

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON



Mrs. Lawrence

SUBJECT: Jesus As Son of Man
December 13, 1981

Lesson	Scripture
How He Saw Himself	Matthew 8:18-22
A Man Rejected By Men	Mark 8:31-11
A Man Approved By God	Mark 14:61-65

Background Scripture
Matt. 9:1-8 and Mark Chapters 7-8

LESSON BACKGROUND

In the preceding verses of Mat. 8, we find Jesus in the process of His healing ministry. He had entered Capernaum on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. He had healed the centurion's servant; Peter's mother-in-law; many sick people and had casted out demons of many people. Such demonstrations of compassion and power increased His followers. Matthew — 17 saw this as a fulfillment of Isaiah 53:4, giving a description of the Suffering Servant.

We read in last Sunday's lesson that Jesus took three of His disciples into a mountain near by to pray, and was transfigured before them. Moses and Elijah approached Jesus to discuss His coming death at Jerusalem.

After several other events and teachings, He decided that in order for Him to complete His ministry on earth, it was time to leave Galilee as a place of active ministry. (Increasing opposition by His people was demonstrated.)

Jesus sailed to Gaara, on the southeastern coast into the country of the Gergesenes. (Matt. 8:28).

LESSON EXPLAINED

As Jesus was about to leave the "great multitudes," an interpreter of the law offered to follow Him, but based on Jesus' response to him, we can assume that Jesus felt that he was not ready for the task. Jesus tested the depth of his commitment in verse 20.

Another would-be-follower wanted to go with Him but said to Jesus, "Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father." This disciple's request seems to be a reference to Luke 9:59, when Jesus, asked one of His general disciples to follow Him, and asked permission to first go and bury his father.

Jesus said unto him, follow me; and let the dead bury their dead." Jesus evidently referred to those who were spiritually dead as being adequately and or sufficient to bury their physically dead. It was not likely his father was dead at this time, because the Jews buried their dead the day they died. Some say that he was old, and his son felt it was an obligation to be with his father until the end' (vs. 21,22).

Mark 8:31 may be considered as the first explicit announcement that Jesus made to His disciples regarding His death. These verses (31-33) follow immediately upon Peter's confession. "Thou art the Christ." At this time the disciples did not fully understand the teachings of Jesus. They expected Jesus to become king of the Jews and share in rulling His kingdom on earth.

Peter began to contradict Jesus for having announced His suffering and death. He probably felt that there was an easier way out for Jesus.

In response to Peter's rebuke, we can picture Jesus as He turned around suddenly; casted a searching look at His disciples; then singled out Peter, and rebuked him severely because he had tried to dissuade Him from the way of the cross. Jesus said, "Get thee behind me Satan." Jesus is accusing him of talking like Satan, and opposing the way of God. (vs. 33).

In the past part of the lesson outline "A man approved by God," the scene is in the palace of the high priest, Caiaphas, with members of the Sanhedrin Herod Antipas' fear that Jesus' miracles would lead to an uprising against him. They challenged Jesus' authority as an accredited teacher. Their devious and deceitful measures had produced no response from Jesus until He was asked point blank, "Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" The Jews used the term "blessed" instead of "God." (vs. 61).

Jesus answered with the words "I am." He probably remembered Dan. 7:13; "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven..." Jesus also added a description of Himself coming from the right hand of God's throne in heaven to rule the earth' (vs. 62).

The high priest tore his clothes as a protest against the supposed blasphemy of Jesus, and said there was no need for further witnesses. He called for a quick decision to kill Jesus. They all agreed to execute Him (vs. 64).

After their verdict, there has never been a greater perfersion of justice in the courts than the trials of Jesus, followed by mental and physical abuse (vs. 65).



Jingle bells...Jingle bells...Jingle all the way... Soon it will be Christmas Day! and If anyone is ready for it, it is Andrell Nykia McIlwain. At 15 months of age she is already expressing herself. What does she want for Christmas? A wagon and a baby doll to comb her hair. The daughter of Andra and Sylvia McIlwain, little Andrell is active and friendly. She attends Silver Mount Baptist Church and often romps with her big brother, "Scooter," who is 10 years old. (Photo by Teresa Burns)

Grier Heights Presents Christmas

Candlelight Service Sunday

The United Presbyterian Women's Organization of Grier Heights United Presbyterian Church will present a Christmas Candlelight Service December 18, at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Lloyd B. Morris, pastor of the church will conduct the service. A brief meditation, the lighting of the candles, the singing of hymns and fellowship will be included in this service. The public is cordially invited.

