**"New Life"(195-235)**

**1. What are your first impressions of Pastor Torvik (195-197)?**

**2. What was Pastor Torvik's perception of the spiritual condition of his new parish (198-202)?**

**3. What had happened to the old rector? In what condition did he leave the parish (197-199)?**

**4. How does Torvik react to the dismal circumstances of his new congregation (202-203)?**

**5. Why did the parishioners not trust Pastor Torvik (203-204)?**

**6. What leads Pastor Torvik to conclude that his ministry is a failure (203-207)?**

**7. Pastor Torvik is called upon to take the Lord's Supper to a shut-in known as Mother Hanna. What did Pastor Torvik discover about this talkative woman? How did his visit with this woman end(208-211)?**

**8. After the disappointing episode with Mother Hanna, what did Pastor Torvik resolve to do (212-213)?**

**9. What did Pastor Torvik see in his dream? What effect did this nightmare have on him? (214ff)?**

**10. What was Pastor Torvik's real problem? How had he judged the validity of the Christian faith (222-225)?**

**11. Schenstedt had been one of Pastor Torvik's adversaries. How did things begin to change with him (227-230)?**

**"A Heart of Stone and a Rock of Salvation" (237-282 )**

**1. "I think that you can blame yourself, Pastor. If one whips the flock of God with the scourge of the law instead of guiding them to the springs of living water, everything will eventually go wrong. No one can endure unlimited lashings" (237). How had Torvik relied on the law instead of the Gospel?**

**2. What does the woman mean when she tells Torvik that "it won't do to offer Moses a forty percent agreement and expect him to be satisfied with our becoming absolutely pure and loving and honest, as you are always talking about" (238)?**

**3. What did Mother Lotta teach Torvik about preaching? About Baptism? About the cure of souls (239-243)?**

**4. How does Rector Bengtsson teach Torvik to read the Bible and understand the pastoral office (247-252)?**

**5. How does Bengtsson describe the twin dangers of pride and despair in the spiritual life (254-255)?**

**6. Why did Torvik not want to wear his clericals(254)? How does he confuse "person" and "office" (254-255)?**

**7. How does Schenstedt set aside the Bible by separating the Spirit from the Word (256-259)?**

**8. Comment on "Each of us will therefore have to speak tonight according to his own experience and his own way of seeing things. One can do no more than follow one's own conviction" (258).**

**9. How does Bengtsson describe the fight against sin (265)?**

**10. How does Bengtsson preach the atonement (267)? How does he describe the relationship of the atonement to the Means of Grace (269)?**

**11. What was the significance of Jude 3[[1]](#footnote-1) for Torvik (270)? How does Torvik now come to preach the true Gospel(270-271)?**

**I2. How does Schenstedt react to Torvik's preaching (272-276)?**

**13. Where does Torvik find true renewal and revival (279-282)?**

**"In the Place of Sinners" (pp. 283-332)**

**1. Describe the situation at the opening of this chapter (283ff)?**

**2. What are the concerns that shape Torvik's prayers (284-285)?**

**3. Who is Britta? What are we told about her piety (285-286)?**

**4. What is the latest development with Schenstedt (286-288)?**

**5. How does Torvik react to Arviddson's news about Schenstedt (288-289)?**

**6. Why does Torvik come to regret the passing of the custom of "registering for communion" (290)?**

**7. How does Torvik attempt to use the confessional address to reach Schenstedt? Does it work (291-295)?**

**8. How does Schenstedt misuse the Scriptures to justify his own impenitence (295-299)?**

**9. How does Torvik call Schenstedt to repentance (299-300)?**

**10. This episode occurs in December. How does the Advent Season serve to focus Torvik on his pastoral work (300-302)?**

**11. How would you characterize the continuing relationship between Torvik and Schenstedt (303)?**

**12. What does Torvik imagine as he thinks about the course of the war (304-306)?**

**13. How does Torvik view Schenstedt's departure for service in the army (306)?**

**14. What is Torvik now praying for (307)?**

**15. Why was Saleby deserted? Who still is left there? Why does this woman remain (308-309)?**

**16. What does the old woman mean when she says to Torvik; "You should not admire, my boy. Nothing human measures up. Instead you must love. One may always love – also that which is broken and twisted" (310)?**

**17. Who is Agnes and why is she suffering (311)?**

**18. How does the old lady explain cross-bearing (312)?**

**19. In preaching on the story of the Canaanite woman (see Matthew 15:21-28)[[2]](#footnote-2) Luther remarked that this woman laid a whole sack of God's promises at Jesus' feet and He would not step over those promises. How does the old lady's persistent prayer and trust in God for her grandson, Schenstedt, resemble the description of the woman in Luther's sermon (313)?**

**20. How this grandmother's faith active in love (314)?**

**21. Why does Romans 8 help Torvik interpret his life and ministry in this time of war (314-316)? How is the horror broken by the promise of Baptism (315)?**

**22. How does Christ's atonement provide security and peace for Britta? Do you see evidence that Luther's explanation of the Second Article in the Catechism (Appendix 3) has shaped Britta's faith? How does the atonement interpret providence (316-318)?**

**23. What happened to Agnes and Aunt Agneta (318-319)?**

**24. How does Torvik interpret his fear of Schenstedt (320)?**

**25. What news does Arvidsson bring to Torvik (322)?**

**26. How does Torvik react to Schenstedt's death (322-323)?**

**27. How does Torvik react to his wife's desire to adopt Schenstedt's son (324-325)?**

**28, What does Torvik experience as he is speaking the *verba* of Christ in the communion liturgy (326-329)?**

**29. What is the message of the letter that Torvik receives from Schenstedt? What does it teach Torvik about the mystery of repentance and faith (330-332)? How is this episode a fulfillment of Jesus' words in Luke 15:1-10[[3]](#footnote-3)?**

1. Jude 3: 3Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Matthew 15: 21-28: 21Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.” 23But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us.” 24But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” 25Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!” 26But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw *it* to the little dogs.” 27And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.” 28Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great *is* your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Luke 15: 1-10: 1Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, “This Man receives sinners and eats with them.” 3So He spoke this parable to them, saying: 4“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? 5And when he has found *it,* he lays *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6And when he comes home, he calls together *his* friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ 7I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance. 8“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds *it?* 9And when she has found *it,* she calls *her* friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’ 10Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” [↑](#footnote-ref-3)