

The Married Life of Helen and Warren

By MABEL
HERBERT URNER

Originator of "Their Married Life," Author of "The Journal of a Neglected Wife," "The Woman Alone," Etc.

THEY DISCOVER THE REAL CAUSE OF THE BARCLAYS' EFFUSIVE HOSPITALITY

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Mabel Herbert Urner

"Move your chair farther out, Mrs. Curtis, you'll get more air," Helen dragged over the wicker chair until the rockers scraped the wire netting that screened in the long side porch.

"We always get a breeze out here," declared Mrs. Barclay, who had spent most of the afternoon dilating on the advantages of their country home. "Now, isn't this better than being cooped up in the hot city?"

"Yes, this is very pleasant," murmured Helen, who had conscientiously played the part of an admiring, enthusiastic guest.

"How about mosquitoes?" Warren was scratching his ankle.

"Oh, Howard will leave that screen door open! But they're no worse than they are in town. Mr. Phillips was out last Sunday—he said he'd been almost eaten up in his apartment!"

The cooling darkness had relieved somewhat the glaring heat of the day, but the air was still close and sultry, and the "breeze" of which Mrs. Barclay boasted, had to be incessantly stirred by palm-leaf fans.

"Barclay, what time did you say that train went?" Warren reached over to knock the ashes from his cigar.

"Well, tomorrow I've got to get the seven-forty, but you don't have to go that early. Why don't you take the eight-ten?"

"Oh, no, we'll go in with you," suppressing a yawn as he glanced at his watch by the dim light from the dining room.

"Wouldn't you like to see the cellar before you go up?" suggested Mr. Barclay. "You won't have time in the morning."

"Oh, I'd love to," lied Helen, wondering if she could marshal her overworked adjective to a proper appreciation of the cellar.

Since their arrival on the noon train, Mrs. Barclay had dragged her through every room in the house, expatiating on the comforts and conveniences of her home, while Helen had kept up a continuous murmur of:

"How attractive! How very convenient! You really have a charming house! Oh, what a delightful view! Yes, this is such a pleasant room! What lovely big closets! Oh, what a cheerful maid's room!"

When she had gushed over the kitchen, pantry, back porch and garden, she felt she had done her full duty, but she was the pillar still to be explored.

"Howard, don't you want to show Mr. Curtis the furnace?"

"Sure," her husband rose with alacrity. "We've got about the best and simplest thing in furnaces. Kept the whole house warm last winter with only ten tons."

"Why, that's very little," ventured Helen, who knew absolutely nothing about coal, but who was trying to cover Warren's unresponsive silence, as with evident reluctance he laid down his cigar.

"Yes, the Petersens just below here used over fifteen. And their house is much smaller—but it's poorly built. That's one thing about this house—it's exceptionally well built."

"The walls are so thick," contributed Mrs. Barclay. "It's a very easy house to keep warm." Then as she gathered up the porch cushions, "It may rain tonight—we'd better take these in."

Through the dining room, out through the pantry, and they made their way down the steep, narrow steps into the damp, musty-smelling cellar.

"Oh, what a lovely large cellar!" enthused Helen, almost before the light was turned on.

"This is only half of it," proudly. "The storeroom and laundry are over here."

While Mr. Barclay demonstrated to Warren the admirable points of the now cold and empty furnace, Mrs. Barclay showed Helen the storeroom.

"You've no idea what it saves in ice bills. We really don't need an icebox at all. Most cellars are damp and moldy—but this is always so perfectly dry."

As the darkened streaks on the cement wall were oozing dampness, Helen refrained from commenting on this statement.

"Here's my jelly closet," drawing a curtain back from some rough shelves on which were a few glasses and jars.

In a nervous effort to conceal Warren's silent boredom, Helen admired everything in extravagant terms. She was tired and sleepy, and her feet ached from the heat and a new pair of pumps, but there was no release until they had seen every corner and "convenience" of the cellar.

