

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON



Mrs. Lawrence

SUBJECT: The Emmaus Experience
April 18, 1982

Lesson	Scripture
The Unknown Companion	Luke 24:13-26
Leading Questions	Luke 24:17-21
Setting Things Straight	Luke 24:25-27
Jesus Discovered	Luke 24:28-32
Background Scripture...	Lk. 24:13-35

Lesson Background

With his typical attention to detail, Luke has provided a full account of the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of the Son of man in chapters 22-24. He described the plot of Judas, the warm fellowship of the last supper, the mental anguish at Gethsemane, the tragic denial by Peter, the miscarriage of justice at the trials, and the brutal agony of the Roman execution. But the dark days in Jerusalem gave way to the brilliant dawning of that first Easter morning when angels asked the perplexed followers of Jesus, "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" (Lk. 24:5). And one of the most touching scenes in all the Bible was when Jesus spoke to Mary Magdalene. (Jn. 20:15).

Now, Luke concludes his account with Jesus' post-resurrection appearances and His ascension into heaven.

Lesson Explained

This lesson completes the Unit on the Miracles of Jesus. We've seen Him transform people both physically and spiritually. We've seen Him rise from the dead. Now we're beginning the lesson with His fourth post-resurrection appearance which was on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. He appeared to Cleopas and another man whose name is not recorded. They were heartbroken as they walked and talked about the events that had happened since the Passover, the afternoon of the day of the resurrection. They had left their companions after Peter's return from the sepulchre and before Mary Magdalene arrived with her tidings that she had seen Jesus.

In their despair, "Jesus Himself" joined them in their conversation (as He has done so often in the midst of our own darkness). Luke says as they walk together the eyes of the two "were holden." (To lay hold of.) Their failure to recognize Him was probably because of spiritual blindness. They had found the report of the resurrection difficult to accept. (Vss. 17-21).

Jesus' question to them (paraphrased) was "What are you talking about? You are sad." Both stood still, with sad, facial expressions. Cleopas spoke quickly, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" (RSV). They then told the sad story of the prophet of Nazareth who was rejected and crucified by the religious rulers.

Verse 21 which reads, "But we trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel." This indicates that they had doubts about Jesus' resurrection and if He really was the Messiah.

Their expressions of doubt concerning Him, prompted Jesus to interrupt the conversation with a rebuke for their being so slow in believing what the prophets had said in the Old Testament Scriptures. His rebuke which began with "O Fools," was a charge of their failure to understand the relationship between the Old Testament predictions of the suffering Messiah and His glorious reign. But Jesus took the time, however, to transform their foolishness into wisdom of God, by "beginning with Moses and all the prophets in order to explain to them all things concerning Himself." (vs. 27). They finally reached Emmaus in the late afternoon. The disciples invited Him to remain with them over the night.

When they sat down to the evening meal, Jesus picked up the bread, blessed it and passed the broken pieces to them. They recognized Him immediately. Jesus disappeared from the stunned disciples, but they knew their Lord, and that He was Divine.

The sentence which reads, "Did not our hearts burn within us?" is a mutual reflection of Cleopas and his companion on their Bible lesson taught by Jesus. Jesus has shown us that we're to explain His death by using the New Testament which tells us that He came and what He did, as well as use of the Old Testament that tells us that He would come and what He would do.

Closing Summary

Two disciples on their road to Emmaus were heartbroken because their leader, Jesus, has been crucified. The risen Lord joined them and began to question their attitude concerning the recent events that had occurred. They failed to recognize Him. Jesus then spoke up and explained the Old and New Testament Scriptures concerning Himself.

Cancer Awareness Program To Involve Black Churches

On Sunday, April 18, several black churches will participate in a cancer awareness program spearheaded by American Cancer Society volunteer Carl Hunt.

Hunt, a member of Gethsemane AME Zion Church, sent out 140 letters to black churches in Charlotte-Mecklenburg in an attempt to inform congregations of the seven warning signals of cancer.

