

By Rev. Waylon R. Wallace

Sunday School Lesson



Rev. Waylon Wallace

Greetings, fellow Bible students! "Witnessing With Power" is the subject of this week's lesson. Our scripture is Acts 3:1-4:4. We should notice from the start that the witness of the early church fathers was not merely composed of words, but consisted of actions. Also, we will observe that their witness was not that the Holy Spirit had come upon them or that they had received power from on high. Their actions were a testimony of these by themselves. Their witness was of what God had done through Christ, what God was doing at that time and would.

Our lesson begins with Peter and John together at the hour of prayer. The devout Jew held three hours of the day to be reserved for prayer; 9 a.m., 12 noon, and 3 p.m. Since the Jewish day began at 6 a.m. and ended at 6 p.m., the ninth hour at which Peter and John approached the temple was 3 p.m. It is worth noting that even though these two men had embraced a new faith that put them at odds with their religious leaders of the day, they did not forsake the disciplines of the faith in which they had been reared. They did as all of us must learn to do, they laid aside all that was a hindrance to true religion and held on to the good. We may also learn from them not to be isolationists. Just because we believe our way of belief is correct is no excuse for refusing fellowship and group worship with others.

As these two men approached the gate called Beautiful, they observed a lame man there begging. Neither his condition nor his activity detracted from the beauty of the gate, for in the east it is believed that when people are on their way to worship God they tend to be more generous. And it was so of their day and time. Consider the lame man! How would it be for a man to be cut down in the prime of his life with some accident or disease. As a result he must find some other means of supporting himself and family. Perhaps he will lose what it has taken him a lifetime to build up. It would be more devastating for a young man beginning life to be so handicapped before he was ever able to accumulate anything, before he was ever able to achieve any of the dreams of life. How much more difficult it must have been for this man to have been from birth. He was never able to give his parents the joy that is derived from watching your own child crawl around on the floor and

hold on to furniture as it begins to take its first steps. This man never knew the pleasure of ripping and running with the other boys. He had missed out on the experience of courting the young girls. He was not able to take pride in the satisfaction that comes from a job or profession at which one develops competence. Imagine, if you would, that there was one thing at which this man might be confident of having ability. That was being a good judge of character. He had laid begging all his life. He had watched men come and go from the temple. He had learned to distinguish generous men by the way they carried themselves. When he saw Peter and John approaching the gate, he knew he would receive something good from them. He could tell that they had something. But, what they had and what they would give were different from what he had supposed.

The lame man humbled himself as he asked for money from the apostles, as people of a subject race learn to do in the presence of the oppressor, especially when seeking something from them, lowering his eyes from direct contact with theirs. Peter would not have the lame man humble himself, but called on the man to look directly at them. Those who would make up to the church ought to beware that the unsaved are looking. They are looking to see evidence that we are what we proclaim to be. They are looking to see if there is any reality in serving God. They are looking to see if living for God really makes any difference. They are looking, but what are they seeing? How many of us as Christians dare tell any one to look on us. Peter and John did not possess what the man wanted, but they had what he needed. We are living in a world of need. The Christian's duty is to help somebody. But, we cannot be of any help unless we have something ourselves. Peter commanded the man to get up and walk. But, he did not leave it at that. He reached him a hand and lifted him up. So often the self-righteous demand of others around them to do better, yet they never extend the hand to them that helps them to do better. One thing wonderful about God is that he never calls upon us to do a job without enabling us to do it. So, to the amazement of everyone, this man was healed

Church News Briefs

Mrs. McCray Is Mt. Moriah Women's Day Speaker

Mrs. Bernice McCray, vice-president of the Georgia Women's State Congress, Statesboro, Georgia, will be the speaker for "Women's Day-Missionary Day" at Greater Mount Moriah Primitive Baptist Church, Sunday, March 19, at 3 p.m.

