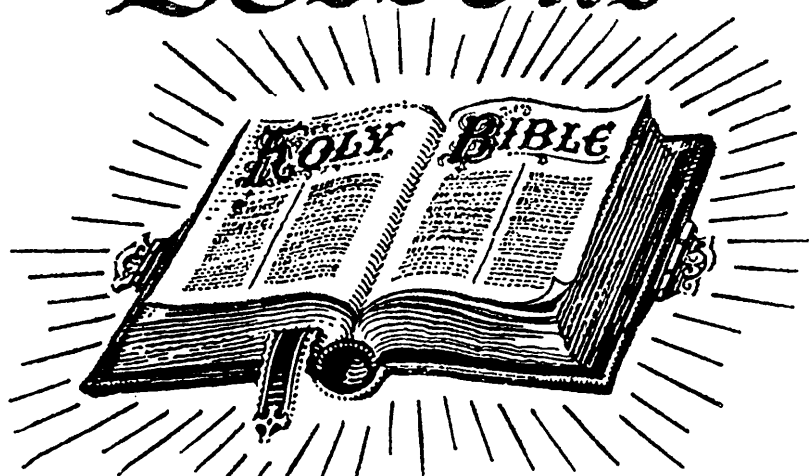


Bible Lessons



**"Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord,
we are CHANGED" II Cor. 3:18**

ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE

**Vol. 1, No. 1
Jan., Feb., March,
1969**

**Faith Pub. House
Guthrie, Okla.
70344**

Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People

Volume 1

Jan., Feb., March, 1969

Number 1

Table of Contents

	Page
Jan. 5—The Beginning of the Good News	1
Jan. 12—The Ministry of Jesus	6
Jan. 19—Early Reactions of Jesus	11
Jan. 26—People Misunderstood Jesus	14
Feb. 2—Teaching About The Kingdom	19
Feb. 9—The Mighty Power of Jesus	23
Feb. 16—Jesus Commissions Workers	28
Feb. 23—Vain Worship	33
March 2—Jesus Foretells His Suffering	38
March 9—The Meaning of Discipleship	44
March 16—The Authority of Jesus, The Christ	49
March 23—Jesus Prepares For His Death	54
March 30—Jesus Rejected and Crucified	58

**Publishing the Bible truths in the interest of the Church
of God which was purchased by the atoning
blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**

Edited by Mrs. Marie Miles, and other co-workers.

**Subscription Price — 35¢ a copy for quarter of year, or
\$1.40 per year, issued quarterly.**

**Published Quarterly By
FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE
920 W. Mansur Ave.
GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA 73044**

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

The very first mention of John Mark who supposedly wrote this book is recorded in Acts 12:12. Peter, having been delivered out of prison by an angel, "came to the house of Mary, the mother of John, whose surname was Mark: where many were gathered together praying." We note from this incident that Peter was well acquainted with Mark and his family. It is also accepted as a fact that Mark is the same called "Marcus" in 1 Peter 5:13 and Col. 4:10. It seems he was with the Apostle Peter in some of his work for God.

Mark traveled with Paul and Barnabas to Antioch (Acts 12:25) and to other countries to "minister" (Acts 13:5). Later he left them (ver. 13). Afterwards when Paul refused to take him with them he went with his uncle Barnabas to Cyprus (Acts 15:36-41). Later we learn he was fully reconciled to Paul (2 Tim. 4:11).

Mark is supposed to have written this book at Rome, A.D. 64 and to have died at Alexandria in Egypt in the eighth year of the reign of Nero.

Many of the primitive fathers, such as Tertullian, Irenaeus, Eusebius, etc. feel that Peter dictated this gospel to John Mark but this is only conjecture. Some feel he compiled it out of Matthew and Luke.

January 5, 1969

THE BEGINNING OF THE GOOD NEWS

Printed Portion Mark 1:1-13

Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

2 As it is written in the prophets, behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

5 And there went out unto him all the land of Judea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins,

6 And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locust and wild honey;

7 And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

8 I indeed have baptized you with water; but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.

12 And immediately the spirit driveth him into the wilderness.

13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

Memory Verse: And after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. Mark 1:14, 15.

Central Thought: True repentance brings the soul in contact with God and enables one to get ready for the in-filling of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON BACKGROUND

In the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar of the Roman empire, who was the adopted son of Augustus Caesar, who reigned when Jesus was born (Luke 2:1), John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching (A.D. 26). This territory was between Hebron and the Dead Sea. It was here that David hid from the wrath of King Saul. There were remote places in this wilderness that were wild with savage beasts. This place is where Jesus was tempted of the devil for forty days and nights. It was not unusual in those days for men to leave the cities and retire to the wilderness where they might meditate. For John the Baptist to proclaim the message from God, he left the wildest area of the wilderness and moved to the area along the river Jordan where most of the incidents of our lesson take place.

Lesson References—Galatians 4:4-9.

ADULT COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

It had been 400 years since a prophet had appeared among the people. Malachi was the last prophet. Those who were in touch with God waited and longed for God to visit them again (Luke 2:25-38). Sin caused the guard at Eden's gate to close communion with God to men individually. No one lived without sin from that time until Jesus came. Under Moses' law they had to come again and again and offer a sacrifice for their sins. No wonder Mark starts out by saying, "The beginning of the gospel," (Gospel means good news.) Truly it was good news that through Christ man could come into the presence of God without sin and live daily in His presence.

The words, "the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins" are better understood from another translation as "toward or unto the remission" of sins. Repentance prepared the way for baptism, being a type or outward show of an inward work in the soul. Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:21. Notice that Jesus was immersed in the water.

What a glorious day that was when the people on the bank of the river Jordan heard the voice of God calling out of heaven, "Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." The Holy Spirit descended in the symbol of a dove and sat upon Jesus. Here we have the Trinity—the Father, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus, the Son, together. Now through the precious blood of Jesus each individual could come to God by confessing and forsaking their sins.

Notice that after this honoring "immediately" Jesus was tempted of the devil.

YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

What kind of a world would this have been if Jesus had not come? Think of the lives that have been changed through the "good news" that Jesus will save and deliver mankind from the power of the devil. Through the sin committed by Adam and Eve the seed of sin was planted in the nature of every child born into the world. From that sinful nature, committed sins spring. This gives the devil a hold on every person at birth. No wonder Mark called it "good news" that now through Christ we can live free from sin, "for this purpose the Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3:8.

As you study the short narrative of the beginning of the gospel, think of the Old Bible that John the Baptist had to study. No doubt God revealed to him as he read Mal. 3:1 and Isa. 40:3 and other Scriptures who Jesus was and what His mission was. His soul was stirred and filled with sadness as

he saw the sins of the so-called religious leaders of his day. He knew their fate unless they repented. He was filled with great boldness.

Sin closed direct communion between God and man, but through Christ it was opened as He was baptized through immersion in the River Jordan. Notice that the Trinity was there—the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. God had told John that upon whom the Holy Spirit descended like a dove, He would be the one whom He would “baptize with the Holy Ghost.” John 1:31-34.

Did you ever receive some honor and then immediately have some trouble come your way? Could it not be God’s way of keeping you humble? Notice that “immediately the spirit driveth him into the wilderness ... and there ... tempted of Satan.” But Jesus was sent there for a different purpose. God was preparing Him for His ministry. He came forth with a firm purpose of obeying His Father God. —M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Sin is a destroyer of life. Man was alive spiritually and physically in the garden of Eden because he knew no sin. The appearance of sin in man’s life cost him both physical and spiritual life. Man in his original state was designed to live on and on for he had access to the tree of life which perpetuated his physical being. Since he was ignorant of any moral defilement, he was alive spiritually. In order to become aware of any moral wrong he had to transgress God’s instruction and partake of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The wilful transgression involved the physical because he committed the act with his body. That sin gave death dominion over the physical body and it claims its own. The knowledge man acquired when he committed the act of transgression made him aware of moral wrong. Until then he was innocent of moral wrong because he was ignorant. Now he was guilty of moral wrong because he knew right from wrong but was unable to perform the right and avoid the wrong in his own strength. (John 9:39-41). The act of sin had separated him from God, therefore he was powerless to overcome. (Rom. 7:7-25). Only the power of God is able to break the power of sin. Since man was separated from God, God could not direct his way, so he did the only thing left to do—go in his own way directed by Satan.

John the Baptist came as a forerunner of Christ who taught us that by virtue of the sacrifice of Himself which He would offer for us we could have life again. True repentance would be rewarded with forgiveness for sin committed, leaving us innocent physically. The abundance of His grace would enable

us to refrain from further commitment, thus keeping us innocent. The complete sacrifice of our will to His will would enable Him to create within us His likeness which is free from moral defilement, thus making us alive spiritually. He is the life. When He comes in, He automatically brings life with Him.

The plan of salvation restored only the spiritual part of man to perpetual existence. The body still degenerates and eventually goes back to dust. However, the spirit still abides in this temple until death does claim it. When we yield ourselves to Christ and He comes into our hearts to take up His abode, a radical change takes place. Old things pass away and all things become new. Darkness is turned into light. The pall of death is replaced with the vigor of life. We have "entered into Christ" and He is life, therefore we live in Him. The outward appearance of the body does not change so much in an experience of salvation, so the Lord initiated the ordinance of baptism as an outward manifestation of the work which was wrought in the heart. Baptism is a public demonstration that the old life of sin has passed away and is being lowered into the watery grave while the body comes forth, clothed with the new man to walk a new life with Christ. Amen. —C. Wilson

SIN LEAVES MARKS

A famous Italian artist named Leonardo da Vinci, who painted the famous picture of the Lord's Supper, searched for a young man whose face and disposition were innocent and beautiful without signs of degeneration caused by sin, to depict the picture of Jesus Christ. Finally he found a young man, 19 years of age, who sat before him daily until he had finished the painting of Christ.

Seven years later he wanted a man to pose for Judas. He heard of a man in the Roman dungeon whose face was scarred and calloused by deceit, hypocrisy and crime, sentenced to die for murder. He studied the man who had long shaggy hair and was unkempt. He decided that he was the man he wanted.

Daily the guard brought the man before the painter, who transmitted his face and character onto the canvas. One day he said, "I have finished; you may take the prisoner away." The prisoner jerked away from the guard and fell at the feet of da Vinci and cried, "Look at me! Do you not know me?"

da Vinci looked at him carefully and said, "No, I have never seen you before in my life."

The prisoner cried as he looked up to heaven, "Oh God! have I fallen so low?" Then as he looked at da Vinci he cried, "Look at me again, for I am the same man you painted just seven years ago as the figure of Christ."

Sin leaves its mark on the souls and faces of men who follow the wrong master and go down the wrong path. But the "good news" today is that Jesus Christ has come to forgive sins. He has come to lift you out of the horrible pit of sin. Won't you believe on Him today? He will save your soul and save you from terrible heartaches in this life that sin brings and give you peace. There is power in the blood of Jesus. Through the forgiveness of sin and the infilling of the Holy Spirit you can live a clean, pure life here in this world.

—M. Miles

January 12, 1969

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS

Printed Portion Mark 1:21-34

Mark 1:21 And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.

22 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

23 And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

26 And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

27 And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

28 And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee.

29 And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

30 But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her.

31 And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.

32 And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils.

33 And all the city was gathered together at the door.

34 And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

Memory Verse: Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8.

Central Thought: There is healing for the soul and body in the atonement of Jesus.

LESSON BACKGROUND

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand." Mark 1:15. The time had come when Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, should come. According to God's timing, He came. That time was prophesied by Daniel. (Dan. 9:24-27.) We also read in Dan. 2:44 that "in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed." Jesus came during the rule of the Roman empire, exactly as prophesied. Thank God for this "kingdom" that we get into through the "new birth."

Jesus chose His disciples from the unlearned and poor, the rich who left their riches, and the fishermen who left their fishing. Jesus stirred in His followers an intensity of spirit. Through simplicity He led them into a vision of doing great things for God. He told them He would make them "fishers of men." They saw before them vast oceans of men and women lost in sin, ignorance, and misery. They needed to be rescued. This is also our work. Are you doing it? Together Jesus and His disciples went forth to the rescue.

