

# Character is greater than wealth or power

**Lesson Scripture: Matthew 3:1-11, 11:7-10**

**Lesson Aims:** to understand John's role, to realize that God values character above achievement, and to commit to our supporting role in spreading God's word.

**Lesson:** Today our focus is on the adult life of the forerunner. The first lesson this quarter records his miraculous conception. Elizabeth is six months pregnant when Mary visits her.

John leaps in his mother's womb, and we hear no more of him until 30 some years later.

Zachariah was instructed by the angel on how he was to be raised. "Raised as an ascetic" ("The Oxford Companion to the Bible"), he resembles prophets of old. Living in the wilderness, eating locust and honey and

wearing camel hair homespun, he doesn't drink from the vine. The people haven't heard

them to repent.

As an outward show of an inward change, John baptizes. Note that his practice doesn't grant forgiveness of sins. Baptism is symbolic in that the "old man" dies and is raised a "new creation." John states that judgment is near, the Messiah comes, and all should be ready.

Yes, he has followers, and the religious hierarchy watches him as well.

In his preaching, he refers to the Pharisees and Sadducees as a generation of vipers because he questions their integrity. They view themselves as being better than the other Jews. They have distorted righteousness and claim that they keep the law. John further tells them that being descendants of Abraham will not save them. They too must repent. He tells all who will listen that

there is one coming after him who is mightier than he and will baptize with the Holy Ghost.

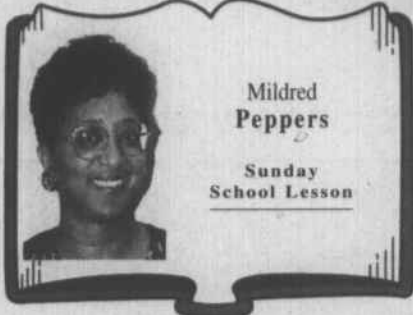
John's message is clear and forthright.

John, however, doesn't occupy center stage. Jesus does. John recognizes what he is to do; he knows his strengths and limitations. Also note that he doesn't play the "family" thing. Because he is so honest, he risks ridicule and possible death to fulfill his ministry. Yet he stays the course.

Careful examination reveals that John is not only humble, but sure of his calling and brave.

Can we represent that well? It is important for each of us to remember that we can't upstage Jesus. We have a job to do. Do it well but always recognize our unworthiness.

In the last portion of the lesson, Jesus honors his cousin. Christ states that he isn't swayed by others, doesn't have wealth and earthly power, but his character is greater than all. Let's aspire to be like John.



Mildred Peppers

Sunday School Lesson

from God in some 400 years. He burst forth in Matthew 3 with prophetic zeal, announcing, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." This phrase means the kingdom of God. God is sovereign ("UMI Direction Teacher"). The people have become lax toward God, so when John preaches, the message inspires

# Pastor to highlight UNCG MLK events

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

**GREENSBORO** - A lecture by the Rev. Samuel "Billy" Kyles, pastor of Monumental Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., and a service award presentation will highlight the 2003 Martin Luther King Jr. birthday observance at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Kyles will speak in Cone Ballroom of Elliott University Center (EUC). The MLK event is being held before the Jan. 20 national holiday to incorporate it in the weeklong reopening celebration of EUC, which has been under renovation for the past two years.

Kyles, 66, has been pastor of Monumental Baptist Church since 1959. He is regarded as the only person still living to have spent the last hour with Martin Luther King Jr. His experience includes serving as a founding board member of People United to Save Humanity, a current member of the national board and executive committee member of Rainbow/PUSH, and as a national coordinator for Jesse Jackson's 1984 and 1988 presidential campaigns. He has also been a panelist at the 1998 White House conference on hate crimes.

He has received numerous awards and honors, including the Tennessee Living Legend Award. He appeared on the television documentaries "Who Shot Martin Luther King?," "At the River I Stand," and "The Trial of James Earl Ray." Kyles has served as an information resource on the Civil Rights Movement, having participated in many of its struggles in the South. He was an eyewitness to the assassination of King and shares his accounts.

Following Kyle's message, the MLK Service Award will be presented, and a reception will follow. Now in its 17th year, the MLK Award recognizes students, faculty and staff for their community activities and involvements that embody the spirit of King's service to humanity. Students receive the award on even-numbered years, and faculty and staff recipients are alternated during odd-numbered years. For more information, call the UNCG Office of Multicultural Affairs at 334-5090.

UNCG's new Multicultural Resource Center (MRC) will be located in the Suite 217 of EUC. As part of the reopening, the center will hold the following activities:

- Monday, Jan. 13, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., drop-by session for information on upcoming activities and the center; 4-5 p.m., dedication in memory of Pamela A. Wilson, by the NAACP and the Neo Black Society; 7-8 p.m., Hispanic music performance by BRACO.
- Tuesday, Jan. 14, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., informational sessions; 6-7 p.m., African storytelling.
- Wednesday, Jan. 15, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Native American Student Association session on making "dream catchers"; 7-8 p.m., performance by violinist Diane Phoenix-Neal.
- Thursday, Jan. 16, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., informational sessions; 1:30-2 p.m., African drumming; 7-9 p.m., Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and MLK Service Award presentation.



plans are under way to make international news broadcasts available to provide different world views on current events. There will be a Web site, <http://maf.dept.uncg.edu/>, which will be completed shortly, and a monthly newsletter. The MRC will be available for culturally-specific activities and can accommodate between 30-70 people depending on the type of event.

