

The Sunday School Lesson

A Ministry of the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association

by Rev. Mike Cummings, pastor of Mt. Airy Baptist Church

A NEW LIFE STYLE

Luke 6:27-38 We will look at some specific attitudes and actions that Jesus displayed concerning life in this week's lesson. As we try to determine the Christian life-style, be aware from the outset that such a manner of life involves both attitudes and actions.

The section we are dealing with is taken from Jesus' famous Sermon on the Plain. Matthew records this sermon in a more compact section than Luke does. Some of the Saviour's richest teachings come to us by way of this sermon.

Luke 6:27-31 We hear Jesus saying that love, doing good

and blessing are mandates for the Christian. Let's remember the circumstances surrounding those who heard this for the first time. They were under the occupation and rule of a foreign government. The soldiers of that government freely roamed their streets. Real oppression was felt by the Jews of Jesus' day because of the strong hand that the Romans held over them. Jesus' word to His followers is to love, do good and bless them. His point is that a Christian's love must not be selective nor passive but general and active. The verbs to love, to do good, to bless and to pray express action. That's the way a

Christian is to love-show it. Jesus refers to a punch to the jaw in v. 29 and not only a tight slap in the face. That was a significant insult. He calls for an attitude now more so than an action. He doesn't mean to literally turn the other jaw but willing to accept another blow. So it is with one's coat and shirt, do not react in anger or revenge. Be willing to give shirt and coat to an enemy who threatens you. Jesus is not encouraging prosperous idlers and thieves nor our becoming saintly paupers. Rather, we become people who are known by our giving. Love is ready to be deprived if necessary. Love is not concerned with rights as much as with people. Jesus made the Golden Rule famous not by inventing it but by making it positive. The Golden Rule as He taught it called for active good--"do so to them."

Luke 6:32-36 The attitudes and actions of Christians must go beyond those of sinners who also love, do good and lend. The Christian cannot claim to be obeying Christ

unless he knows he is doing more than a sinner would do in the same situation. To love, to do good and lend and expect nothing in return can be explained. Jesus meant that Christians should not lose hope or despair when they love, do good or lend. We are to love and lend simply because we can and a neighbor needs it. The dividends of loving and lending because we are moved to care for someone are marvelous. We enjoy fellowship with the Most High, who is also generous. The supreme goal of life is not the hoarding and accumulation of things but fellowship with the Most High. We should be careful that we do not do good to earn this fellowship. This is a gift to the Christian whose desire is to be compassionate and caring just like the Father.

Luke 6:37-38 Jesus is not speaking of the legal processes. Rather, He refers to the ugly habit among neighbors to criticize and condemn each other. We invite God's harsh opinion of us when we are harsh in our opinion of others.

That is a permanent consequence. Since we are forgiven, we forgive others. God's grace touches us on its way to touch someone else. When grace reaches us we look around to find our neighbor.

Jesus closes this section with a well known proverb that "you get out of life what you put into it." He uses a familiar picture of the good grain merchant who would fill a basket to overflowing. Abundance is placed in our laps to the extent of overflowing.

The general conclusion is that the Christian way of life is a compassionate and caring one. This way is a rewarding way. The reward is twofold. Namely, we have joy to share in a neighbor's health and happiness and joy to have fellowship with the Most High. The chief pleasures of life are felt when we touch the heart of the Father and the hand of a neighbor. The Christian life-style brings us to both.

EXTENSION SCENE



North Carolina
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE



JOHN G. RICHARDSON
Robeson County Extension Chairman

During this time of year many farmers and homeowners take soil tests in order to assess the soil fertility level of their land and especially to determine the pH level of the soils. Last year exactly 4,000 samples were taken in Robeson County. As reported in a previous column, this was almost twice as many samples as was taken in any other county in this general area. Yet, even though a relatively large number of samples are taken here, the optimum number of samples taken should be at least five to ten times the number that is county-wide. Thus, as a continuing process, the Extension Service promotes the practice of soil testing by any means that we can assemble.

Over the years, it has been clearly demonstrated through Extension demonstrations and general observations that the singular most limiting factor to crop yields is low pH levels. Therefore, even those farmers who take samples religiously also have to make some adjustments in their fertility and liming programs to keep all fertility factors at an optimal level. Naturally, as a continuing process, we certainly encourage anyone who has a home garden, lawn, or farm to be sure and test the soil so that a correct response may be made when applying nutrients or liming materials.

Perhaps one reason that some farmers and homeowners do not take soil tests is the lack of understanding of what makes an acid soil. Soil and organic matter particles that hold high concentrations of hydrogen or aluminum, or both, cause a soil to become acidic. These hydrogen or aluminum ions are chemicals that are attached to the soil particles by small electrical charges. The soil and organic matter particles carry a negative charge that hold or absorb such positive elements as hydrogen, calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium and aluminum. Soils vary in their ability to hold these positive elements. The total amount of elements that can be held by the soil and organic matter particles is known as the soil's cation exchange capacity. This information is provided very clearly on each soil sample report.

Perhaps one of the most familiar terms in soil testing that is probably the least understood by the layman is the term "pH." This term refers to the degree of acidity of a particular soil. The pH of soil indicates the concentration of hydrogen ions held on the clay and organic matter particles. A pH of 7.0 is neutral, while less than 7.0 is considered acid, and levels about 7.0 is alkaline. The

lower pH level below 7.0 the more acid the soil actually becomes. Naturally, the higher the pH level above 7.0 the more alkaline the soil.