A native of Georgia, Mrs. McCray was born and reared in Bullock County and graduated from High School in Statesboro. She is a graduate of Savannah State and taught school in Bullock County in the late 30's.

She is a member of Mount Pisgah Primitive Baptist Church in Metter, Ga. Elder Carl Butler is pastor.

Mrs. McCray has served as secretary of the church for 24 years, secretary of the Women's Congress of New Mount Pleasant Primitive Baptist Church and secretary of her Sunday School.

For several years she worked as dietician at Pleasant

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Persons who wish to apply for jobs with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools must apply at the Education Center. Although vacancy announcements are posted in all schools application must be made through the personnel office in the Education Center rather than at individual schools.

This begins a new centralized hiring procedure for both instructional and noninstructional personnel. After applications and other papers are completed, applicants participate in a screening interview at the personnel office before they are interviewed by principals.

Through this centralized hiring procedure, the personnel office will be better able to place candidates in an appropriate position. If candidates are not qualified for the particular position for which they applied, they may be qualified for another position, explains Dr. Norm Palin, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services.

Interested persons may apply at the Education Center, 701 E. Second Street; write the Personnel Department,

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, P.O. Box 149, Charlotte, N. C. 28230; or call 372-8620 to request an application form.

Keep your out-of-town friends informed on what's happening in Charlotte by sending them a copy of the Charlotte Post each week. The cost is only \$10 per year.



Elder T. W. Samuels

Mt. Moriah pastor

View Nursing Home in Metter, Ga. but has retired and devotes her full time to homemaking. She is married to Deacon Daniel McCray and they have twelve living children; six boys and six girls.

Mrs. E. C. Raye is president of the Senior Missionary Circle and Mrs. Ida Moore is secretary.

Elder T. W. Samuels is minister of Greater Moriah, located at 747 West Trade St.

GREATER GETHSEMANE
A special program of Easter music will be presented at Greater Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church Sunday, March 26, at 5 p.m.

The Gethsemane Senior Choir, under the direction of Ms. Constance Hill, will render specially selected sacred music with Jerod Greene, of First Baptist Church as guest organist.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

EAST STONEWALL
'Holy Week' services will be held at East Stonewall A.M.E. Zion Church, 1729 Griers Grove Road, March 20-24, with services beginning at 7:30 p.m. each evening.

The following churches will be represented each night:
Monday - Clinton Chapel, Weeping Willow and Steele Creek.

Tuesday - Hood Memorial, Gethsemane, Middle Street and Henry's Chapel.

Wednesday - Bethel, East Stonewall, Jonesville and Grace.

Thursday - China Grove, Big Pineville, Mount Zion and Walls Memorial.

Friday - Moore's Sanctuary, Cathey Memorial, O'Connor's Grove and St. Mark.

These services are sponsored by the Charlotte District A.M.E. Zion Churches.

Rev. L. C. Clark is presiding Elder and Wardell Henderson is chairman of the Planning Committee.

Sunrise Services will be held at East Stonewall at 6 a.m. Easter Sunday morning. The Progressive Women's Club will prepare breakfast for the worshippers following the service.

The Christian Education staff of East Stonewall will



Rev. James Palmer

University Park pastor

sponsor the children of the church in their annual Easter Program on Sunday, March 26, at 3 p.m.

The public is urged to come out and support the young people in their efforts.

Members of East Stonewall's Angelic Choir will show a film entitled 'Vengeance is Mine' on Sunday, March 26, at 5:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. The film is 30 minutes long and a question and answer period will follow the showing. Admission is 50c for children and young adults and \$1 for adults.

The Pastor's Aid Board of East Stonewall met recently and reorganized for 1978. After serving as president for nearly 27 years, Mrs. Marie Sanders stepped down and Mrs. Annie Holmes was elected to that office. Other officers include: vice-president, Mrs. Rena Blake; secretary, Mrs. Audrey Womble, and treasurer, Mrs. Bessie Sims.

