bound to oppose this, and we think Senator Barkley pursues his course to oppose it also, firmly, yet with full respect to Mr. Roosevelt as President of the United States and the head of the Democratic party.

We have never been able to approve of all that any public man said or did, not even our best friends. We have never tried to. This is, of course, quite true of your good friend, Governor Chandler. We cannot tell, until we read his book, how we will approve of everything that he may say in his speech of announcement. But he certainly has very great courage and unshakable nerve and would have no more hesitation in opposing, in the Senate of the United States, efforts to take away what power the states have left (and that is not much) than he would have in opposing a bill at Frankfort. As Governor he has brought order out of chaos, he is redeeming the state from the deep disgrace of keeping its wards patients, entitled to the tenderest care, in crowded misery and actual danger, he has paid a large part of the state debt, he has immensely raised the state's credit.

We would say to those who are not and never have been Governor Chandler friends who criticise him on many points, but who, while turned toward Barkley, are strong believers in preserving our rights and liberties under the Constitution:

Get behind Happy Chandler. This is a supreme crisis, far more important than the business crisis. Whatever your past attitude toward him has been, if you value those precious liberties which far transcend any consideration of the personalities of individuals, you will realize that we must have Governor Chandler to stand in the breach in this vital hour, because he fights!

Famous Songs In Weekly Broadcast

A feature of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture radio programs for the next three months includes a weekly music event designed to stimulate interest in homes and in schools in the singing of beautiful and beloved songs that have become famous throughout the world.

Interested listeners will learn a repertoire of lovely songs which can be used not only in the home but in group activities such as

New Farm Program Provides Stable Tobacco Supplies

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 seeks to help tobacco farmers stabilize income and supplies at fair levels, according to information received by the College of Agriculture at Lexington.

As a means of keeping supply in line with demand at fair prices to producers, the new Act provides for marketing quotas in years when an abnormally excessive supply of any kind of tobacco exists, with penalties for marketing over the quotas. The quota for each kind of tobacco would be the number of pounds the farmer could sell without penalty.

For 1938, if the Secretary of Agriculture finds that the supply of any kind of tobacco is in excess of the reserve supply level, he will announce the marketing quota, and a referendum will be held among growers of that kind of tobacco to determine whether two-thirds of the farmers favor or oppose the quota. If more than one-third of the farmers voting in the referendum oppose it, the quota will not be effective.

A referendum of growers of cotton and dark tobacco will be held March 12, the Secretary of Agriculture having set quotas for these crops.

If the marketing quota becomes effective, the national marketing quota will be apportioned among the states producing that kind of tobacco. In each of these states the local committees of farmers now helping conduct the Agricultural Conservation program will distribute the quota among individual farmers.

All marketing quotas will be in addition to the Supreme Court, one of the three equal branches of the federal government, subservient to the presidential office. He is apparently willing to help pass the wages and hour bill under which of its principle is one admitted by our ablest in time a group of office holders in Washington might regulate a shoe-shop in Versailles which bought its blacking in Cincinnati. We have seen him apparently willing to help pass the anti-lynching bill, which would introduce a federal power over state courts which must enormously increase the power of the federal, which has grown, and will grow. (We are all against lynching. All decent people abhor it. But this is not a humanitarian, but a political bill.)

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COMMISSIONER'S SALE

Nicholas Circuit Court
Jim Henry Johnson, Plaintiff
vs. Notice of Sale in Equity
Clifton B. Prewitt, Admr., etc., Defendants

By virtue of a Judgment and order of sale of the Nicholas Circuit Court entered in the above styled action at the February 1938 term of the Nicholas Circuit Court the undersigned will on

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1938

at or about the hour of 2 o'clock p. m. at the court house door in Carlisle, Nicholas County, Ky., offer for sale to the highest and best bidder on a credit of six months at public auction, the following described property:

Tract 1—About one-half acre of land situated in Pickrelville, Nicholas County, Ky., and described as follows: On the East by an alleyway, South by lands of Jim Dedia and William Carlisle, West by lands of Chas. Jones and North by lands of Judge Sam Holmes.

Tract 2—A house and lot in Henryville, Nicholas County, Ky., and described as follows: Lying just North of the city limits of Carlisle, Nicholas County, Ky., and bounded on the East by North Broadway Carlisle, Ky., on the South by the lands of Mary and William Goffe, West by an alleyway, North by lands of Sam and Mary Walker. This lot has on it a small dwelling house.

Tract 3—An undivided one-half interest in a house and lot in Henryville, Kentucky, and bounded as follows:

On the North by Freeman street East by lands of Joe Williams' heirs and on the South by an alley across from I. B. Ross. West by lands of Elizabeth Poe. This lot has a dwelling house on it.

The purchaser will be required to execute bond with approved surety for the purchase price of said land having the force and effect of replevin bonds, bearing 6 per cent interest per annum from date until paid. A lien will be retained on the land sold herein to secure the payment of the purchase money bonds, payable to Wm. Conley, Master Commissioner Nicholas Circuit Court.

Wm. Conley, Master Commissioner N. C. C.

Woford and Woford
Attorneys for Plaintiff

COMMISSIONER'S SALE

NICHOLAS CIRCUIT COURT
Silas Feebuck Admr. of I. M. Feebuck et al Plaintiffs
vs. Notice of Sale
Anna Mae Hollar, et al Defendants

By virtue of a judgment and order of sale of the Nicholas Circuit Court entered in the above styled action at the February 1938 term of said court, the undersigned will on

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1938

at or about 2 o'clock p. m. offer for sale at the court house door in Carlisle, Nicholas County, Kentucky, on a credit of six and twelve months, to the highest and best bidder, the following described property:

Located in Nicholas County, Ky., on Galbraith Run, near the village of Barrettsville and one hundred and abutted as follows:

On the north by the lands of Estel Anderson; on the east by the lands of Bertha Hinerly and T. H. Hitchie; on the south by the lands of J. C. Taylor and on the west by the lands of Corbin Snapp, including one acre deeded out on the top of the hill through the said Snapp land containing 49 acres more or less.

The purchaser may pay the purchase money in cash or any or all of said bonds before maturity. The interests of the infant defendants if any after payment of costs, allowances and debts herein mentioned, shall remain a lien on the land until the infants receiving any share arrive at the age of 21 years, or until their respective guardians shall execute bond as required by law.

The amount to be realized from the proceeds of the sale is $500.00 with interest from August 25th, 1935, until paid; $125.00 with interest from September 25th, 1935 $85.00 with six per cent interest from February 15th, 1936, and $83.75 with interest from May 28th, 1935.

The purchaser will execute bonds for the purchase money with approved surety having the force and effect of replevin bonds upon which execution may issue if not paid at maturity, bearing six per cent interest from date until paid. Payable to Wm. Conley, Master Commissioner N. C. C.

A lien will be retained on the land sold to secure the payment of the purchase money.

William Conley, Master Commissioner N. C. C.

Samuel Holmes, Attorney
for Plaintiffs 2-17-3t

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