"According to statistics so much cancer goes on and it seems that we don't know a lot about it. And what you don't know hurts you," Hunt suggested.

The seven warning signals that will be passed out in bulletin form during services at the churches will save a lot of lives, Hunt believes. "And if I just save one life I'll be satisfied," he stated.

Karen Bohr, director of Public Information and Education for the American Cancer Society, Mecklenburg Unit, has

Letters To The Editor

Statement

Angered Some Ministers

Dear Sir:

On March 18, 1982 you did a story on the "Second Poor People March." In the article I made the statement "we cannot sit by waiting for ministers to lead us, most of them don't feel the effects of the cuts because poor, black people have made life too good for them." I would like to thank you for printing this statement. It angered some ministers and made all of us take a look at ourselves. For those that did not like the statement, my response was, "If the shoe fits, wear it." One minister went so far as to tell me I could not come back in his pulpit until I took back my statement. Let me stop and give my feeling on the black ministers in times like these.

I feel that the time has come wherein we as black ministers must do more than preach pie in the sky. Our people need us now more than ever before. With a black-owned newspaper and a black-owned radio station here in Charlotte, we can get any message over to our people we need to. The reason we don't is we as ministers many times can't or won't work together. We talk about working together but our people need to see some working together and we need to lead the way. Many of us have forgotten where we come from and who pays us. As Rev. Riddick stated to me, "It is time for blacks people to start doing for themselves." We as ministers are doing very little to help our people.

A few of us are working on a food bank. We will open up a storehouse whereby we can help feed our people. From there we can go on to register our people to vote and on to God knows where. But we can do nothing until we come together.

If we as black ministers feel that poor people have not made life too good for us, then we can show this by helping in some way. The big question in times like these is, what are we black ministers doing for our people?

Rev. James E. Barnett

Income Tax

Check-Off

Supported

North Carolinians filing their state and federal income taxes last week were urged by Democratic Party Chairman Russell Walker to check the box that provides one or two dollars for political parties.

"Even if you owe some additional tax, you can participate in this exercise in democracy—and it won't cost you five cents extra," Senator Walker said.

A husband and wife can each check the one dollar box. Single filers can only provide \$1. "On your North Carolina return, you may designate the party of your choice, either Democratic or Republican. On the federal tax return, the dollars provided are shared between parties. But it's still well worth doing."

been aiding Hunt in his effort to inform the black community.

"During the past few months we have had a task force to disseminate information throughout the black community," she began.

"Generally if a white person and a black person contract the same type of cancer the black person

will die sooner. The reason is not hereditary but it is due to early detection," Ms. Bohr continued.

Ms. Bohr admitted that



Carl Hunt

...Spearheaded program the educational messages concerning cancer had at

one time not been circulated as well in the black communities as in the white communities. But recent efforts such as the black church cancer awareness programs will hopefully curtail the above

Today, according to Ms. Bohr, there are many cancer-related educational programs in the black community.

"Early detection is presently the key to cancer," Ms. Bohr announced. And once you find it in the early stages you should go to a

doctor."

In addition to the seven warning signals of cancer being distributed to the congregation, ministers will also have the opportunity to pass out the national cancer office's "Cancer prayer" a prayer for the conquest of cancer.

April 18 has been set aside for this particular distribution of information. But both Hunt and Ms. Bohr will be happy to comply with any church's request to use the informative bulletins or "Cancer prayer" any other Sunday.

For more information contact Ms. Bohr at 376-1659.

The following churches will participate in the cancer awareness program April 18: Grier Heights United Presbyterian Church, Grace AME Zion United Congregational, Steele Creek AME Zion, Huntersville United Presbyterian, Gethsemane AME Zion, First United Presbyterian, Greater Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church, Walls Memorial AME Zion and H. O. Graham Metropolitan Presbyterian Church.

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