

# The Sunday School Lesson

A Ministry of the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association

by Charles Locklear, Pastor  
New Bethel Baptist Church  
Route 1, Clinton, NC

## CHRIST'S MIRACULOUS POWER

Mark 1:21-27, 40-45  
It became clear in the early days of the ministry of Jesus that he was no ordinary prophet, teacher or preacher. His experiences with those blessed to enter his presence and engage him in conversation were often attended by demonstrations of power beyond the realm of the natural. As he went about doing good, he met people on their level and ministered to their needs on his level. His abilities should come as no surprise, for he was God in flesh, which made him well able. He was also man in all ways common

to men, except for sin, therefore he could feel and experience the hurts and needs of those around him. He was particularly moved with the physical needs of the sick and suffering. In Divine compassion he often delivered those captive to fleshly imperfections. Such was the care recorded in our scripture.

Verses 21-21. Jesus has just called his first disciples, four fishermen. Having obeyed his call to discipleship, they followed him into a small town called Capernaum. On the Sabbath Day they attended services at the local synagogue. During the service Jesus is allowed to address the congregation and as he does, his words fall with authority uncommon in his time. When he spoke, hearts and minds

came to attention. His words and manner of speech surely must have been a delight to the hungry hearts that day. His written word should continue to delight our hearts, as we hear him speak to us.

Verses 23-26 While Jesus was yet talking, a man with an unclean spirit interrupted the service. This man continues to be seen in the congregations of our day for God never was and never will be the author of confusion. The man confronts Jesus personally by acknowledging him as the Holy One of God. This surely must have been a nervous congregation. Whatever fears or anticipations may have been felt, Jesus was not disturbed. He didn't get excited. He simply spoke and a miracle unfolded. Jesus ordered the demon to shut up and depart from the man. When the demon had "Torn Him" he departed. There was no conversation or discussion, Jesus did not offer any options. He simply spoke and a man in bondage was set free.

Verses 27-28 It's one thing to talk but, it's something else to

perform big. The authority with which Jesus spoke was easily and naturally expressed in the performance of miracles. This particular congregation was amazed and began to question one another as to the workings and authority of this man (Jesus). Why even unclean spirits are subject to him. The word was soon spread that a miracle worker was in the land.

Verses 40-41. On another occasion a leper came to Jesus. He was because of his affliction, a rejected, neglected, often abused part of society. As he came, he pleaded with him on his knees to consider his case. He had confidence in Jesus' ability. The only question was, will you make me clean? Jesus in a natural way was moved with compassion. He could have simply spoken as before. He could have simply willed it to be so and have been just as effective. But instead, he reaches out and touches him.

Verses 42-45. And immediately release from the dreaded disease is felt. Jesus sternly charged him to say nothing to anyone. Instead he

was to go directly to the priest and perform his duty according to the Levitical Law. When pronounced clean by the authorities he would be free to mingle and establish relationships with other people. By taking the proper channels, a testimony was established.

In spite of Jesus' stern warning, he went throughout the city declaring the news of his deliverance. As a result Jesus could no longer enter the city. His popularity had grown so large, he found it necessary to dwell in the desert places outside the city. There he continued to see and minister to those who came unto him.

As one studies the life of Jesus, they will discover that from his conception to his ascension, it is continuously marked with the miraculous. He was virgin born. His death was amidst miracles. He was raised from the dead after three days. Between a barn in Bethlehem to Bethany (Luke 24:50) his life was touching other people in a positive way. His ability to perform the miraculous has not diminish-

ed. His compassion is no less. Even as he sits exalted with our Heavenly Father. He continues to be touched with the feelings of our infirmities. Jesus cares about our physical conditions, but it is in a secondary position. The ultimate hope and plan of Jesus is not that we be well, but saved. His life was given for sin, not sickness. Sickness is a result of sin. Therefore his desire for every man is that he might know the forgiveness of sin. Jesus himself said in Mark 2:17 "They that are well need not a physician, but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." If you're un saved, your greatest need is to experience the miracle of salvation. With it comes the power to suffer physically.

"The only lost cause is the one you give up."  
Ernst von Feuchtersleben

## OUTREACH HOLINESS CHURCH NEWS

by Sister Fannie C. Ozendine

Out Reach Holiness Church Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. Morning service begins at 11 a.m. First and third Sunday nights service begins at 7 p.m. Singing is each fourth Sunday at 2:30 p.m. The pastor is the Rev. James Bullard, Jr.