Lesson References—1 Peter 5:8-10.

ADULT COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus and His disciples went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day (Saturday). As Jesus taught, they were astonished. Jesus was God in the flesh and had power, truth, and authority to give out words that touched men deeply.

Only in unholy minds and hearts can unclean (impure) spirits dwell. Right in the synagogue the spirits of the devil

in this man cried out when he came in contact with the power and authority of Christ. The devil knew Jesus Christ. He also knew the time had come when a greater power than he would rule the spirit of all who sought after Jesus Christ. The devil did not want to lose his seat in the heart of man. He recognized Jesus as being holy and having come to destroy unholiness. Read James 2:19.

The disciples reported that the devils were subject to them in Luke 10:17-22. Jesus said, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven," meaning the place Satan had held in the hearts of man through the inherited sin principle in their nature. They could not live without sin. Jesus then said, "I give you power ... over all the power of the enemy."

Jesus is still our Healer today. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8.

YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

While Jesus was speaking words that came from the intensity of his soul to the men in the Capernaum synagogue, a shriek was heard from a poor demoniac who had entered the house of prayer. The crowd was helpless and no doubt struck with terror. But Jesus was there, the One who had power over the power of the devil. Oh, how we need Jesus when the devil is raging! Jesus spoke and the man was delivered. This was told, but soon it was forgotten and they went about to kill Jesus. Let us not forget the words of Jesus when we hear them from His ministers as we meet together in worship or read them from His Word.

Young people, there are two spirits in the world. If you yield to the unclean spirit of the devil you are just opening up your heart for him to move in and take possession. Many (not all, as there is a disease of the mind) who are in our asylums are possessed with the devil. It is a dangerous thing to trifle with God and disregard His Word. Keep a deep reverence in your heart for God.

Peter was married. Marriage is one of the first of divine institutions and is honorable. God should be consulted in your choice and you will never go wrong.

"He touched her hand." Such a great proof of the divinity of Christ as prophesied! There was faith on the part of Peter's mother-in-law. "As thou hast believed: so be it done." (Matt. 8:13). God is the same today and will honor faith when He sees it. Hold fast to a child-like faith in God and do not let worldly wisdom of ungodly men turn you from it. —M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jesus spake with authority. From whence comes authority? Speaking alone does not produce authority for we read in Acts 19:13-16 of some who did just that. They recognized a victim of the devil's oppression and spoke to him to come out, but he "leaped on them and overcame them" and they barely escaped with their lives. Jesus gives us the secret of this authority in Matt. 12:28, 29. Before anyone is willing to bow down to authority, he must first be thoroughly convinced that he who is exercising the authority is able to carry it out. When it is completely established that one has superior strength over another, then he can speak with authority to the weaker one and the weaker is obliged to obey.

Now this basic principle applies to every one of our lives. Satan need not have gained such control of us that we are possessed by him in order for God's power and Word to become effective for us. When He found us sinners, languishing under a load of sin, crying to be delivered, He spoke the word and the devil had to let us go. Then He gave us the promise of "behold I give you power over all the power of the enemy." In any area of our lives in which we detect the hand of the enemy working we can be delivered by the power of God. Thus we become "more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

—C. Wilson

"THANK GOD, I AM DELIVERED"

My father, Bro. Fred Pruitt, who has gone to his reward, and Bro. E. M. Miles went to the State Hospital for the Insane at Norman, Okla. He writes the following about his experience which makes us know that today God does deliver souls from devil possession and heals their bodies:

"We were called there to pray for an inmate of that place who was devil possessed. We found the man in a pitiful condition. We had been burdened for him and were fasting and looking to God for his deliverance before going to visit him. When we got there, it seemed the Lord had gone on before and had so worked that the authorities gave us permission to visit and pray with him, and had so worked on the man that he was ready for the visit.

"While we had our hands upon the man and were earnestly engaged in prayer for him, one of the doctors came into the room and watched us for awhile. He came up near and wanted us to stop, saying that we were disturbing the patients, and said much more. We pleaded with him and told him how much this man needed to be delivered and he left the room, but

soon returned and talked with us again. We entreated for the man's sake and he soon left and never came back any more. We continued to pray and work with the man. After two hours of labor in prayer and working with him, the Lord delivered him from the demons and clothed him in his right mind and also spoke peace to his soul. He exclaimed with a strong voice: "Thank God, I am delivered at last!" He rejoiced and praised the Lord. He said, "I never could praise the Lord before. I could think of it, but never could say it, but now I can say it." Then he would praise the Lord again. He put his hand over his heart and said, "There is a big change in there; my heart is working good; it never did this way before." Again, he praised God. It was a clear case of deliverance. The authorities were soon convinced of the deliverance and allowed him to go home to his wife and children.

"There were many in that place who were possessed. If the managers of such places would be in sympathy with prayer for them and would give freedom to Holy Ghost ministers to visit and continue in prayer with them, many could be delivered and set free. I noticed that whenever we knelt to pray for this man, many of the other inmates would set up a moan and take on, which was evidence of devils.

"This man whom we prayed for brought his family to the campmeeting at Guthrie in August, and remained several days. He said that he was all right after being prayed for, and they let him be a trusty, helping in the kitchen, until they knew that he was fully delivered and healed. (He had also been badly afflicted on one leg. It was sore and raw half way down from the knee to the foot and would pain him much and never heal. But God healed that, also.) They sent word to his wife to come and get him—that he was all right. He had gained nearly forty pounds in weight and certainly did look like a different man."

—M. Miles

January 19, 1969

EARLY REACTIONS OF JESUS

Printed Portion Mark 2:1-12

Mark 2:1 And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.

2 And straightway many were gathered together, in-
somuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not
so much as about the door: and he preached the word
unto them.

3 And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the
palsy, which was borne of four.

4 And when they could not come nigh unto him for
the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when
they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the
sick of the palsy lay.

5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of
the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

6 But there were certain of the scribes sitting there,
and reasoning in their hearts,

7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can
forgive sins but God only?

8 And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit
that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them,
Why reason ye these things in your hearts?

9 Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy,
Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up
thy bed, and walk?

10 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath
power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of
the palsy,)

11 I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go
thy way into thine house.

12 And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and
went forth before them all; in-
somuch that they were all
amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this
fashion.

Memory Verse: For the preaching of the cross is to
them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved
it is the power of God. 1 Cor. 1:18.

Central Thought: Faith in the mighty power of Jesus
will bring results.

LESSON BACKGROUND

After Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law, cast out the unclean spirit, also healed many who came to him, he went early in the morning to a solitary place to pray. Jesus is our pattern. He wanted to commune with the Father. He said that he always did those things that pleased the Father. Jesus did not need anything because in Him dwelt "all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." Simon followed him and told him that "all men seek thee." Jesus again went forth to preach. He never slackened His pace, but proclaimed the "good news." There was no time to lose. He healed a leper and told him to tell no man, but he was so happy that he told all that he knew about Jesus. This stirred up so much jealousy that the Jewish rulers sought to kill him. He no longer could go into those cities.

Lesson Reference—Ephesians 1:3-14.

ADULT COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Mark tells us that Jesus again comes to his own city of Capernaum. Again we find Him at Peter's house. His presence there was the cause of a great gathering of people. He took this opportunity to preach to them. He never missed a chance to tell the people what they must do to be ready to go to heaven.

A man sick of the palsy had four friends who shared his troubles. They knew if they could get him to Jesus he would be healed. Oh, dear ones, if we can bring others to Jesus He will bless them according to their need! We must have faith in bringing others to Jesus. These men had such faith that they took the tiles off the roof and let him down in front of Jesus for they could not get through the door because of the crowd. They put forth some effort because they had faith.

We note that many people are more in earnest about the welfare of their souls when their bodies are afflicted. Jesus, who could read the thoughts of this man, no doubt knew that he was sick in his soul, also. Jesus forgave his sins, healed his body, and also discerned the thoughts of the scribes. You might say that three miracles were performed right there. Only God can search and know the heart and only God can heal instantly and only God can forgive sins. What a wonderful proof before all that truly Jesus Christ was the Son of God, our Saviour!

YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

It was wonderful that Jesus had a home at Peter's house. When others knew he was there they flocked to see Him and when the men came to bring the sick man they could not get in. This man was sick of the palsy, or a paralytic person. One

man at each corner of the couch or sofa carried him to the top of the house. The houses in those days were flat-roofed. Generally there was a trapdoor to ascend from the house to the roof. This seemed too narrow, so they took off part of the tile so they could let the man down before Jesus. Notice the faith of the four. God wants us today to be workers for Him. He wants us to bring others to Jesus by telling them about Him and by praying for others. As you tell others about Jesus when they get in trouble they will know where to go for help and God can show them what they must do to be saved.

Notice the three miracles that were performed by Jesus in our lesson—the remission of sins, the reading of the thoughts of the scribes, and the instant healing of the man sick with palsy. Here are absolute, incontestable proofs that our blessed Lord truly was divine and was the Saviour. Never let anyone cause you to doubt the power of God to save and heal those who come to Jesus with active faith.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The healing of the body was indeed a wonderful miracle but superceding the physical almost to obscurity is the work Jesus wrought in this man's heart. This body, in just a few short years will succumb to the hand of the Grim Reaper, and then, whether it be crooked or straight, maimed or deformed, diseased or robust, it must fall to decay and return to the dust from whence it came. But not so with the soul! If by our notions and ideas and attitudes we allow our souls to be warped and drawn until they are cramped and deformed, they are doomed to remain that way forever and ever. Only one solution is offered for that condition and that is the saving grace of God brought to us by His Son Jesus. Oh, the joy that floods the soul when a broken spirit and contrite heart removes the covering that separated us from the Saviour and our humility and willingness to forgive lowers us into His very presence whereby we receive His attention to our case! The freedom we feel when all is love in our hearts with no bad feeling or attitude toward anyone attests to the deliverance of our soul. These are some of the chains of bondage that fall from our souls when we hear the words, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." Thank God for a Saviour who is able to meet our every need, physically, spiritually, and in every way! —C. Wilson.

SAVED AND HEALED

My brother Andrew was very sick one time when he was about 16 years of age. He had been doing odd jobs such as mow-

ing lawns, helping a farmer at times, cutting wood and selling it, etc. but he was so sick that he wasn't able to do any of his work. He was in and out of the bed. He couldn't eat much and would lose most of it. This went on for about two weeks or more.

My father and mother were very concerned about him as well as all of us. One day my father talked to him. He told him that he felt that he would not be healed until he gave his heart to the Lord and made a decision to live for God. After reading and talking to him, my brother broke down and began to weep. He was ready to be saved. In fact, the Lord had been dealing very much with his soul. He knelt and with tears confessed his sins to God and was saved.

My father then anointed him with oil and we all agreed with him for his healing and the Lord instantly healed him. He was able to eat and to go back to his work. Surely the Lord is able to save and heal all those who will come to Him with faith. God knows our hearts and He knows if we have it settled to live for Him. My brother did live for God. He didn't go back on Him within a year or two. God wants us to be sincere in our promises to Him. —M. Miles

—o—

January 26, 1969

PEOPLE MISUNDERSTOOD JESUS

Printed Portion Mark 3:20-27; 31-35

Mark 3:20 And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.

21 And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.

22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.

23 And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan?

24 And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

25 And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

26 And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end.

27 No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.

31 There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him.

32 And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee.

33 And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren?

34 And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

35 For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

Memory Verse: He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. Matthew 12:30.

Central Thought: Today many are misunderstanding Jesus but those who are yielding to the Spirit of God know the way God is leading.

LESSON BACKGROUND

There were multitudes who followed Jesus. Many followed Him because they wanted to be healed or just for curiosity. There were others who followed Him to find fault so they could bring Him up before the Sanhedrin and have Him condemned to death. Many were possessed with devils who would fall down before Him and cry out, saying, "Thou art the Son of God." Jesus would rebuke them.

Jesus called twelve disciples to be with Him to learn His doctrines. He also would send them forth to preach. He gave them power to heal sicknesses and to cast out devils. Our lesson today takes place in the house of Peter of Capernaum.