NEW ST. JOHN'S
New St. John's Baptist Church, Newell, will observe Missionary Sunday at 2:30 p.m. March 19. Various speakers will appear on the program.

At 6 p.m. the Paradise Voices of New St. John's will present a special program with outstanding choirs from the surrounding area taking



Rev. B. R. Robinson

New Zion pastor

part. Ms. Marilyn Pride is director of the choir and Miss Beverly Leake is pianist.

Rev. R. H. Leake, the pastor, invites the public to attend both events.

MAYFIELD MEMORIAL
Missionary Sunday will be celebrated at Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church March 19. A special service in acknowledgement and recognition of all Missionaries will be held.

The pastor of Mayfield, Rev. H. S. Diggs, will deliver the 11 a.m. message.

Music will be by the Spiritual Choir with Stephen Cooper as director and organist. James Ellison is pianist for the choir. Senior ushers of Mayfield will act as hosts.

Mrs. Amy Crosby is president of the total Missionary Department and Group Leaders are: No. 1 - Mrs. Alice James, No. 2 - Mrs. Sophia Ray, No. 3 - Mrs. Elizabeth Neal; No. 4 - Mrs. Jessie Hamlin, Junior Missionaries - Mrs. Hannah Crowe, Mrs. Bettye Wilks is president of the Young Adult Department with Mrs. R. H. Diggs as advisor.

The public is cordially invited to attend. Mayfield is at 700 Sugar Creek Road West.

ST. PAUL UNITED PRES.
A pre-Easter Revival will be held at St. Paul United Presbyterian Church March 22 through the

24 with services beginning at 7:30 p.m. each night.

On Wednesday evening Rev. Raymond Worsley, pastor of First United Presbyterian Church will deliver the sermon. Thursday evening Rev. George E. Battle of Greater Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church will speak and on Friday Rev. George Goodman, C.N. Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian, will be the speaker. St. Paul is on Robinson Church Road and Rev. Robert Walton is the pastor.

GREATER GETHSEMANE

Choir No. 2 of Greater Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church will share a program at East Stonewall A.M.E. Zion Church Sunday, March 19, at 2:30 p.m. The pastor, Rev. George E. Battle, and trustees will also be in attendance, along with many of the members.

Missionary Circle No. 1 will meet Sunday, March 19, at 5 p.m.

The Senior Choir of Gethsemane will present an Easter Cantata at 5:15 Easter Sunday March 26.

The public is cordially urged to attend.

UNIVERSITY PARK

Spring Revival will be held at University Park Baptist Church March 27-31. Dr. R. E. Odoms, Birmingham, Alabama, will be evangelist for the week.

Services will begin each evening at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. James E. Palmer is pastor of University Park, located at 2156 Senior Dr.

GREATER MOUNT SINAI

The Young Adult Missionary Department of Greater Mount Sinai Baptist Church will present the play, "When Candles Talk", Sunday, March 19, at 5 p.m.

The public is cordially invited.

Rev. N. E. Kerry is pastor. Mount Sinai is at 1243 West Boulevard.

SILVER MOUNT

Rev. B. R. Robinson will be the guest speaker when the trustees of Silver Mount Baptist Church, Pineville, observe their 25th annual program Sunday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. He will be accompanied by his choirs, members of the congregation and trustees. Rev. Robinson is pastor of New Zion Baptist Church.

Rev. William Lee Jr., minister of Silver Mount, said the trustees' program "has always been a night of great spiritual inspiration and fellowship." He also said that this is the major 1978 fund raising effort for the trustees.

Funds raised on that night will go to the building fund to aid in the erection of a new church. The site of the proposed new structure is on 15 acres of property the congregation owns on Arrowood Road.

Leroy Holloway is chairman of the board of trustees, Eddie L. Owens is co-chairman and Robbie McCorkle is the secretary.

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Rev. Coleman W. Kerry

Clinton Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church

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