



Sunday School Lesson

INTRODUCTION

In life-and-death situations, men cling to life at all costs, hoping to postpone the hour when death will have the final word. Jesus, though, reversed that order. His mission and ministry became a matter of death and life. He declared values greater than physical life, and He purposefully surrendered His life day by day in service and finally in His crucifixion, in advancing those greater values, which all added up to eternal glory with the Father. So death is not the final word, life is. Death becomes the gateway by which life is attained. It was so with Jesus, who emptied Himself of glory and became obedient even to death; whereupon God exalted Him to immeasurable glory (Philippians 2:5-11). It continues to be so with one who denies himself while serving others in the name of Christ and grows in His likeness.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Through months of preaching, teaching and healing in Galilee, Jesus had demonstrated His divine nature. Not all of the talk was favorable. That is the discredited Pharisees was bitterly hostile. They were looking for a Messiah to reinstate the military and political kingdom of David. They had been excited by the demonstration of Jesus' power, but disillusioned by His teaching and the direction of His ministry. But the common people still heard Him gladly. It was time for Jesus to nail down the elements of public opinion and to establish His disciples' faith in relation to Him.

(Mark 8:27-30) "And Jesus went out, and His disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and by the way, He asked His disciples, saying unto them, 'Whom do men say that I am?' And they answered, 'John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.' And He saith unto them, 'But whom say ye that I am?' And Peter answereth and saith unto Him, 'Thou art the Christ.' And He charged them that they should tell no man of Him."

Luke 9:18 says that Jesus was alone with His disciples praying and then raised the question as to His identity. It was a momentous occasion - this report on the responses to His ministry. Jesus had heard what the leaders of the Pharisees were saying about Him. He would have the apostles know what was being said among the common folk. "Thou Art the Christ!" Here was the focal point, Popular opinion did not satisfy Jesus, and they must not satisfy the apostles. The Lord's question was addressed to the entire group; but each man must be firmly established in his own conviction. And that conviction must center in the person of the "Son of man" who stood before them inquiring. To acknowledge Jesus as the Christ was - and is - a mind-filling and life-filling confession. As Prophet, He speaks with divine authority; as Priest, He offers the only effective sacrifice - Himself - for our sins; as King, He reigns supreme in His kingdom - the church - now, and He will reign in glory forever.

"And He charged them that they should tell no man of Him." It was not yet time to make public announcement of Jesus as the Messiah. His ministry had already been hampered on occasion by too much of the wrong kind of publicity (Mark 1:43-45). And this could be much more serious. In politically volatile Galilee it could ignite a zealot's insurrection against Rome, and among the Pharisees and the temple authorities it would be viewed as blasphemy demanding His immediate death. Besides, the apostles themselves had not yet received the whole story of the Messiah's gospel, and they did not fully understand what kind of Messiah He was.

Jesus' program for His own ministry was unacceptable even to His closest followers, and the demands He made on prospective disciples seemed even worse. From an ordinary rabbi such expressions would only mean that he was demented. From an established prophet they might seem mildly interesting. Only from God's Messiah would they gain credibility, and even then with slow reluctance.

So, before Jesus could set forth His plan for himself and His followers, He must establish some ground for acceptance. His hearers must be firmly convinced that He was indeed God's anointed Lord and Savior.

Sorority Honors Nine For Community Leadership

By Loretta Manago
Post Staff Writer
The Charlotte Chapter of Las Amigas, Inc. recently sponsored an Oratorical Contest and Community Leadership Tribute at Discovery Place.

Barbara Atwater and Johnnie Young served as mistresses of ceremony at the program that was dedicated to past, present and future black leaders.

In one segment of the program, presentations were awarded to today's community leaders. The recipients and the categories for which they were honored are: Ira Brewer - Art; Nasif Majeed - Business; Adelaide Hunt - Community Service; Kathleen Crosby - Education; Herman Thomas - Human Relations; Teresa Simmons - Journalism; Frank Williams - Music; Sarah Stevenson - Politics and Ken



Nasif Majeed
.....Business



Kathleen Crosby
.....Education



Teresa Simmons
.....Journalism



Ken Koontz
.....Public Relations

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Koontz - Public Relations. Another segment of the program, Perspective Number One, honored the leaders of yesterday. Men and women like Mary McCleod Bethune, Booker T. Washington and Martin L. King, Jr., were recognized for the sacrifices and accomplishments they made for the black race.