Lesson References—Phil. 2:5-13.

ADULT COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The enemies of Christ could not catch him in questioning, so they told falsehoods about Him. They said that He was beside Himself—in other words, He was losing His health. His friends or relatives came to see about Him. This is often the case with those who work in God's work. If a person neglects the care of his body in the labors of the Lord he is considered un-

sensible, but if a man does this to get riches of this world he is considered to be ambitious.

Beelzebub is supposed to be the idol mentioned in 2 Kings 1:2. He was the god fly who was worshipped by the Ekrons. The Jews changed his name to Beelzebub, the dung god, a title expressive of the utmost contempt. The Jews with contempt accused Jesus of being Beelzebub and casting out devils by the prince of devils. Jesus answered them with statements that confounded them.

We want to be sure that we are doing the will of God so we can be in the family of God. We want Jesus dwelling within our hearts. We are kept by the power of God. The same power that bound the strong man (the devil) and cast him out of our house (our hearts) and cleansed us from all sin will keep us from sin.

YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

When the report reached Jesus' friends or relatives that he "was beside himself" they wanted to help. But we are sure that Jesus took care of that situation. The scribes also came down to Jerusalem. They accused Jesus of casting out devils by the fly god of the Ekrons. Jesus told them that a kingdom divided against itself could not stand. We find this true in a family, a marriage, a nation, or any group. There needs to be cooperation within the circle or group to accomplish things that are desired. Be sure that you do not take part in dissensions. There is so much today of this kind of spirit working. A spirit of rioting is dangerous. Many get involved in things they did not intend to.

In verse 27 Jesus is speaking in a parable. The devil is the strong man that has possession of the heart of a man and owns him. But when a person is tired of the devil being his master and cries unto the Lord, Jesus comes in and binds the strong man first and casts him out and spoils his house. We are glad that Jesus is greater and stronger than the devil.

Those who want to worship the mother of Jesus should take note to the last verses in our lesson. Jesus taught that spiritual ties are greater than family ties. We want to be sure we are in the family of God.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

One of the most destructive forms of war is a civil war. When men of the same nation fall to war among themselves the cost in lives is appalling. The number of lives lost in all the

other wars the U. S. has fought combined has not yet reached the total of the Civil war!

Jesus said a house, a kingdom, yea, even Satan divided against itself was doomed to destruction. God's house, family, church, kingdom, falls under the same law. Let a congregation fall to biting and devouring one another and the whole is soon consumed! The church is represented to us as a bride, the lamb's wife. Rev. 21:9. By virtue of His promise, the word of His own mouth, Christ has joined Himself to His church in a perpetual vow. Heb. 13:5. His word forbids us to have more than one living companion. He also observes and abides by that same rule. He is married to but one church, having left His home in heaven, deprived Himself of the actual presence of His Father and come to this world to be joined in holy wedlock to His one bride. All those whose hearts have been made clean and pure and are kept that way in the blood make up His bride. He and His bride are one! Now if Satan can bring about some sort of disagreement and get one group lined up on one side and another on the other, which one is Christ married to? Remember, a house divided is doomed to fall. When trouble comes and words begin to fly, close your eyes and ears to all else and seek earnestly before the Lord until you can feel beyond a shadow of doubt the witness of His Spirit upon your soul that you stand clear with Him. Then proceed carefully as He directs, for your own soul is in jeopardy in time of trouble. The enemy is seeking to separate every soul he can from the bosom of the lover of our souls. Without Him we perish! Men may go down, congregations may go away, movements may fall, for history atests that all this has happened, but through it all, the foundation of God standeth sure. We can be saved if we are willing to pay the price and go all the way with Him.

C. Wilson

STRONG MAN BOUND

Willis M. Brown was an infidel and a drunkard. He would commit almost any sin that he felt to be in his interest. He carried a gun for eight years, except when his wife would take it from him when he was drunk.

His friend's wife died. She had talked to him about getting saved just before she died. This so troubled him that he could not get away from it. He was at home and was in great trouble and even locked the door as he was afraid the dead woman would come in. He walked over and was rocking the baby's cradle, and to get his mind off his condition he started humming "There is room enough in heaven for all that will come; There is room enough in heaven for you." His little seven-year-old

son looked at him sadly and said, "Papa, I hope there is room enough in heaven for you." This shocked and troubled him greatly.

Later he almost died. He then promised his wife he would never drink again, but soon was doing it. He didn't have power within himself to quit.

One time a preacher by the name of Bunch came to his neighborhood. He preached the truth—salvation, sanctification, and divine healing and other Bible doctrines. Willis M. Brown saw a child healed and this touched him. He writes, "The first Bible sermon I ever heard in my life was that night, which, with what I saw that day and heard from the pulpit, convinced me that there is a God who will answer prayer. I also knew that I had a soul that would live as long as God lives, and that my time, as far as man could see, would be very short on earth, as I was a total wreck physically, given up to die of consumption by three doctors. ... I pled with God for two days and nights, but I could not feel sorry enough to quit my sins and make my wrongs right until God broke up my heart. Then I felt ashamed of my life, and of the way that I had treated God who had been so merciful to me. ... Seeing that I had done all that I knew to do, and willing to do anything else God would show me, I believed the God that healed the child would save me! I settled it and all darkness passed away. God's Spirit flooded my soul and it became alive to God. All malice, murder, and hatred were gone. Joy, love, and peace were flooding my soul. The devil tried to make me doubt, but after I called on God for more evidence, He convinced me that I was saved."

Jesus had come in and bound the strong man and spoiled his goods. Bro. Brown now had power to live a life pleasing unto the Lord. He was one of the early pioneer ministers of the reformation.

—M. Miles

NOTICE

If you order your Sunday School Bible Lessons each quarter, it is time NOW to send for the second quarter for April, May and June of 1969. Please cut out the order blank in the back of this booklet, fill out, and promptly mail it to us with your remittance. We will appreciate very much your cooperation in this new venture.

February 2, 1969

TEACHING ABOUT THE KINGDOM

Printed Portion Mark 4:14-20, 30-32

Mark 4:14 The sower soweth the word.

15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,

19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

30 And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?

31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth:

32 But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air lodge under the shadow of it.

Memory Verse: The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. Luke 16:16.

Central Thought: The kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom and we can be in it and have it in our hearts.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Neither Jesus' friends who wanted to help Him, nor the scribes who wanted to hinder Him were able to stop our

precious Lord and Saviour from doing the will of His Father. In today's lesson we find Him sitting in a ship by the seashore with the multitudes on the bank listening to Him teach. Jesus taught by parables many times. He took the things that He saw around Him, and also things that the people saw, to bring out great and precious truths. We would do well to take Him for our example.

Lesson Reference—Luke 8:4-15.

ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Receiving God's Word into our hearts and living it out in our lives is the only way we can get to heaven. Some are glad to know Jesus has made a way for their sins to be forgiven, and receive the Word with joy, but the devil is right there to take it away from them before they act upon it. The second hearer received the Word with gladness but "had no root." This is sad. When persecutions arose they turned back into the world. The root is the part of the plant that extends downward and fastens the plant to the earth. Through this root the plant draws moisture to live on. It is very important. In 2 Kings 19:30 we read, "Take root downward and bear fruit upward." We must have a change of heart and solid affections with strong resolutions fixed and determined to go God's way. We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is the good soil of a sincere heart. We then can stand true when we are persecuted for the Word's sake.

Some let the "cares of this life" hinder them. They are too interested and busy about temporal things and neglect God and His Word and ways. Some are seeking after money and a higher way of living and lose grace. Then some just lust after the things of the world. Any or all three of these will eventually cause lukewarmness and one will lose out with God.

How much fruit are we bearing for God? Some bore sixty, some bore just thirty, and some an hundred fold. Let each of us do all we can for God according to our calling and gift. I believe we will have to do that to be ready to enter heaven.

The kingdom of God is made up of those who are bearing fruit for Him. Notice our memory verse. We can be in the kingdom of God today. We are not looking for one to be set up in the future.

Jesus compared the kingdom of God to a mustard seed that grew up into a tree. When Jesus came, He called the 12, then there were 70. On the day of Pentecost there were 120. After the Holy Spirit fell upon the believers there were 5000 added. (Acts 4:4.) Then in Acts 5:14 we read, "And believers were the

more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women." So the kingdom of God became like a big tree as the truth went far and wide.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"The sower soweth the word." Here is the most important factor of the entire lesson! Notice that the word, the seed, does not change its character nor power nor application in any of the cases mentioned. This forever settles the idea that some are blessed above others or given more consideration than others, etc. The enemy would like to have each of us feel that our lot is harder than someone else's or perhaps anyone else's, therefore we are not able to progress as others do. All such thinking is a lie from Satan. God tells us in His Word that He is no respecter of persons. God's will is that we each produce to the full capacity of our potential. He has provided all we need to do just that, so far as He is concerned. The factors that limit the fruitfulness of the Word in our lives as taught by the lesson are every one under our control! This brings us to a full realization that we are productive in our lives in direct proportion to our willingness to produce. The provision is there, waiting to be exploited in our lives if we are willing to accept it.

David said, "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee." If we are diligent to treasure the Word and hide it in our hearts it won't be available for Satan to snatch away. If we lose it, it is our own fault.

Ezekiel (11:18-21) looked down through the eye of prophesy and saw a time when stony hearts could be broken up and replaced with a heart of flesh. That day is now. The full gospel when comprehended and accepted will break the hardest heart and soften it to the consistency of flesh for every one who is willing to receive it.

Jesus said that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. This text alone, if carried out in our lives, will leave no room for thorns to choke. Thorn bushes do not obtain a stranglehold on us until they have been allowed to grow up. We can destroy them if we will.

They on good ground produced to the fullness of their potential—some thirty, some sixty, some an hundredfold. Remember the parable of the talents. How we perform depends on us.

—C. Wilson

MADAM GUYON

When Madam Guyon was a little girl she was cared for by nursemaids part of the time and at other times was put in convents to be cared for. When she was ten years old, a Bible by some unknown reason was left in her bedroom. She wrote that she spent hours deeply absorbed in reading it. She even committed to memory entire historical portions. God dealt with her heart at that time but she did not yield to Him, and soon gave up her desires for God completely. This is like the seed, which is the Word, falling on the "wayside ground." Satan took it away.

She grew to be a very beautiful girl and her mother was so pleased with her appearance that she indulged her in fashionable clothes. The world gained sway over her and her religious intentions were forgotten.

Later a cousin of hers came to her home on his way as a missionary to China. This touched her when she compared her worldly life with his life. She cried the rest of the day and night. Again she was aroused to her condition, and tried to give up her worldliness and get forgiveness from others she had wronged. She spent time giving food and clothing to the poor and reading novels. She did not seem to understand how to find salvation through faith. About a year after this, at the age of 14, she fell in love and this took all her attentions. She gave up her religious desires, read fictions, spent much time before the mirror, and became very vain. This is like the Seed, or the Word, falling on the stony ground. She did not have any depth. She had never been truly "born again." She did not have anyone to teach her, so she could only go so far.

At the age of 16 she married a wealthy man whom her father had chosen for her. Troubles came to her. She had a mother-in-law that ruled with a rod of iron. In the second year of her marriage she became ill, and it seemed she would die. Again her cousin visited her on his return from China. He helped her to understand many things and that salvation was through faith and a matter of heart and soul rather than a routine of ceremonial duties. She wrote of his words: "They were like a stroke of a dart which pierced my heart asunder. I felt at this instant deeply wounded with the love of God—a wound so delightful that I desired that it never be healed. ... My heart was quite changed... God was there for from that moment He had given me an experience of His presence in my soul. ... I slept not that night because, Thy love, O my God! flowed in me like delicious oil, and burned as a fire. ..." All could see a change and persecutions arose from her mother-in-law and family. Even her husband and her son were in-

fluenced. Time passed and she began to neglect prayer and she again conformed to the worldly social life with her husband. This is like the Seed falling among thorns. She let the cares of this life, lusts of other things choke out the Word.