One of the best measures of ways to understand pH, and considering that most pH levels in this area range between 4 and 7, is that a soil with a pH of 5.0 is 10 times more acid than one with a pH of 6.0. Then, it should also be understood that the same 5.0 level is 100 times more acid than a soil with a pH of 7.0. Thus, as one can readily realize, as the pH level becomes lower, the acidity of the soil increases very dramatically. Generally, most crops perform best in slightly acid soils at a pH level of 5.9 to 6.5. Also, as the pH level declines or as the acidity level shows a corresponding increase, then the productivity level of the soil begins to decline quite significantly.

While it is not possible to delve into all the factors relating to fertility and soil acidity, we do encourage anyone who may have a need, to secure the needed soil testing supplies from the Extension Service and to take those soil samples as quickly as possible. Also, readers are encouraged to review next week's column as we share information with you as to the causes of acid soil conditions and how soil acidity is corrected.

IN THE ARMED FORCES

CPR Course

SGT. SCOTT E. BLANKS

Sgt. Scott E. Blanks of Langley Air Force Base, Hampton, Va. has been presented the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Sgt. Blanks distinguished himself by meritorious service as Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, Admissions and Dispositions Office, U.S. Air Force Hospital, Langley, Langley Air Force base, Va. from 8 October 1977 to June 1981. During this period Sgt. Blanks was instrumental in the development of a cross check system and audit trail for the Third Party Liability Program and for the development of a pre-admissions system which has been highly valuable in the administrative support for health care providers assigned to this hospital. The distinctive accomplishments of Sgt. Blanks reflect credit upon himself and the U.S. Air Force.

Sgt. Blanks is a graduate of Pembroke Senior High School. He joined the United States Air Force in 1977. He is the son of Mrs. Sadie Rae Blanks of Route 1, Pembroke. He and his wife, Captain Cathy Stapleton Blanks, reside in Virginia.



Scott Blanks
RONNIE CLARK

Marine Cpl. Ronnie Clark, son of John W. and Ama L. Clark of Route 1, Shannon, NC has been promoted to his present rank while serving with 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, Camp Lejeune, NC.

ISSAC F. PARKER

Marine Sgt. Issac F. Parker, son of Joyce Wolden of Lumberton, has reported for duty with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif.

The public is cordially invited to attend a very important life-saving CPR course on Thursday, February 11 and 18 from 7 until 10 p.m. at the Pembroke Jaycee Club House.

The Pembroke Jayettes are co-sponsoring the class with Robeson Technical College and the instructional fee is \$8.00 for the two-part course.

Everyone is strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity so that one day you might be prepared to save a life.

...A New Arrival

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Deese of the Prospect area announce the newest addition to their family, their first daughter, Carmen Paige. Carmen arrived on Tuesday, January 19, 1982 weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz.

She is the granddaughter of Mrs. Rose E. Bullard and the late Mr. Harvey Bullard of the Prospect area. Paternal grand parents are the late Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Deese of Pembroke. Paternal great grandmother is Mrs. Crossie Lowry of Pembroke.

Mr. and Mrs. Deese also have three sons: John, Mark and Jason.

"Vision is the art of seeing things invisible."
Jonathan Swift

VOTE SANDERSON SHERIFF



Art Contest Part of Unity Conference

Calling all American Indian artists in North Carolina! An art contest will be a feature of the Seventh Annual N.C. Indian Unity Conference planned for March in Raleigh. Cash prizes and certificates will be awarded.

The competition is open to any Native American in North Carolina, age 6 and older. Categories are original drawing, painting and etching.

Entries should be submitted no later than Feb. 16 to the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, P.O. Box 27228, 127 E. Edenton St., Raleigh, NC 27611 or to one of the commission's local offices.

Entries will be judged March 5 and will be on display at the commission-sponsored Indian Unity Conference, March 4-6 at the Royal Villa Hotel and Convention Center, 339 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh.

For more information, contact Teresa Emanuel with the commission at 919-733-5998.

District VFW Meeting

The 8th District of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of North Carolina will hold a meeting Sunday, January 31, at the Pembroke VFW Post 2843 at 1:00 p.m. All members of the VFW are asked to attend. Bobby D. Locklear is the post commander.

<p>MAYONNAISE 1.09</p>		<p>FLOUR 58c</p>	
<p>TUNA 88c</p>		<p>TOWELS 2/1.00</p>	
<p>PIE SHELLS 59c</p>		<p>MARGARINE 39c</p>	
<p>BLIZZARD OF SAVINGS! Save up to \$25.00 with FREE MAIL-IN OFFER</p>		<p>Cake Mix 79c</p>	
<p>Wisk GAL. 7.39</p>		<p>COBLE MILK \$1.99 GAL.</p>	
<p>Facial Tissue 69c</p>		<p>TISSUE 2/1.00</p>	
<p>"Shop Our Generic Section At Piggy Wiggly"</p>			
ALUMINUM FOIL 12" x 25"	DOG RATION 20 LBS.	SHORTENING 5 LBS.	APPLE JUICE 1/2 GAL.
48c	2.49	1.35	1.43
PAPER TOWELS JUMBO	FAMILY NAPKINS 140 CT.	KING SIZE CIGARETTES CANTON	
56c	66c	3.46	
Mueller's Spaghetti 16 OZ.	High Point 16 OZ.		
69c	3.99		
<p>PIGGLY WIGGLY WORLD OF PRODUCE</p>			
YELLOW ONIONS 3 LB. BAG	RED HOME APPLES 3 LB. BAG	FARM FRESH COLLARDS LB.	CELERY BUNCH
69c	89c	49c	39c
			SNOW WHITE MUSHROOMS LB.
			1.99

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