The Grier Heights U.P. Church Annual Christmas program will be held Sunday, December 20, at 7 p.m. This program will involve the Sunday Church School, Youth Choir and Church Choir. The public is warmly invited to attend.

Rev. Lloyd B. Morris is pastor. The church is located at 325 Skyland Ave.

SECOND CALVARY
"The Spirit of Christmas" is overflowing in more ways than one at Second Calvary Baptist Church. On Sunday, December 13, 4-7 p.m., the church Christmas Exhibit will feature beautifully decorated doors by each auxiliary.

You are cordially invited to attend this exhibit which has become an annual event for the church.

The Vocal Choir of the church will host the United Singing Convention at the church Sunday, December 13, at 2 p.m.

The Missionary Society will honor the senior citizens of the church Saturday, December 19, at 2:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

The Church School department will present the Annual Christmas Program Sunday, December 20, at 6 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Second Calvary, pastored by Rev. Lemar Foster, is located at 114 Nelson Ave.

REEVES TEMPLE AME
Reeves Temple AME Zion Church invites you to celebrate with them in this season of our Savior's birth. The Rameses Temple No. 51 will be in concert at the church praising the Lord through songs.

The concert will be held December 13, beginning at 4 p.m. at Reeves Temple AME Zion Church, located in Davidson, two blocks from Davidson College.

Rev. Sheldon Shipman is minister.

ST. MARY'S
The Carolina Consort will present Christmas at St. Mary's on Friday, December 18, at 7:30 and 9:15 p.m. at St. Mary's Chapel on King's Drive and Third Street.

Now in its fourth season, this concert is a special presentation in the Consort's highly successful music at St. Mary's series.

The program will feature music from medieval and Renaissance times including many carols which are still familiar today. Also presented will be a set of readings about the birth of Christ. Poems by John Milton, T. S. Eliot and Robert Herrick will be read.

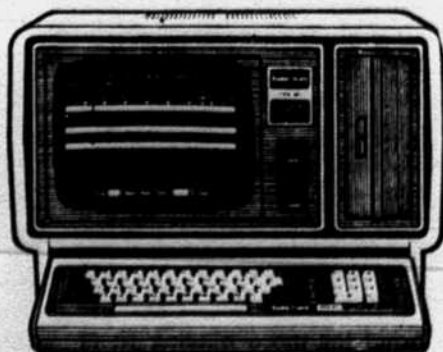
Members of the Carolina Consort are: Karen Hite Jacobs, artistic director, Edward Ferrell, research assistant, Susan Shoemaker Tucker and George Ted Lucktenberg.

Instrumentation for the program includes voices, recorders, flutes, viola da gamba, harpsichord and percussion.

The reader is James Deere who is director of public relations for the

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Medical Eye

Doctors Issue Gift Alert

This Christmas think twice before you buy darts, arrows or guns with small pellets warns the North Carolina Society of Ophthalmology. That game that looks like an adventure in the box can jeopardize a child's eyesight.

The Society, a group of some 150 medical doctors who specialize in total eye care, agree that one of the biggest problems is the age of the youngster who receives a given toy.

"This holds true, even for spring mechanism toys, the jack-in-the-box concept," said Dr. Marshall S. Redding, president of the group. "A young child may bend over the toy and let it go whack at the eye while a 10-year-old will instinctively know better."

"Not all eye injuries caused by toys result in permanent damage," Dr. Redding said. "But even a seemingly harmless toy can cause a scratch on the cornea that is extremely painful."

A blow to the eye can cause injury to the retina, provoking a hemorrhage, swelling or even detachment. In most cases the injury is minor and tem-

porary, but it can be serious, said the Elizabeth City ophthalmologist. Anyone who stike in the eye who complains of blurring or spots before the eye should get immediate medical attention. Cuts around the eyelids fall in the same category, added Dr. Redding.

"No one wants to have a holiday spoiled by injury," concluded Dr. Redding. "and if you think 'safety' as you purchase gifts for family and friends, you'll go a long way toward making this an accident-free, memorable Christmas."

You Are Invited To Share In the "APPRECIATION DAY RECOGNITION"

For Our Pastor
DR. A.B. SUTTON
Sunday -
December 13
6 p.m.
Ebenezer Baptist Church
733 East Trade St.



Guest Speaker
Dr. Paul Drummond
Master Of Ceremony
Dr. LeMar Foster
Local Church Choirs Will Perform

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