Later she was stirred again and felt with bitterness and tears, remorse over her loss of God's love. She again longed for a return of it. One day she was walking across a bridge in Paris and a poor man began to talk to her about God. In that talk she understood that God not only required a heart that was forgiven, but a heart that was holy. God demanded also a subjection of our natures and utmost purity to obtain Christian heights. This brought great light to her. She got back to God and consecrated herself fully to Him. God destroyed her idols. She had smallpox and her face was marred and part of her beauty was taken away. Two of her children and her father died. Later her husband who had been reconciled to her died. All brought her to depths in God. The seed, which is the Word, had at last fallen on good ground. She taught many in France and was the means of leading them into a real experience of salvation. She was imprisoned eight months at one time, poisoned by her enemies, but lived, and by the order of the King in 1695 she was put in prison in the dungeon in the Bastille of Paris for four years, all for Christ's sake. Later she was banished to Blois and died at the age of 69. In prison she wrote 60 volumes of books which had a mighty influence on the world at that time. —M. Miles

February 9, 1969

THE MIGHTY POWER OF JESUS

Printed Portion Mark 4:35-41; 5:25-29, 34

Mark 4:35 And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

36 And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

Mark 5:25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Memory Verse: And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Corinthians 12:9.

Central Thought: By faith we approach Him, by love we are united to Him, and by prayer we commune with Him.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Jesus was sitting in the ship at the seashore of Galilee when He spoke the parables to the people about the sower and also the mustard seed which was compared to the Kingdom of God. Our lesson today continues the account of what happened that same day.

Lesson Reference—Psalm 103:1-14.

ADULT COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

After Jesus spoke to the people He told the disciples, "Let us pass over unto the other side" of the Sea of Galilee. Being

weary, he went to sleep. A tempest arose and the disciples were frightened. How many times have we been frightened when we viewed the problems of life in its various phases? Maybe the death of a loved one, bills, sickness, persecutions, gossip tangles, and many things that come to us have frightened us. It seemed we might sink beneath the waves of trouble. The enemy is right there to whisper that Jesus does not care. In our desperation we cry, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" Oh yes, He cares! He cares very much. He has a plan that He is working out in your life, dear one. Just be still and wait with faith. How can you know that you have any faith if it isn't tested? We are serving the same Jesus who has power to speak to the wind and say to the sea, "Peace, be still." He will speak to our soul if we will listen carefully with faith.

Oh yes, He cares if you are afflicted! He cared about the dear woman who had very little strength because of the affliction she had had for twelve years. She pressed through the crowd to get to Jesus. Just a touch was all she needed. Jesus saw her and said, "Daughter [oh, such loving words from our Master!] thy faith hath made thee whole." Notice Jesus said, "Thy faith." Do we need an increase of faith?

YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Let us think of life as a sea. We are in a boat sailing over the sea of life. There are two ports that we might enter. One is heaven and the other is hell. The one that leads to hell seems so attractive. There are many docks on this ship lane that you can tie up to and receive much entertainment of the worldly sort. The bright lights glitter over the water and the music seems to be enchanting to many. But many times one gets into a lot of trouble before getting away from these docks. Way beyond can be seen the flames from hell and the end is a terrible catastrophe.

Now the ship lane that leads to heaven has docks also, but they are docks where one can be helpful. From these docks one can speak through the loud speaker warning others about the road to hell. Some docks are places where one can help a sick person or pray for those who are in trouble or need. There are docks where you can join in the sweet singing of songs of Zion. Sometimes the music floats over and some in the boats on the ship lane to hell will stop and listen and leave that lane and come toward God's lane. How happy you are when this happens! There might be rough seas at times on God's ship lane, but Jesus is always near at hand. As we call upon Him He says, "Peace, be still" to the waves of trouble. He is not

willing that any perish. He cares. Which ship lane are you sailing on?

Jesus cared about the woman who had been sick for twelve years and desired that she be healed. Her faith was marvelous. She was very weak, but she pressed through the multitudes to get to Jesus. In her timidity, all she desired was just a touch. Notice what Jesus told her, "Daughter [such loving words] thy faith hath made thee whole." Young people, we are serving a mighty God. He has power over the afflictions of our bodies and just one word from Him will change the face of nature, one word can bring peace to a troubled soul. —M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Notice the contrast of these two situations, as well as the similarity. In both cases folks were in trouble, for their lives were in jeopardy. That is about as serious as things can get, physically. Also, in both cases, they turned to Jesus for the solution of their problems. Would to God more today would recognize in Him the perfect and complete answer to every thing we encounter along the way. He was able to provide a satisfactory answer for folks then and He can do the same for us today.

But at this point the contrast enters in. Jesus calmed the sea, quieted the wind and produced a great calm, but He upbraided them for their lack of faith. Notice that He was ready and willing to help them out, and did help them, but He would have been better satisfied had they been able to exercise themselves in the matter. He is not pleased with "robots" but He wants us to seek and acquire and maintain some abilities for ourselves. It is through Him we obtain, for He is all and in all, but the end result is more pleasing when we exercise ourselves, also.

Now consider the woman. She knew her life was wanning away and realized and believed that if she could get to Jesus, her problem would be solved, as indeed it was! But His words to her no doubt thrilled her very soul! He commended her because of her faith.

Both received the physical need of the moment, a blessing in its own right, but which do you suppose went to bed that night with a heart full to overflowing? It is entirely possible for us today to receive blessings at His hand and a reproof along with it that robs us of the joy and pleasure and satisfaction that He would much rather have given if He could have and still been true to our souls.

The woman was blessed both physically and spiritually and went her way full of rejoicing because the Saviour had com-

mended her. Let us see to it that we approach Him in such a condition of heart and attitude of mind that He will be pleased to grant us not only our petition, but also send us on our way, commended.

—C Wilson.

DOES JESUS CARE?

They thought they were getting rid of Jesus, His healing power, and the King of the Jews, when they crucified Him, but, praise God, His works are still going on. He is a conquering King and on the throne to heal.

When we put in the call to Guthrie for prayer, our baby boy had a very high fever, which threw him into a spasm.

We have much for which to thank the Lord. He is very good to us. Many things happen which we cannot understand, but the dear Lord knows and understands all things. I think of the song: "Does Jesus care when my heart is pained too deeply for mirth or song? ... Does He care enough to be near? ... Oh, yes, He cares, I know He cares," etc. Truly this poet must have known that Jesus does care. He has done so much for me that I am determined by His help and grace to be true and do His will. He had just healed me of a real bad case of the flu before the baby took sick. Also, He healed our oldest girl's left ear which was afflicted with a bad rising. Her ear had been draining for over a week. We've been having many afflictions, but the Lord has delivered us out of them all.

I want to tell of an accident I had near the time for the ministers' meeting. The baby was sick and I got up in the night to plug in the floor lamp. In doing so I got a severe shock which shook my hand terribly, then ran through my body and out my big toe. In a day or two the lower joint next to the palm of my left hand (where I received the shock) swelled up in a hard knot. As weeks passed by it kept getting worse until I couldn't grip anything that was hard without hurting my hand. About three weeks ago I took hold of a door knob to open the door and it was stuck; so, not thinking, I gripped a little harder and pulled quickly. In so doing my hand popped and felt a little strange. I looked to see what I had done. The knot was gone and the soreness left in a very little while. It must have been thrown out of place. I had been looking to the Lord to help me with it, so give Him all the praise for it.

—Mrs. Murphy Allen

(This testimony was taken from the book, "Divine Physical Healing." Read more of them. Order one today, \$1.25, from Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.)

February 16, 1969

JESUS COMMISSIONS WORKERS

Printed Portion Mark 6:7-13; 30-34

Mark 6:7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

8 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:

9 But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.

10 And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.

11 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.

12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

13 And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

30 And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.

31 And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

32 And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.

33 And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him.

34 And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

Memory Verse: Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. John 15:14.

Central Thought: If we cannot go, God expects us to help send someone else.

Lesson References—2 Cor. 5:17-6:10.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Jesus continued to labor for His Father who sent Him. He delivered the man who was possessed with the legions of devils, also raised Jarius' daughter who had died. Jesus' countrymen were so astonished at His great wisdom and mighty works that they were offended at Him. Their unbelief hindered Him from helping them and doing mighty works in His own country. They said, "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at Him." Mark 6:3. Jesus went around in the various villages teaching the story of salvation.

ADULT COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Today we should catch the vision that Jesus had. I am sure we can if we will only lift up our spiritual eyes and look at the fields. Millions of souls are perishing. When we think of the crimes, the foolish songs that are daily listened to, the hatred manifested, low morality, and disregard for the Bible, all this added to the evils daily watched over TV, we are made to weep. We are "moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd." We notice what Jesus did about the vision He received. The lesson tells us that "he began to teach them many things." Today we need to be teaching this sinful world "many things." Wives and husbands need to be taught to stay together and give security to their children. Divorce is one of the curses of our times and is leading more souls to hell than anything else. If the home is destroyed, it has far-reaching effect upon the children, the relatives, and many others. Too often each is soon married again. The doctrines of the Bible need to be taught—yes, "many things" need to be taught today.

It is good for two to go out together, as there is power in an agreement of prayer. Jesus taught them not to make any provisions for their journey. In Matt. 10 this same Scripture is recounted. Jesus told them, "for the workman is worthy of his meat" (verse 10). This lays a responsibility upon us to see that the workers for God are supplied. How are we going to answer the Lord concerning this obligation?

YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

A more complete account of these Scriptures is given in Matthew 10:5-23. Jesus had need of helpers. The work was great and the laborers were few. His heart was moved with compassion as He looked at the multitude as sheep without a shepherd. Can you recount the work of a shepherd and how the sheep would act without him? Jesus sent the disciples forth two by two. It is good to have another to be in agreement with you in the work of the Lord. He was sending them forth as "sheep among wolves." They would have some great adventures and be in close places. If you are looking for adventure, you need to be in God's work. If you are wanting to be a brave, courageous person, get in the work of the Lord and your bravery will be tested. Many young people turn back from serving the Lord because it takes too much courage and boldness. It is easier to float down the stream with the worldly crowd than to wield the oars and go upstream. But how sad the end is of those who float along with the worldly crowd!

Are you willing to labor for the Lord? You might say that the Lord has not called you. Well, are you studying His Word, working around your door, and preparing yourself to be ready to go when He does call you? In school, take subjects that you can use in God's work. I took typing but didn't use it for the Lord until about eighteen years later and have used it steadily since then. Think of other subjects that will help.

Notice that the disciples "anointed with oil many that were sick." Did the oil heal them? —M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It was the mercy of God that made a provision for us to be workers together with Him. We say sometimes that He needs us to carry His gospel; I prefer the idea that He allows us to carry His gospel. He could have, had He chosen to do so, brought His message to every soul upon the face of the earth through all ages by the direct agency of His Holy Spirit. He does, without doubt, visit every heart some time or other and offer an opportunity to be saved. Justice demands that, and God is just. No doubt there are some who never have met a Christian, but God is faithful to them by His Spirit and will lead them out if they will yield.

But the Lord knew that when we turned to Him with all our hearts and repented of our sins and transgressions that His love which would flood our souls at His entrance would cry out to be manifested. If we love someone we set about to demonstrate it with special kindnesses, extra acts of thoughtful-

ness, demonstrations of tenderness, manifestations of affections, etc. Now since God is a spirit, how could we be sure that we were reaching Him with our love? He filled the need and made the way when He said, "Inasmuch as ye do it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." We demonstrate our attitude toward God by the manner in which we treat others. This points up the absolute necessity we have of laboring for Him, not because He needs us, but because the spontaneous overflowing of His love in our hearts reaches out to others to demonstrate to God that we love Him. We will love our fellowman also because God loves him, but the prime factor must be our real true pure unselfish affection for the Lord. If we love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength as His Word requires, we will see to it that our own lives are measured to all that His precepts demand. Then when we go forth seeking souls upon whom to bestow our affection, our outpouring to them will be exactly what we would pour out to God if He were the person. It will be just as pure, just as holy, just as genuine, just as sincere, just as honest as it would be to God. What we manifest to our fellowman tells a big story about the condition of our hearts.