God's Leading Ladies conferences are a continuation of the national outreach ministry of Jakes that has included Manpower conferences, which attracted 20,000 men in Atlanta in 1995 and 24,000 men in Memphis in 1997. His "Woman, Thou Art Loosed!" symposium for women, which addressed the

and a 20-year veteran of Wall Street and the former vice president of Fidelity Investments; and Dr. Paula White, co-pastor of Without Walls International Church and founder of Paula White Ministries in Tampa, Fla.; and Dr. Ronn Elmore, relationship therapist, ordained minister and author.

and a 20-year veteran of Wall Street and the former vice president of Fidelity Investments; and Dr. Paula White, co-pastor of Without Walls International Church and founder of Paula White Ministries in Tampa, Fla.; and Dr. Ronn Elmore, relationship therapist, ordained minister and author.

and a 20-year veteran of Wall Street and the former vice president of Fidelity Investments; and Dr. Paula White, co-pastor of Without Walls International Church and founder of Paula White Ministries in Tampa, Fla.; and Dr. Ronn Elmore, relationship therapist, ordained minister and author.

## New Hope Missionary Baptist Church Presents

### "Steps to New Hope"

Television Broadcast



Bishop J.C. Parks

Tune in  
Time Warner Cable Channel 53  
Every Saturday Night  
9:00pm - 9:30pm

# Achieving Gold



Robert Everett Jeffries and Eva Elizabeth Jones Jeffries celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary over the weekend with friends and family members.

**Macedonia Holiness Church Of God Of The Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

**Sunday Services**  
 Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
 M.Y.P.U ..... 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday Services**  
 Prayer & Bible Study ..... 7:30 p.m.

4111 Whitfield Drive  
 Phone: 336-767-3700  
 Fax: 336-767-7006

**Mt. Olive Baptist Church**  
 1301 E. Belews Street  
 Winston-Salem, NC 27101  
 "Let God Be God"  
 724-5842 or 721-1959

Sunday Morning Broadcast 6 - 6:30 A.M.  
 WUPN 48

Sunday School ..... 9:30 A.M.  
 Worship Service ..... 11:00 A.M.  
 Wednesday ..... 12:00 Noon  
 Bible Study ..... 7:00 P.M.

[www.letgodbegod.org](http://www.letgodbegod.org)

**Piney Grove Baptist Church**  
 4715 Indiana Ave. • Winston-Salem, NC 27106 • (336) 767-4044

♦ Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
 ♦ Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
 ♦ Evening Services ..... 4:00 p.m.

Bible Study Every Wednesday ..... 10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Mission Statement: "A Saving Station for Lost Souls and Enrichment Center for Christians"

Website: [www.pineygroveinc.org](http://www.pineygroveinc.org) • E-mail: [pgbc2005@bellsouth.net](mailto:pgbc2005@bellsouth.net)

**MENZ Fashion**  
 Tuxedo Rentals, Alterations & Monograms  
 \*Buy any suit and get dress shirt, silk tie & leather shoes for an extra \$50.00

**3 pairs leather shoes for \$50.00 + tax**  
 One casual & two dress with this ad

Winston-Salem location:  
 Northside Shopping Center  
 3565 N. Patterson Ave.  
 Winston-Salem, NC 27105  
 (336) 767-3455

Tuesday - Thursday 10:00 am - 7:00 pm  
 Friday & Saturday 10:00 am - 8:00 pm  
 Closed Mondays

Special Group Rates ... Big & Tall Suits Available!

## Conference

lives beyond economic self-reliance."

Some of the subjects that will be discussed at these conferences include: Making Your Money Work for You Rather Than You Work for It; Taking Care of Yourself (mentally, physically, spiritually); How's Your Love Life?; Public Success Doesn't Have to Cost Private Failure; Single, Successful and Satisfied; Bringing Your Dreams to Birth; and Use What God Gave You.

Speakers at the conference will include: Lakita Garth, television commentator, media consultant and entrepreneur; Marian Heard, president of United Way of North Carolina; Rev. Dr. Susan Johnson Cook, pastor, author, motivational speaker and the first African-American woman to be elected senior pastor of an American Baptist congregation; Cheryl Martin, broadcast journalist, media consultant and inspirational speaker; Deborah Owens, entrepreneur, author

## MOTIVATIONAL MOMENTS

with Nigel Alston

Make an appointment with Motivational Moments on WSNC-FM 90.5, sponsored by The Chronicle, The Choice for African American News and Information.

It's inspirational, informative and motivational.

- Monday: 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday: 10:20 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday: 11:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m.
- Thursday: 3:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
- Friday: 10:20 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.

[www.motivationalmoments.com](http://www.motivationalmoments.com)