In the laundry, the patient washing machine, the double wringer, even the revolving clothes rack had to be de-

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By REV. F. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of Hebrew Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

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LESSON FOR AUGUST 12

JOSIAH'S GOOD REIGN.

LESSON TEXT.—II Chronicles 34:1-3. GOLDEN TEXT.—Remember me, O Lord, thy Creator in the days of thy youth.—Ecclesi. 12:1.

The reign of Josiah is in striking and pleasing contrast with that of many of his predecessors, especially that of his father, Amon, and grandfather, Manasseh.

I. Time of Beginning (v. 1). He ascended the throne when only eight years of age. At this tender age he evidently had a sense of the import of the service of God's house. This sense must have been strong to enable him to withstand the corrupt influences of his surroundings. The prevailing idolatry influenced the boy, but influenced him in the opposite way in which boys are usually influenced. It aroused his hatred for it. This serves to demonstrate the fact that circumstances do not necessarily determine the direction a life may go. Each individual has the ability to determine the course of his life; and moreover, his responsibility so to do. It is a most perilous thing to be thrust into such a prominent position while so young. However, sometimes such responsibility has a sobering effect, calling forth one's latent powers. That his aspiration for God and the right was genuine is proven by the fact that he persisted therein for thirty years.

II. The Character of His Reign (v. 2). "He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father, and deflected neither to the right hand nor to the left." He not only maintained outward order and decorum as to the worship of God, but doubtless at heart desired to please God.

III. Josiah's Reformation in the Kingdom (vv. 3-7). He first set out to root out idolatry from the land. This was a prodigious task, requiring great courage and skill. He did this with a strong hand. Without pity he swept out from the land these abominations. In the execution of this task he—

1. Broke down the altars of Baalim (v. 4). This form of idolatry was first brought into the land by Jeroboam when he married Ahab. The images seem to have been such as would appeal to the sensual nature of men; therefore it was but natural that the grossest licentious practices should be associated with this worship.

2. He broke in pieces the groves, carved images, and molten images (v. 4). He even made dust of them and strewed it upon the graves of those who had been offering unto them.

3. He burned the bones of the priests on their altars (v. 5). He not only showed no pity for them, but he manifested a decided fierceness in the execution of his task.

4. He extended this destruction to certain districts in the northern kingdom. It was not until all this was done that he returned to Jerusalem (v. 6, 7). His reformation thus began at home, but was extended to the widest extent of his kingdom.

IV. Josiah Repaired the Temple (v. 8-13). Having rid the land of its idolatry, he set himself to the repairing of the temple which had been so long neglected. This neglect, coupled with gross abuses at times, made it to be sadly in need of attention.

1. His deputies (v. 8). This work he intrusted to a committee of three—Shaphan, the royal secretary (II Kings 22:3); Micaiah, mayor of Jerusalem; and Joah, the recorder, the historian of the nation. In the matter of ridding the city and country of idolatry Josiah took the lead in person, but now the work had gone far enough forward that he could work by deputy. He chose his deputies from among "laymen" instead of the priests.

2. Method of procedure (vv. 9-13). (a) Collection of money (v. 9). It would seem that for some time collection of money for temple repairs had been going on. Perhaps it was begun in connection with the destruction of idolatry some six years before. The agents in this work were the Levites. They collected it from all over the kingdom, even giving the remnant of Israel an opportunity for fellowship in this matter. This shows us that religious interests of the people should be sustained by all the people adhering thereto.

(b) Money placed into the treasury (v. 9). Hilkiah, the high priest, was the treasurer. From this treasury the overseers drew the money and paid it to the workmen who repaired the temple.

(c) The overseers (v. 12). Among the overseers were certain skilled masons to supervise the work of the carpenters, builders, and other artisans, and the helpers of all classes. The musicians, by skillful music, incited the workmen to diligence and activity, thus lightening the burdens of their toil. Music in the soul while working bears a very vital relationship to the work itself.

8. The character of the work (v. 12). They did the work faithfully. This is a fine thing to be said of a set of workmen.

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