Supposing for a moment that we were to go forth with the prime thought in mind that God needs me. Unless we are very careful the enemy will soon impose upon us the idea that unless we are there and active the work of the Lord will diminish or cease. The work depends on us. With that attitude we address ourselves to the task of winning souls. See the opening this leaves for the enemy to promote in us an over-exaggerated opinion of ourselves and our abilities! Soon it will become, not a labor of love, but a drudgery of endurance. See the difference between this method and the one previously described? The load becomes heavier and the distress greater and the first thing we know it is too easy to cut a corner here or there, thinking perhaps that folks don't seem to appreciate my efforts anyway. Tenderness begins to grow dim, thoughtfulness begins to fade away, kindnesses come a little more reluctantly, and before we hardly know or become aware, we are no longer demonstrating the love of God, but we go on working because the work "needs me."

God help us to see that God and His work don't need us, but rather that we need it. If our true labor of love is not received by those about us as we wish it were we can go on rejoicing anyway because the activity in the first place was in affection for Him. He will reward us anyway, whether our acts be accepted or rejected, therefore we, with courage, are able to continue on.

—C. Wilson

CALLED TO THE OFFICE

Superintendent Blake had a habit of slipping into the class rooms without any apparent purpose. Sometimes he spoke briefly to the students, but more often he was just a silent visitor. So it was that on one particular Friday morning when he came quietly in the back door of the Assembly Room and occupied a back seat, no one thought much about it.

"I should like to see you in my office, if you will come with me, please," he spoke quietly to a boy named Gilbert Slade.

"Certainly!" replied Gilbert politely, putting away the book he was studying, though he was bewildered at the unusual request. Usually being called to the office was considered anything but a pleasant or desirable experience.

"I suppose sometimes it might look as if I paid silent visits just for a pastime," he explained, "but I have been keeping my eyes open for a boy or girl who knows how to go ahead and make the best use of his or her time without needing to be goaded on by anyone. I have several reasons for picking out such students.

"I have noticed that you consistently use your time to the best advantage. When you have finished your Math problems, for example, you get out your Science book. When that is completed, you begin right away on your English, or whatever subject needs your attention. The idea is that you work hard while you work, and you keep at it without having to be told. You see for yourself what needs to be done, and you do not trifle away your time.

"That is exactly the kind of fellow I must have at present to do some special work for me after school hours. Could you begin on Monday afternoon?" he asked bluntly.

"Yes, I could," answered Gilbert, very much surprised and very greatly pleased.

"Fine! And there is one question I should like to ask you," replied the superintendent. "When did you first learn the secret of keeping yourself busy?"

"My father and mother always tried to teach me that—ever since I can remember," Gilbert answered in all frankness. Then his face took on a look of confession as he continued, "But—well—this may sound sissified to you—but—ever since I have been a little boy I decided if I was going to do anything worth while I would have to keep being busy; for you know, when God wants a man for a big, important job He picks on one who is busy at work. The Bible gives a long list of such people. There was David who was busy taking care of his father's sheep. There was Gideon who was busy threshing wheat by the winepress. There was Moses who kept the flock at Horeb.

There was Saul who was hunting for his father's lost animals. There was Elisha who was busy plowing with the twelve yoke of oxen. There was Ruth who was busy gleaning—and that is just a start!"

"A fine start," came Mr. Blake's admiring words. "Sound sissified, did you say? If that is what it means, I would like to sissify this whole school. I wish every boy and girl here could have learned what you have. If you do not mind, Gilbert, I would like to pass on that illustration to the Assembly Monday morning."

"Not at all," stammered the smiling youth.

"And do not forget: If you keep on being busy, there will be work for you when your school days are over. But right now it is time for the next class, is it not?"

So Gilbert went to his class, unmindful of the many classmates whose curiosity about the mystery of his being called to the office was not fully satisfied until the following Monday morning.

—Selected

February 23, 1969

VAIN WORSHIP

Printed Portion Mark 7:1-7, 9-15

Mark 7:1 Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem.

2 And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault.

3 For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders.

4 And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they had received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brassen vessels, and of tables.

5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?

6 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

10 For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Whoso curseth father or mother let him die the death:

11 But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free.

12 And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother;

13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

14 And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them, Harken unto me every one of you, and understand:

15 There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.

Memory Verse: Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 2 Tim. 3:5.

Central Thought: God's first interest in us is the state or condition of our heart.

Scripture References—2 Cor. 5:17; James 1:27; 1 Tim. 6:1-5.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Herod was troubled about the works of Jesus. He thought it was John the Baptist who had risen from the dead. Herod had had John beheaded to please Herodias' daughter. John had told Herod it was unlawful for him to take his brother's wife. Jesus also fed the 5000 and later came walking on the water during the storm to the disciples. When He got off the ship at Gennesaret the people came running to meet Him, bringing the sick on beds and pressed so they could just touch Him, for as many as touched Him were healed.

Some Pharisees and scribes came from Jerusalem to Gennesaret which is the setting for today's lesson.

ADULT COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We will miss the thought of our lesson unless we understand what is meant by the "tradition of the elders." Tradition comes from the Latin word "trado" which means "to deliver, especially from one to another, to hand down." The tradition

of the Jews signifies what is called the oral laws, which they distinguish from the written law of Moses. They claim they were handed down but were not put in writing. (See Clarke's Commentary.) Having unwashed hands did not mean the disciples were dirty, but the Jews did certain acts of washing of hands, pots, etc. as a ritual or as a tradition. Jesus taught his disciples that they did not have to keep the "traditions of the elders." The Jews are not the only ones who have rituals and claim to worship God in that manner, but many sects today do the same. They program their services and the leadership of the Holy Spirit is left out. The Mohammedans wash their faces, feet, and hands before they pray as part of their ritual. The sects worship with their lips and rituals but their hearts are far from the Lord and it is all in vain. True worship is the union of the heart and spirit with God. "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:24.

YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

It would be well to read the adult comments, also. We want to add that young people have a duty to care for their parents. They cared for you when you were helpless and could not lift a spoon to feed yourself. Don't fall into the trend of today among many who neglect their parents. Show respect and consideration for them. You might feel that they do not understand you, but still you owe them respect. I am sure they understand you more than you think they do. They traveled the road before you and they know some things you couldn't know since you have not met them. It is very wise to trust their guidance. You will never be sorry that you did. God will bless you and bring rich graces to your character.

Young people, worship God from your heart. Be sincere in your devotions to Him. Keep your heart pure. Take time to read your Bible and pray. Make Jesus your personal Friend. You are going to have to carry on this precious Truth as many of the older saints are leaving it with you. Don't let down, but teach the Bible standards and God will be with you.

Jesus points out one of their traditions, which, by keeping it, they were disobeying God's commandment. They would keep from honoring (which also means "to take care of a person, nourish and support him" see Num. 22:17; Judges 13:17; 1 Tim. 5:17; Deut. 27:16) their parents by going by their tradition which was contrary to Moses' law. They would say Corban. Corban means to give a gift which should be for the care of parents to the Temple worship. Their traditions left out love which is the foundation of the teachings of Jesus.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Verse 15 is the key to the entire lesson. The old Mosaic law allowed the eating of only certain things. Others must be left alone—for instance the flesh of swine. Now, Christ was saying, "Eat what you will, for there is no longer any defilement because of that!" The law was given as a rule of obedience for this physical being and it made provision only for sins committed. Christ came with a law of purity and holiness which, when accepted and obeyed, makes provision for the condition of the heart. The eating of beef or the ox did not and will not make a man's heart pure, nor will the eating of swine flesh cause the heart to become defiled. That which is without, entering into the body has no effect on the condition of the heart. Selfishness, pride, lust, greed, hatred, etc. are generated within the confines of a man's own heart. Adjusting his diet of food will not alter the condition of his heart. Cut off his food altogether and if his heart be full of hatred, he will continue to hate. The only change made is that he now hates on an empty stomach.

What Jesus was pointing out was that the traditions established by the elders had in effect thwarted the plan and provision of God's command from accomplishing what it had set out to do. Honor given to father and mother, or to whomsoever it be due, would have helped keep people kind and considerate of each other, thus promoting a quality of tenderness in the heart. Greed of the elders prompted them to say, "Make a gift to God and be free of this menial responsibility," they, of course, being the recipient of the gift. This left the people free to continue on in their hardness of heart with an eased conscience.

Christendom on every hand about us today is practicing this very thing. God's word plainly says he that commits sin is of the devil, yet Christendom about us shouts the more, you can't live free from sin; we all sin more or less every day in word, thought, and deed. Oh! that men would discover that fountain of cleansing, what a change of heart would take place!

Let us take heed lest these practices creep in among us. Any form or pattern, whether purposely established or unconsciously drifted into that contradicts the direct word of God or that interferes with the free working of His Holy Spirit among His people must be viewed with alarm and eliminated from our midst in order for His smile of approval to rest upon us. The traditions we might observe that offend God's holy law will not be accepted today any more than the ones men

observed in Christ's time. His law is perfect, therefore let us each one observe and obey it without trying to change it.

—C. Wilson

RITUALS WON'T SAVE

When Martin Luther was a monk of the Augustinian order, connected to the Roman Catholic church, he went to Rome to transact business for his Order in 1512.

He was delighted to go. A restless, unhappy man, having tried everything the church had to offer and yet without peace with God, he said, "If I go to Rome, the holy city, I will find all I want." So he went, earnestly counting on meeting God. Giving his testimony afterward he says, "Rome living would have made me an infidel, but Rome dead kept me a Christian."

When he arrived there and saw the simony of the priests and the corruption of the church his soul was filled with horror. He said, "In Rome they sell everything for money, forgiveness, the right to commit sin—everything. In Rome they would sell the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost!"

Then at last, as he wended his way through the city, he came to the church of St. John Lateran and he learned that in it there was supposed to be the very staircase down which Christ walked from Pilate's judgment hall. It was said that if one would go up that staircase on his hands and knees he would get great spiritual blessings by the time he reached the top. So earnest was this German monk that he was ready to do anything that might give peace, and he started up that staircase, until suddenly in the midst of it all a passage of Scripture came rushing down into the depths of his soul: "The just shall live by faith."

He sprang to his feet and said, "What a fool I am! If 'the just shall live by faith' what am I doing climbing this staircase?"

These words, which already on two occasions had struck upon his ear as the voice of an angel of God, resounded instantaneously and powerfully within him. He arose in terror from the steps up which he had been crawling; he was horrified at himself and struck with shame for the degradation to which superstition had debased him. He fled from the scene of his folly.

This powerful text had a mysterious influence on the life of Luther. It was a creative word for the reformer and for the reformation. He writes, "But when by the Spirit of God, I understood these words—when I learned how the justification of the sinner proceeds from God's mere mercy by the way of faith,

then I felt myself born again as a new man, and I entered by an opened door into the very paradise of God. From that hour I saw the precious and holy Scripture with new eyes."

(Taken from "History of the Great Reformation of the Sixteenth Century")

March 2, 1969

JESUS FORETELLS HIS SUFFERING

Printed Portion Mark 8:27-38

Mark 8:27 And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am?

28 And they answered, John the Baptist: but some say, Elias; and others, One of the prophets.

29 And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ.

30 And he charged them that they should tell no man of him.

31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

32 And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.

33 But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Memory Verse: And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. Mark 8:34.

Central Thought: When Jesus shows us the eternal world beyond for us, He loves us too well not to show us that in obtaining it we must bear the cross.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Our Lord continues in the Scripture to show us what defiles the man and names them in detail. After this He went to Tyre and Sidon and wanted to hide away for awhile, but He could not. A Greek woman came and begged for the deliverance of her daughter which was granted to her. In coming to the coast of Galilee he healed a man who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech. Jesus begs them not to tell it, but the Scripture says, "so much more a great deal they published it." When the multitudes gathered around Him and He knew they were hungry, He fed 4000 with a few fishes and seven loaves of bread. The Pharisees came to Him and tried to catch Him in some questions. Jesus then warned the disciples, after they were alone in the ship, of the leaven of the Pharisees and others. When he came to Bethsaida He healed a blind man. Then he started on the way to Caesarea Philippi and asked the disciples the questions that begin our lesson today.