The Oratorical Contest represented the last segment of the program Perspective Number

Three. Las Amigas sponsored the Oratorical Contest in order to enhance to day's youths' opportunities to speak out and express their ideas and views to people and on various subjects. Competition for the Oratorical Contest was held

on two levels: Level II (Junior High) and Level III (Senior High).

On Level II, Felicia Potts, a student at Smith, was the winner with her speech, "Keeping Black English Alive." Tanya Taylor, an 11th grader at Garinger High, was the winner in Level III. Her speech was titled "We Have Tomorrow." Both winners received trophies.

Other highlights of the program included an "Honor's Corner" display with pictures of all the honorees.

Housing Options Needed

For Elderly Citizens

One out of every five of our nation's elderly citizens lives in housing inappropriate to his or her needs - too big, too expensive, too much work to care for, too isolated.

These millions - there are more than 25 million in this country who are 65 or older and the growth in this age category is in an almost perpendicular uptrend - are seeking suitable homes to meet their common problems of health, loneliness or the frailties of advancing age.

They do not need to be in the institution. They certainly want to avoid the pitfalls of an unlicensed "boarding home" for the elderly.

The good news is that a new generation of housing solutions for older Americans - experimental ideas, many quite promising - is cropping up - across the land. All are based on local initiative, not national policy.

The last national policy for housing elderly Americans - coaxing them out of

their homes and neighborhoods and into sterile government subsidized high-rise structures - is double discredited. First, federal subsidy money is drying up, perhaps never to return. Second, surveys show that the elderly, in overwhelming numbers, don't want to move. They'd prefer to "age in place," if not in their own homes, then at least in the old neighborhoods with the friends, stores, parks and places they've known for years.

In recognition of this fact, the Council on Aging, in cooperation with the Livingstone College Gerontology Certificate Program and Centralina Area Agency on Aging, will be sponsoring a conference on "Housing Options For Older Adults" Friday, April 13 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, April 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at United Way Auditorium, 301 S. Brevard St., Charlotte.

The keynote speaker will be Leo Baldwin, Housing Director with the National American Association of Retired Persons.

SEW-A-THON Planned

The Mecklenburg County Home Economics Extension Department and Parks and Recreation will sponsor the 10th Annual Sew-A-Thon Tuesday, March 27, at 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. and Wednesday, March 28, at 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., at the Charlotte Park Center on Kings

Drive, next to Central Piedmont Community College. This year's show will feature live demonstrations on sewing techniques, crafts for camp church youth, and the home with fashion shows and door prizes, the latest in materials and equipment for the home and sewing. The crafts industry will also be a part of the show.

Special features include dresses for the little girl, fashions for the 14-plus figure by McCall, decorative

designs for the home, and ways to make it big in the crafts market and stay at home.

Opportunities to see, learn, touch and understand so much in sewing, makes this "Sew-A-Thon" a rare opportunity. Step-by-step instructions will be handed out at the Sew-A-Thon for future reference.

For information, please call 374-2692, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mary C. Martin, Home Economics Extension Agent and Director of the Sew-A-Thon. Plan to spend a fun-filled day at Park Center, eat lunch also, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 27 and 28. Working citizens can attend Tuesday evening until 9 p.m. Don't miss these two great days of sewing and crafts

Appalachian State To Sponsor Workshop Here

Appalachian State University is sponsoring "The Teaching Learning Paradox: Your Style of Teaching and Student Styles of Learning" workshop Saturday, March 31, in Charlotte.

The workshop examines the different styles of learning and helps teachers adjust teaching styles to accommodate the learning methods of their students. A standardized test given at the outset of the workshop will enable teachers to recognize their dominant teaching styles.

The workshop leader is Hunter Boylan, director of the Kellogg Institute for Developmental Education and assistant professor in ASU's College of Education. Dr. Boylan also serves as a learning consultant for school systems. The workshop meets

from 10 a.m. to noon and 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at St. Mark's Center, 601 N. Graham St. The program costs \$49 which covers registration and course materials.

To register contact the ASU Division of Community Service, Boone, N.C. 28608, or call 704-262-3113.



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