We praise God for his many blessings this past week. Our lesson Sunday was "Continuing the Gospel Outreach." The blessings of God came down and we didn't have Sunday School. The Holy Ghost had the service Sunday and we let "Him" have his way.

Our pastor then read and talked on Romans 8:1. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the spirit the things of the spirit. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

II Corinthians 7:1 "Having therefore these promises,

dearly beloved, let us clean ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." We just praise God for how He is blessing our church services.

Sunday evening was our first singing and we had a church full. God blessed our singing. We had one saved and sanctified and one filled with the Holy Ghost. What ever your need was God was there to meet that need. Some obeyed and were blessed. People were shouting and running the aisles. Praise God. If you weren't there, you really missed a Holy Ghost singing.

I would love to say you are welcome to come be with us any time and feel free to obey God.

Please don't forget our revival April 4. Rev. Roy Clark will be with us in this revival.

May God bless you is our prayer. Sinner time is running out. Please get ready to meet God.

Our pastor will be with the fine people Friday night at the St. Pauls Holiness Church. Come meet us there if you can. God bless you all.

## A Social Note from the Hattadare Nation

On February 12, William Henry Pinchbeck, president of the Hattadare Indian Nation, along with his wife and Dr. James N. Lowery, secretary of the Indian Nation, were guests of honor at the Theatre in the Park. They viewed "Indians at Play."

The play centered around Buffalo Bill and the treatment of the Hattadare Indians.

The Hattadare Indian Village is located between Bunnlevel and Lillington on Highway 401. The public is invited to visit the village at any time.



Alfred, Lord Tennyson wrote a 6,000-word epic poem when he was only 12-years old.

## News from EVER GREEN CHURCH

by Mrs. Leale Brooks

Sunday School began at 9:30 a.m. The subject for Sunday's lesson was "Continuing the Gospel Outreach" from Acts 28.

Sunday's topic concluded the study on the record in Acts of the expanding church. God had promised Paul that he would witness in Rome.

This last chapter of the Book of Acts records the fulfillment of that promise and shows the fruit that resulted from that witness.

I am sure that each reader will have a different answer. But it seems that all that occurred in the early church and especially as God dealt with Paul clearly demonstrates that God will always be with His people and that all efforts of the enemy to hinder will fail when we keep ourselves in God's will.

Paul lived a life full of adventure and excitement, but it was a life dedicated to sharing the news of God's salvation through Jesus Christ.

Lord, help me to remember that the most important thing in my spiritual life is to always trust in God and to take advantage of every opportunity that is given me to testify of His love and work in my life.

The program for Sunday was by the Immediates. Teacher Sister Macie Ozendine officiated. They did some beautiful singing. The young people sang "Please Search the Book Again" and "See if My Name is There."

The senior class received the attendance banner. Thanks to the teacher, Sister Dina Blue. She's doing a fine job with these young folks.

Sister Louise Chavis paid her birthday offerings.

The pastor, Rev. Joseph Lee Locklear, preached from Acts 12:5 and James 5:13. He used for a subject the prayer of the righteous availeth much. He brought out some good points. As we know

prayer changes things. Don't forget to pray for the sick ones who are unable to attend church. We who can go are lucky.

All ladies in the auxiliary are urged to be present Thursday night at 7 p.m.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY  
Time could be phased as the sun. We are born, the sun comes up. We grow and live, some to be 100 or more. The sun shines so bright in the sky. Some say, well it is twelve o'clock the sun is straight up. Isn't that when, looking at our life time we become 50?

Over in the evening as the sun hides behind the trees, we know darkness is approaching. Then we are unable to work in the fields. Why? It's dark.

So it is with our life. The sun of time is going down. The darkness of death is drawing near. Some one hasn't as yet got their life's work done. Dear Reader, are you going to let death's darkness come and find you with your work undone?

God is so full of mercy. Just as he lets the sun shine in the sky, so we can see to do our work. He let's us have time to get our souls ready to meet him.

He's a just God. No one ever will go in his presence without having a chance. So many people say, well he or she died instantly, they didn't have a chance.

Dear Reader, please don't ever believe that. Every living soul has a chance. I pray sweet Jesus will speak to someone who is lost today. Don't turn your best friend away. Our friends may forsake us, but Jesus will go with us all through our life time. And then take us on through the shadows of death. What a friend we have in Jesus.

Please pray for us at Ever Green.

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