Lesson Reference—John 16:25-33.

ADULT COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We notice that the disciples were not swayed by the opinions of men. One thought Jesus was this person and one that person but the disciples had been convinced in their walk with Jesus that He was the Christ and boldly and firmly declared it. Jesus could not have told them about His sufferings and the cross unless they had been convinced that He was one in the Godhead. When they were convinced of His Deity and acknowledged His Divinity, He began to tell them about suffering. No doubt, they had longed many years for the Messiah to come and rejoiced to see Him. Now in the midst of joy, He plainly tells

them He will be rejected and killed. Rejoicing would make us proud unless it would be followed with some humiliation. We must bear a cross to wear a crown.

"To take up the cross" is a common phrase. But do we apply it to the trials of common life? The cross is, like all burdens, heavy, exhausting, crushing, and even more than that, it has shame and crushes our self-esteem. We lose our self-life and also ambitions to gain part of the world's goods for self. It is Christ and only Christ that we want to please. Some crosses others can see and lend a helping hand to bear, but many are invisible to others. We must bear them alone, only with God's help. To be willing to bear our cross is the very foundation of our faith. To gain the whole world would cause us to lose our souls and it would only last a while, but to gain the joys of heaven would be forever.

YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Today there are men who claim to be intellectuals who are denying that Jesus is the Christ. In the universities and even in high schools some teach evolution and twist the minds of many which causes them to lose faith in God. I trust that you have walked with the disciples in our past lessons, since the first of the year, and see how Jesus taught them, convincing them that He was the Christ. They were men who had to be convinced. Now in today's lesson, He is ready to tell them some divine secrets but first they must believe firmly that He is the Christ. The same is true with you. You must have confessed Jesus as Divine and as the Saviour of those who with godly sorrow have confessed their sins and turned away from them before you can understand the deep truths in our lesson.

Jesus tells the disciples that He is going to be rejected and killed. When Peter rebukes Him for it, He sees the work of Satan trying to hide from Peter the deeper things of God. He rebukes Satan and plainly tells Peter that He does not understand, but is only looking as man sees. Jesus then calls to Himself those around Him and declares that self-denial is the basis upon which they must follow Him and serve Him. What have we gained if we should gain the whole world? Some day we must leave it all. But if we have gained eternal life, through losing self and the world, then we have gained the greater. There is no end to eternal life in heaven. While you are trying to gain the world you can't get away from the fact that the desire for the higher life is still there. You cannot stifle it, nor drown it. People may declare there is no God but they can't get away from the fact of it. Their declaring it does not change the fact that there is a God and we all will

stand before Him individually one of these days to give an account of the way we have lived. —M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Divine guidance made Jesus able to understand that the future held suffering and disappointment and death for Him. His knowledge and understanding of the Word revealed to Him the facts in His case. He was never tainted with sin, therefore His inclination, will, desire, and purpose of heart was always to please His Father. He understood perfectly His Father's mind and thoughts and He knew that He would be despised and rejected of men. He knows also that you and I will meet the same fate provided we accept the truth and hold it up in all its purity. We need not look forward to a day when all will accept the truth, or even a large number, for as men's hearts grow harder they automatically move farther and farther away from God and His truth. (2 Tim. 3:13.)

When we accept Christ and surrender our all into His hands, our will, ambitions, abilities, mind, soul, body, thoughts, aspirations, yea, all, He is then able to move in and possess us by the in-dwelling of His Holy Spirit. Our lives die out that the Christ life may live in us. To whatever degree we fail to die out to our own lives, to that extent we will have marred the Christ-image that we live out. He wants the world to be able to see Him reflected in us, but if we allow a little of our own desires or ambitions in the reflection, the world will not see a true picture of Christ. A little self-esteem in the heart of two brethren brought about the scene in Mark 9: 33-35. They were striving to see who would be greatest. One minister said, "Almost every time there is trouble in a congregation it can be traced back to a struggle for power"—someone wanting to be recognized above or before someone else, or someone seeking to appear more spiritual or more experienced or more learned than others. May God help us to realize that the Kingdom is big enough for us all without conflict.

—C. Wilson

THE DYING'S LAST MESSAGE TO THE LIVING

After God has given a soul definite assurance of its adoption into His family, and that soul has maintained that experience by walking humbly and closely with God, it is easy to die.

Few, today, ever receive a definite Divine witness of the Spirit that makes them bold in the presence of death.

The attending physician, today, when he sees his remedies are failing to restore the patient back to health, and that death is soon to lay its icy hand on that mortal frame, gives a potion to the patient that eases pain but invariably weakens the consciousness of the mental faculties. The patient then "just sleeps his life away." If he is a sinner, he dies just as peacefully as a saint. No glimpse into the eternal world is afforded to either saint or sinner after receiving this narcotic.

The modern physician is trained to do this, thinking he is doing the patient a humane service by alleviating his pain, and that he is saving his friends the sorrow that may come to them because of the agonizing cries of the soul that is dying without hope in God.

A prominent physician in this city (Cincinnati) said, "If I did not give them (the dying) dope they would make a lot of noise." "Doctor, what would that 'noise' be about?" They would pray (not ashamed to pray now), and call for others to bring their enemies to their bedside so they could ask their forgiveness. Some of them would get a glimpse of the awful future and see demons waiting to seize their wicked spirit as it leaves the body.

The day of "death-bed repentance," as uncertain as that may be, is forever in the past.

It was not uncommon, in the early times, before this modern day when the dying are given the stupefying draught, that the saints would shout the high praises of God and hear entrancing heavenly melodies from the glory world, and would see the angels who were to convey them to everlasting bliss.

It would seem that in these closing days, that the dying are not met by a delegation, as formerly, from the unseen world. Why? **THE DYING ARE DOPED!**

The dying should not be deprived of their last opportunity of giving a testimony to the living, whether they are being ushered into a world of eternal joys or everlasting woe. The dying soon know their eternal destiny.

The following account is true in every detail:

About the year 1906, there was a man by the name of Lucien Weaver, who with his family, lived near Owensville, Ohio. He lived on Jackson Pike about two miles out from this country village of about 300 inhabitants.

Mr. Weaver and his family were Christians. He was a man of few words, but if anyone needed a friend he could go to this man with confidence that, if possible, Mr. Weaver would help him.

He had two daughters, Anna and Florence. His daughter, Anna, who lived about one-half mile from his home, was very low with the dreaded disease of tuberculosis.

Mr. Weaver and his wife dearly loved Anna and would go and sit up with her as her death seemed very near. Anna was a devout Christian just waiting for the summons of her Lord. Mr. Weaver caught cold during these nightly vigils which resulted in pneumonia. He was very sick from the beginning. Anna died and was buried but Mr. Weaver was not told of it, for they feared to let him know of the death of his beloved child, as it might make him worse.

He lived a few days after Anna's death. For about two hours before he died he talked much. Those present in his room were his family and the attending physician. He constantly told them of the beautiful music he was hearing. He held continuous conversations with friends he had known on earth, but who had departed to be with Christ; among them were his father and mother.

The friends at his bed-side would often ask him questions concerning what he was seeing and hearing, which he answered intelligently. Toward the last he suddenly exclaimed: "Why, there is Anna! Anna, I did not know that you had gone ahead of me!"

Every dying soul has a testimony for the living, and they have a right to be permitted to keep a clear mind to the last. The dying testimony of the sinner as well as the saint is of great importance to the whole community.

Dying folks invariably will tell the truth when facing eternal realities. A minute of testimony, in the dying hour, may be worth more to the world than all one may have done and said during a lifetime. —Selected

THE DEATH OF INFIDELS

Hume, the philosopher and infidel, died in horrible remorse, as he thought of the many souls he had sent to hell through his false teaching. He was afraid to meet them there.

The anguish of Volney, the atheist, concerning the future was awful. Nothing could calm his fears. "My God! My God!" he cried.

When Voltaire was dying he cried out, "O Christ! O Lord Jesus! I must die—abandoned of God and men!" His fearful condition became so frightful that his infidel associates were afraid to approach his bedside. His nurse repeatedly said, "For all the wealth of Europe, I would never see another infidel die."

LOVE CONQUERS

Oh, the bitter pain and sorrow
That a time could ever be
When I proudly said to Jesus,
"All of self, and none of Thee!"
Yet He found me, I beheld Him
Bleeding on th' accursed tree,
And my wistful heart said faintly,
"Some of self, and some of Thee."
Day by day, His tender mercy—
Healing, helping, full and free—
Brought me lower, while I whispered,
"Less of self, and more of Thee."
Higher than the highest heavens,
Deeper than the deepest sea,
Lord, Thy love at last has conquered:
"None of self, and all of Thee!"

—T. Monod

March 9, 1969

THE MEANING OF DISCIPLESHIP

Printed PortionMark 10:17-31

Mark 10:17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasures in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answered again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.

29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's.

30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

31 But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

Memory Verse: For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. Mark 8:35.

Central Thought: Morality will not take us to heaven. We must be "born again," and leave all to follow Jesus.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Six days later after our lesson last Sunday Jesus took the disciples up on the mount and was transfigured before them. Jesus again tells them that He must suffer many things and be set at naught. He delivered the man who had a dumb spirit. In Capernaum He taught His disciples many things. He

told them it was better to have a foot, etc. cut off than to be "cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched." He also says, "where the worm [life of sinner] dieth not." Later on the coasts of Jordan He teaches the people about marriage and says, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." The mothers brought their children to Him to be blessed. After this He started on His way and our lesson today begins here.

Scripture Reference—John 15:1-11

ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We wish that more today would be interested enough in their soul's welfare to come running to Jesus, seeking to know what to do to have eternal life. No doubt this young man had been convinced that truly this was the Son of God, the Messiah, the Saviour of the world that was to come. He was in earnest about his need. He came in reverence, kneeling down before Jesus. He felt his nothingness and Jesus' greatness and power to save. He came calling him teacher. He came seeing his need to be taught.

Jesus was the "end of the law for righteousness" or justification. The law was a "schoolmaster to bring them to Christ." This Jew that came to Jesus had kept that law faithfully. He was a good moral young man. But morality will not take us to heaven. We must accept Jesus as our Saviour from all sin. We must be "born again" as Jesus taught. This man felt the need of more than morality. "What lack I yet?" Notice that Jesus loved him but told him what he had to do. Jesus told him to sell all that he had. We notice in verse 24 that Jesus knew the heart of this man. He was one who had his trust in riches. We can't keep those things we trust in and have Jesus, too. He wants us to trust in Him. This hit the dear young man hard. He would not do that nor would he follow Jesus. Jesus had no place to lay his head and was busy about His Father's business. The young man went away sorrowful. What an agony he had! He loved the world, yet he wanted eternal life. God may not require of us as He did this man because God knows each heart, but if we are trusting in riches as this man did, He will require us to do the same. God wants all our hearts' affections. He requires us to leave all and follow Him. God alone can take the love of the world out of the human heart. Nothing is impossible with God. He can change the repentant sinner and make him a new creature in Christ Jesus.

The disciples were men of business. They were not just men of careless living and had an old boat or two and a few tattered nets. They understood clearly the call to leave all and follow Him. It meant to them that after that not one single hour would belong to them. It meant a complete detachment from the old life. This is the meaning of discipleship. We must be willing to let God plan our lives.

But Jesus made it clear that those who give up all win for themselves an hundredfold in the spiritual life. We are born into the family of God and have a peace and a hope of eternal life that means more to the soul of man than all the world can give.

