

1906

The Shorter Catechism for Lincoln Memorial Sunday: February 11, 1906

Susan Hayes Ward

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M 1484

AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION

The Shorter Catechism

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LINCOLN MEMORIAL SUNDAY



February 11, 1906

— SUSAN HAYES WARD —

SCRIPTURE READING.

Matt. 23 : 9.—One is your Father, which is in Heaven.

Acts 17 : 25.—He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things.

26.—And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth.

Matt. 23 : 8.—One is your Master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren.

I. Pet. 3 : 8.—Love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.

I. John 4 : 21.—And this commandment we have from Him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

I. John 3 : 17.—But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18.—My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

CATECHISM.

Leader.—Who was Abraham Lincoln?

Answer.—The son of an American Highlander, who became the sixteenth President of the United States of America, the greatest leader of the nation since Washington.

Leader.—Why do we celebrate his birthday?

Answer.—Because, through the struggle of the Civil War, under Lincoln's leadership the Union was preserved and slavery abolished.

Leader.—Did President Lincoln know that he was making history when he signed the Act of Emancipation?

Answer.—Surely. He said: "If my name ever gets into history it will be for this act of Emancipation and my whole soul is in it. * * * Upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice warranted by the Constitution upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God."

Leader.—What society of Christian workers began at once to give Christian education to these freedmen?

Answer.—The American Missionary Association.

Leader.—What society has done and is doing more than any other for the uplifting of the Negro at the South?

Answer.—The American Missionary Association.

Leader.—Why did it pass over to Foreign Missionary Societies the Foreign Missionary work it had been carrying on for more than fifteen years?

Answer.—That it might give its strength to the Southern work and the increasing work in the Homeland.

Leader.—Why has it done so much to educate Negro teachers and leaders?

Answer.—Because the Southern States provided little more than elementary education for Negroes, and that in meager proportion to what is done elsewhere for white children.

Leader.—Does the American Missionary Association know any difference in races in its work?

Answer.—No. It works for all.

Leader.—Where do its missionaries and teachers labor?

Answer.—In the United States of America, and dependencies, and Island Territories.

Leader.—For what races?

Answer.—For American Highlanders, Negroes, Indians, Eskimos, Chinese, Japanese, Hawaiians and Porto Ricans.

Leader.—Why for these?

Answer.—Because they are our neediest brethren.

Leader.—Are we brothers to Indians, Negroes, Chinese, and all these other races?

Answer.—Yes, if we are Christians.

Leader.—What is race prejudice?

Answer.—The offspring of ignorance and conceit. It makes a man imagine that every one of another race from himself is his inferior.

Leader.—If we are all brethren is it right to cultivate race prejudice or a caste spirit?

Answer.—No. Christianity forbids it.

Leader.—In what country do we think the practice of caste an evil?

Answer.—In India.

Leader.—In what country do we practice it?

Answer.—In the United States.

Leader.—When?

Answer.—Whenever, because of his race or social position, we deny to any one rights or privileges we claim for ourselves.

Leader.—Why has it been said that “the only good Indian is a dead Indian”?

Answer.—Because of race prejudice.

Leader.—Let us agree never to insult or despise those of other races or conditions in life.

Answer.—God helping us we will.

Leader.—In the days of chivalry whom was the young knight bound by oath to protect?

Answer.—The weak and the poor.

Leader.—Should young Christian soldiers of today be less chivalrous than youth of the Middle Ages?

Answer.—Certainly not.

Leader.—Then shall we not by **word** and **gift** help the American Missionary Association to break down all walls of caste and lift up those of every race that are weak, neglected and oppressed?

Answer.—“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right,” we will try in this and every way to carry out for our Country Lincoln’s high ideals, that “government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.”

FREEWILL OFFERING.

HYMN, - - - - - “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed!”

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