We may not be rich, so may think this lesson is not for us, but none of us can please God with a single lack in our lives. "Wilt thou be perfect?" is the question put to us. We too, must wholly give ourselves to God even if it costs friends, fame, or ease in this life.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For some reason or other when we refer to riches, we always think in terms of money. I suppose that is because it is our accepted medium of exchange, but wealth does not necessarily always mean monetary worth. Wealth can consist of any number of things. To be wealthy, one must have a commodity to deal with. One cannot be wealthy with nothing. Now, the commodity we deal in must be in demand, that is, someone must desire the commodity badly enough to be willing to pay a price to obtain it that will afford a sufficient profit. If we have a bushel of apples that cost \$1.00 to produce and someone is willing to buy the apples for \$2.00, we would have \$1.00 clear profit. Then all we need to make a million dollars would be a million bushels of apples that would clear us \$1.00 each. We would be wealthy. These three factors then must be present in order to have wealth: 1. A commodity to work with; 2. The commodity must be in demand, thus giving it value; 3. We must have a sufficient quantity.

Apply these thoughts now to the lives we see around us. We discover that everyone is rich along some line or other. Converse with a man a little while and you can soon learn where his wealth lies, for Jesus told us that where our treasure is, there will our heart be also. Folks enjoy talking about the thing nearest their heart. It may be one's ability at his work or his accomplishment in business, or the land he has acquired. It could be his singing talent or his prowess as a salesman or his pride for fashion, or his ability to work for the Lord,

etc. The list is endless. All of these are commodities that people deal in and the very fact that any one appeals to a certain individual is sufficient demand to make it valuable in his eyes and so he goes about to acquire an abundance of it for himself. He becomes wealthy in his own eyes in that particular field.

Jesus comes offering to mankind the pearl of great price, the treasure hid in a field, the contents of which will make one wise unto salvation and clean him up for heaven. The man in the story went and sold all that he had; that is, disposed of all the commodities he had been dealing in, and invested in the real true riches of the kingdom. Whatever it is we are willing to spend time and talent acquiring for this life is not worth it. Abandon the project immediately and buy of Him gold tried in the fire.

—C. Wilson

"ONE THING THOU LACKEST"

How important one thing may be! It not infrequently happens that the want of one thing vitiates and makes void the presence of all things else. Lacking its mainspring, which is but one thing, a watch with its jewels, pinions, and beautiful mechanism, the finest watch that was ever made is of no more use than a dead stone. A ship may be built of the stoutest oak, and manned by the ablest officers and the stoutest crew, but I sail not in her if she lacks one thing, that trembling needle which a child might mistake for a toy, but on which, insignificant as it seems, the safety of all depends—lack that one thing the ship shall be their coffin, and the deep sea their grave. It is thus without true piety, living faith—that one thing wanting, the greatest works, the costliest sacrifices, and the purest life, are of no value in the sight of God, are null and void.

—Selected

TRUST NOT IN UNCERTAIN RICHES

In 1923 a group of the world's most successful financiers met at Edgewater Beach hotel in Chicago. Collectively these men controlled more wealth than there was in the national treasury. Twenty-five years later a report on these men was as follows:

The president of the largest independent steel company, Charles Schwab, lived on borrowed money the last five years of his life and died broke.

The greatest wheat speculator, Arthur Cutten, died abroad, insolvent.

The president of the New York Stock exchange, Richard Whitney, was recently released from Sing Sing (prison).

The member of the President's cabinet, Albert Fall, was pardoned from prison so he could die at home.

The greatest bear in Wall Street, Jess Livermore, committed suicide.

The president of the Bank of International Settlement, Leon Fraser, committed suicide.

The head of the world's greatest monopoly, Ivar Krueger, committed suicide.

All of these men had learned how to make money, but not one of them had learned of the true riches that bring real happiness to the life and soul.



March 16, 1969

THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS, THE CHRIST

Printed Portion Mark 11:27-33; 12:13-17

Mark 11:27 And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders,

28 And said unto him, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority to do these things?

29 And Jesus answered and said unto them, I will also ask of you one question, and answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things.

30 The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? answer me.

31 And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then did ye not believe him?

32 But if we shall say, Of men; they feared the people: for all men counted John, that he was a prophet indeed.

33 And they answered and said unto Jesus, We cannot tell. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things.

12:13 And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words.

14 And when they were come, they said unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no

man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?

15 Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it.

16 And they brought it. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar's.

17 And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him.

Memory Verse: And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him. Mark 12:17.

Central Thought: Christ came with authority over all the powers of sin so we could render to God a pure heart that He gave us.

LESSON BACKGROUND

James and John desired the places of preeminence in the kingdom of God, but Jesus told them of their necessity of humility, as well as all who come to Him. On the road to Jericho Jesus healed blind Bartimaeus. When he came close to Jerusalem He sent His disciples to get a colt and then He rode into Jerusalem with many following, crying, "Hosanna in the Highest." He rode forth triumphant as the King of kings. Later he found the barren fig tree and pronounced that no one should eat from it again. He then cleansed the Temple and gave a lesson on the barren fig tree as they passed by it on their way out of Jerusalem and saw it was dead. He again came into Jerusalem with His disciples and our lesson begins as He encounters the scribes and others.

Lesson Reference—Isaiah 11:1-9

ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The scribes and chief priests were enraged because Jesus had such authority, which had been manifested when He drove out the money changers and those who sold in the temple. This was against the teachings of Moses. Jesus told them they

should not make the house of prayer a den of thieves. They asked Him by just what authority that He did all of those things. They knew that Jesus was not of the tribe of Levi nor a descendant of Aaron, the High Priest. They knew He had not received any official recognition by the synagogue leaders. They concluded that He had no authority at all. They had seen His life before them, but neither His life of holiness nor the good that He did moved them at all to accept Him as having received His authority from God. This meant nothing to them. Our lesson brings out the wisdom of Jesus' question to them and His answer. He then gives them a parable in which they clearly knew He meant them. God had sent the prophets but they had rejected them and now He had sent His "well-beloved" and only son and they killed Him, also, which in the parable He had reference to Himself.

We do not know anything about the Herodians only that their name shows us that they were favorable to the family of Herod. The question put to Jesus was not for information but to try to catch Him. As they looked at the penny or denarius, the common silver coin of the day, they saw the broad brow, the laurel crown, the stern, cruel visage of Tiberius, the reigning emperor or perhaps the singularly handsome regular features of his predecessor, Augustus. The coin came from Caesar's mint, and must go back into his treasures. This is the divine right of law and order. We all have to pay taxes.

Let us notice the point of the question of whose image was stamped upon that coin. It had gone through the mint and come out with Caesar's image on it. That goes to Caesar. But now Jesus said, "Render to God the things that are God's." God gave us a soul. In Genesis we read, "In the image of God created He him." God created us in His image of purity and holiness. Sin caused us to lose that image. Now Jesus has come to re-stamp the image of holiness upon us. The sin that marred the image can be erased by the blood of Jesus. "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Eph. 4:24. Let us not give our soul to the devil, but to God.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We will do well today to learn from the example Jesus gave here regarding the scribes and elders. When questions are set forth for answering, to which any answer given would only gender strife and contention, perhaps the best approach would be to counter with a question which, if answered, would betray the answerer. That produces a deadlock and ends the discus-

sion. It is a sad thing to see people so set in their own ideas and opinions that even the Lord recognizes it is useless to attempt to explain to them. There are none so blind as those who will not see.

We think sometimes of Jesus' divine origin, having been conceived of the Holy Ghost, making Him the Son of God, and of the various ways the Father recognized and acknowledged Him as His own beloved Son, and we feel perhaps that all this is what gave Him the authority to do what He did. It is true that all the above named would have been enough, but the fact is that the authority He used was the very written Word of God that had been with them all along. Men had disregarded the Word, set it aside and ignored it in order to carry out their own greedy practices upon the people and were even bold enough to carry it right into the house of God and attempt to make their activity appear as a part of the work of the Lord. Jesus' keen perception of the truth made Him able to discern their hypocrisy and He let them know that God's Word had declared His house a house of prayer, not a business establishment to traffic in the needs of the worshipers. This system didn't spring up over night, it crept in little by little over a long period of time and gradually grew worse and worse until Jesus labeled it a den of thieves. It is a dangerous thing for us today to overlook or ignore any part of the word of God and fail to observe it. Just as sure as a little deviation back there led to much greater departure on down the line, so the same thing will come about today. We are just men, saved and kept by the power of His Word, no more able to direct our own way or the affairs of His work than those people were back there except He guide and direct us. It is vitally important to each one individually and to the body collectively that we keep under His control and the guidance of His Word and Spirit at all times. It is not in man to guide his own steps in the way everlasting. —C. Wilson

A LIQUOR TRAGEDY

In a Northwestern city a preacher sat at his breakfast table one morning. The doorbell rang; he answered it, and there stood a boy about twelve years of age. He was on crutches, his right leg off above the knee, shivering with cold, and he said, "Please, Sir, will you go up to jail with me and talk and pray with Papa? He murdered Mama. Papa was good and kind—but whiskey did it. Will you come and be with me and my three little sisters when they bring him back? The governor says we can have his body after his death."

The minister hurried to jail, and talked and prayed with the unfortunate man. He had no knowledge of what he had done.

He said, "I don't blame the law—but it breaks my heart to think that my poor children must be left in a cold, heartless world—Oh, Sir! whiskey did it!"

The minister was at the hovel when the undertakers drove up with the body. They carried the pine casket into the little house. They led the little boy up to the casket; he leaned over, kissed his father, sobbed, and said to his little sisters: "Come on, sisters; kiss poor Papa's cheeks," and the hungry, ragged, whiskey-orphans hurried to the casket, shrieking in agony. Police, whose hearts were adamant, buried their faces in their hands and rushed from the house. The minister fell on his knees, lifted his hands and face toward heaven, and poured out his heart to God in behalf of the poor children.

You can make liquor for money, sell liquor wholesale and retail for money, blight human beings for money, but, remember, you are on your way to judgment and doom. Death is not going to change your soul. The teachings of our Lord Jesus compel us to believe that Hell is a fearful place of torment and that **ETERNITY LASTS FOREVER**. When you awake in that horrible place and spend millions of years there, will you think you got the worth of your liquor money?

"Be not deceived, God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 6:7.

"He that covers his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Proverbs 28:13.

Reader, do you know that Christ has already taken the punishment for your sins so that you can escape the damnation of hell? But unless you come to Him as a poor, lost sinner and put your trust in Him, all that He suffered for you will only increase your eternal misery. Oh, turn to Christ from sin now!

—Selected

March 23, 1969

JESUS PREPARES FOR HIS DEATH

Printed Portion Mark 14:22-26, 32-41

Mark 14:22 And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body.

23 And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it.

24 And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

25 Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

26 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;

34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here and watch.

35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour?

38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words.

40 And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him.

41 And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is

come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Memory Verse: And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt. Mark 14:36.

Central Thought: It took the death of Jesus to make perfect our salvation.

ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Can we place ourselves around that communion table with the disciples that evening? Of whom were they thinking? It was of our Lord, Himself. He called their attention to His body that was to be broken. Oh, how this must have touched their hearts! Our Lord and Master's body to be broken? they thought. How could they stand to think of it? Yet He had assured them that this must come to pass. The prophets of old had taught them the same thing. Then when He passed the cup and said, "This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many" how it must have pierced their hearts! They loved Him and He had done nothing but good. They were witnesses to this fact. This truly was a love feast. It was to be a sacred memory in their hearts and bring to them hope and a knowledge that they would be with Him again in the glory world.

When He established this ordinance which we are to keep in memory of Him, His heart was full of love, undying love, which is the mystery of the gospel.

We notice His need of fellowship and desire for it as He took Peter, James, and John with Him into the garden of Gethsemane. He said, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful even unto death; tarry ye here and watch with me." There is a mystery here of His need to lean upon us, but this is a blessed part of the fellowship we have in the Spirit with our Lord and Saviour. We become a part of each other when we have salvation. John puts it this way, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door [of his heart], I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Rev. 3:20. Thank the Lord for that blessed fellowship in the Spirit. Just as we have friends and we have the pleasure of knowing that we live in their memory, so does He delight in the love His people have for Him. This is part of the joy that was set before Him, for which He endured the Cross, despising the shame. (Hebrews 12:2.)

Lesson Reference—John 17:1-11; 13:1-15.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Before the children of Israel were delivered out of the land of Egypt they experienced the episode of the pascal lamb and the blood on the doorpost. Then they were instructed to observe this feast each year thereafter in memory of their deliverance from Egypt. Jesus came to us as a lamb slain from the foundation of the world and His blood applied to our hearts makes and keeps us whiter than the snow. Just before He was taken away He initiated the Lord's supper and set it up as a memorial of Himself to us so that we would keep fresh in our minds and hearts the sacrifice He made for us. We go through the literal act of the Lord's supper when we partake of the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine which represent His broken body and spilled blood for us. But the part that excites my interest the most is the idea of feeding upon Him and drinking of His blood. His blood represents life to us. If we are able to take it in, it will transform us into His likeness. As we feed upon Him we become more and more like unto Himself. 1 Cor. 11:26 says, "For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." The literal ordinance was set up to be observed outwardly, but spiritually, every time we read the Word or meditate upon it we are partaking of Him, feeding upon Him. Each step as we are kept pure by His blood we are drinking at that fountain. We are continually shewing forth His death, for except He had died and opened the way for us, we had no access into this grace wherein we stand. Thus our every-day life and walk and conversation as we abide in Him do show forth to all that His death is working in our lives. Let us not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ, knowing that it is the power of God unto salvation. —C. Wilson

TAKE HEED

I was in a home once where I was conducting a meeting, and at the first meal the daughter came from her dressing room with bare arms and low neckline and sat down opposite me. I soon retired to the porch. In the afternoon the mother joined me with her daily paper, while I was meditating on the Word of God. Suddenly she slammed that paper down on the floor, while her face gave evidence of being shocked about to the limit. She picked up the paper with her finger on the article that had so horrified her, stating: "Isn't it ridiculous, scandalous, outlandish that a woman can't go to the market without being trapped and outraged?" She sat there, looking at me for an answer. After some consideration I said, "Well, I am not surprised."

"What! You not surprised! You, a holiness preacher and can't see anything surprising in such outlandish, inhuman atrocities?" And upstairs she went and brought down all my belongings and told me to leave.

I said, "I just want to tell you something before I go—I said I was not surprised, and I am not. When mothers dress their daughters and send them out on the streets as you did yours this afternoon, I say that girl was advertising the very thing that caused that man to take advantage of that girl as reported here in this paper."

I went to the chapel to pray. As I labored in tears, I felt a wave of peace steal silently over me, and oh, I felt so little, so humble, before God. About that time the daughter came walking in the chapel. This time she had some clothes on. I did not recognize her in a suit and she came on the platform and said, "I want to thank you for your message to mother." I rose up, looked at her closely, as I was listening to her apology, and finally broke in by saying, "I beg your pardon, but who are you and to whom have I been delivering this message?" Then she said, with tears falling, "I am the daughter who sat opposite you at dinner today. I do thank you for what you told Mother. I have come here to tell you that I never thought what I was doing; but hereafter I shall never wear another dress like that one was."

The troubled father soon followed the daughter to the chapel. The father told me the same things the daughter had said. It all resulted in that mother getting to the altar there and actually praying through. I have heard her give her experience of full salvation. 1 Tim. 2:9 says, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broidered hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array, but which becometh women professing godliness, with good works."

I want to tell you that when mothers and daughters sacrifice their modesty, they sacrifice their all as the woman's power lies in her modesty. And when that is gone her power is gone. Her godly influence is gone, her real usefulness as intended and as given her is done. The foundation of virtue and refinement is smashed. Modesty, as Paul saw it, is to be the stepping stones to higher, loftier achievements of men and women. We, as followers of our meek and lowly Saviour should take a stand against this tremendous wreckage of our homes, our schools, our states, our nations. I feel we should awake from our sleep, cry aloud, spare not. Warn these mothers, these daughters that are charming this nation and luring them rapidly over the falls of despair, wreck, and ruin.

O girls, O mothers, can't you see what you are doing? For God's sake, for the sake of our homes, our schools, our states, our nations, take heed as to your dress, as the harm of immodest dress is never ending. —Selected

March 30, 1969

JESUS REJECTED AND CRUCIFIED

Printed Portion—Mark 14:55, 56, 58, 60-65; 15:25, 26, 37-39

Mark 14:55 And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none.

56 For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together.

58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.

60 And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? What is it which these witness against thee?

61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?

62 And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

63 Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses?

64 Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death.

65 And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.

Mark 15:25 And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

26 And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.

38 And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

39 And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

Memory Verse: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead in sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
1 Peter 2:24.

Central Thought: He who conquered death by dying, can conquer stubborn wills of men today who will let the gospel touch their hearts.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Judas comes with a mob and betrays our blessed Lord with a kiss. When the mob seizes Jesus, the disciples flee. Peter follows at a distance as Jesus is brought before the chief priests. Peter later denies Jesus, but repents.

Lesson Reference—Isaiah 53.

ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The victory of the cross was gained in Gethsemane. He suffered there, but submitted to the will of God. The sins of all ages were laid upon Him, although He was sinless. Yours and mine were laid there. The sins against warnings, sins against light and knowledge, and all sins of a horrible nature (to us) were all laid upon Him. He bore them for us. No wonder His body gave way. His sweat was, at it were, great drops of blood falling to the ground. Oh, what great love He had for us! It wasn't the nails that bound Him to the cross, it was love. He could have called for ten thousands of angels to deliver Him from that hour, but His love for us held all of them back. Why don't you love Him more? Why don't you praise Him more? Oh, may God stir our hearts for a greater depth of love and devotion to our precious Saviour who loved us so greatly.

We notice that the false witnesses misinterpreted His statements and added more, but could not agree. He meant that his body, being the temple of God, would be destroyed by death and raised up again in three days.

Jesus astonished the judge by His silence, and then later proclaims openly that He is the Christ even though He knew

it meant His crucifixion. He then declares that they would see Him again. We read in Rev. 1:7, "Behold, he cometh with clouds and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him."

The soldiers were careless men. Their thoughts were only of this world when they, in the shadow of the cross, cast lots for His garments. Many passed by, wagging their heads. A few friends stood weeping with hearts bleeding. God could not look upon His Son because He was bearing our sins. Jesus felt it all, and cried out, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Then He gave up His life. Today we can say, as did the centurion standing by, "Truly this man was the Son of God,"—the One who died for our sins. We owe our lives and all of our love to Him.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Truth is its own defense. It does not change nor waver. Truth today was truth yesterday and will still be truth tomorrow. Truth is a part of God and God has already said that He changes not. Neither does His truth change. The fact that the multitude of the people rejected the Son of God and refused to acknowledge Him as the blessed One did not change the truth. The truth is that He was indeed the Son of God and just because mankind would not acknowledge the fact did not make it any less true. He was and still is the Son of God. It is good when men will recognize truth and abide by it for it will work to their own good when they do; but if they don't accept it, the truth still remains the same. Folks who are not quite willing to go all the way with the Lord and who are reluctant to measure up fully and completely often try to see the truth a little differently than it really is. By refusing a little here or accepting a little too much there, room is made so that one will not need to measure so closely. If I consider the Word from this or that standpoint, perhaps it won't require me to lay aside something I want to keep. Such thinking is dangerous to the soul.

Jesus made the full and complete sacrifice in the garden so the victory was actually won there as He wrestled with His Father. Let us gain a lesson here. Jesus went to the trial and on to the cross fully prepared in His soul, having been diligent the night before to fortify Himself against the ordeal He knew was ahead. Too often in our own experience we neglect the preparation preceding our big trial and then when it comes we are so occupied with the happenings at hand that we cannot secure the help we need. Sometimes we pass by warning signals that should have alerted us and put us on guard, but instead, we pass on by, perhaps enjoying the temptation a little, thinking

we will stop before we go too far. That is a trick of Satan. Before we hardly know what happened we are confronted with a crisis with our soul at stake and only by much labor and prayers and tears are we able to recover ourselves. Some never do. The matter could have been effectively and easily handled simply by heeding the warning and rejecting the temptation. Too often we wait too long to begin to prepare, consequently we suffer for our own blunder. Let us be prompt to act on the slightest warning.

—C. Wilson

HE TOOK MY WHIPPING FOR ME

A. C. Dixon, a preacher, relates the following: Years ago there was a certain school in his section which no teacher could handle. The boys were so rough that the teachers resigned.

A young, grey-eyed teacher applied, and the old director scanned him, then said, "Young fellow, do you know what you are asking? An awful beating! Every teacher we have had for years has had to take it." He replied, "I'll risk it."

Finally, he appeared for duty. One big fellow, Tom, whispered, "I won't need any help, I can lick him myself."

The teacher said, "Good morning, boys, we have come to conduct school!" They yelled at the top of their voices. "Now, I want a good school, but confess I do not know how unless you help me. Suppose we have a few rules. You tell me and I will write them on the blackboard.

One fellow yelled, "No stealing!" Another yelled, "On time." Finally ten rules appeared.

"Now," said the teacher, "a law is no good unless there is a penalty attached. What shall we do with the one who breaks the rules?"

"Beat him across the back ten times without his coat on."

"That is pretty severe, boys. Are you ready to stand by it?" Another yell; and the teacher said, "School comes to order!"

In a day or so "Big Tom" found his dinner was stolen. Upon inquiry the thief was located—a little hungry fellow, about ten. The next morning the teacher announced, "We have found the thief and he must be punished according to your rule—ten stripes across the back! Jim, come up here!"

The little fellow, trembling, came up slowly with a big coat fastened up to the neck and pleaded, "Teacher, you can lick me as hard as you like, but please don't make me take my coat off!"

"Take that coat off; you helped make the rules!"

"O teacher, don't make me!" He began to unbutton, and what did the teacher behold! Lo, the lad had no shirt on, but strings for braces over his little bony body.

"How can I whip this child?" thought he. "But I must do something if I keep this school." Everything was quiet as death. "How come you to be without a shirt, Jim?"

He replied, "My father died and mother is very poor. I have only one shirt to my name, and she is washing that today. I wore my big brother's coat to keep warm."

The teacher, with rod in hand, hesitated. Just then "Big Tom" jumped to his feet and said, "Teacher, if you don't object, I will take Jim's licking for him."

"Very well, there is a certain law that one can become a substitute for another. Are you all agreed?"

Off came Tom's coat, and after five hard strokes the rod broke! The teacher bowed his head in his hands, and thought, "How can I finish this awful task?"

Then he heard the entire school sobbing, and what did he see? Little Jim had reached up and caught Tom with both arms around the neck. "Tom, I am sorry I stole your dinner, but I was awful hungry. Tom, I'll love you till I die for taking my licking for me! Yes, I'll love you forever!"

Sinner friend, you have broken every rule and deserve eternal punishment! But Jesus Christ took your scourging for you, died in your stead, and now offers to clothe you with His garments of salvation. Will you not fall at His feet and tell Him you will love and follow Him forever? "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Scourging—We cannot tell what that Roman punishment was; we read about it in the olden books, but men do not understand what they read so much as what they feel. The victim was tied by the hands to a post or standard; he was compelled to assume a stooping position; the knotted thong was in the hands of a Roman executioner, and he administered the punishment largely according to his own will or passion. The hands of Christ were tied to the stake, the flagellum was used upon His naked back; He was scourged by Roman hands. —Homiletic Com.

ORDER BLANK

Name

Address

City State Zip No.

Enclosed is \$..... for (number) Sunday School

Bible Lessons for.....quarter(s) oryear(s).

Check one of the following:

() For second quarter—April,
May, June, 1969.

() For one year, beginning with
second quarter of 1969.

Price: 35c for one quarter (April, May, and June.)

\$1.40 for one year. The books will be mailed just
prior to the beginning of each quarter.

Cut out this page and mail order to—

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE
P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

Wisdom



I took the best of my youth
For pleasures all my own—
Forgetting I must some day reap
The chaff that I had sown.

I took the best of every day,
When mind was fresh and keen
To do the special things I loved,
The things that would be seen.

My youth soon fled, and I, alone,
Reaped sorrow for my pleasure;
The things I loved to do for show,
Proved but an empty treasure.

But when I gave my best to God,
My life—the morning hour—
I found His pleasure was my own,
His grace my shining tower!

—Mildred Allen Jeffery.

