

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

JESUS FACES OPPOSITION

International Sunday School Lesson
For February 13

Memory Selection: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21.

Lesson Text: Mark 2:3-8; 16-17; 3:1-6.

One of the most striking miracles of Jesus was the healing of the man sick of the palsy, brought to him by four devoted friends, all five having in their hearts the faith so necessary for great achievement.

Jesus was busy as "he spake the word" unto the crowded company in the Capernaum home. He had eager listeners, hurriedly gathering when they discovered Jesus had returned from his recent swing around Galilee.

The effect of Jesus' ministry had already had its influence felt far and wide by this second summer of activity. The religious leaders of Jerusalem had been aroused by this new doctrine, already critical of their own religious leadership and sincerity, and had sent their emissaries to Capernaum to scout out this teacher and discover some flaw in his life or doctrine with which they could discredit him.

When the four friends brought the palsied sufferer to the house where Jesus was, they were blocked away by the crowd, but, full of persistent faith, they lowered him down from the roof, placing him immediately in front of Jesus, attracting his notice both to their belief in his power and their devotion to the sufferer. Jesus always rewards faith and fidelity so here he addressed to the patient words forgiving his sins.

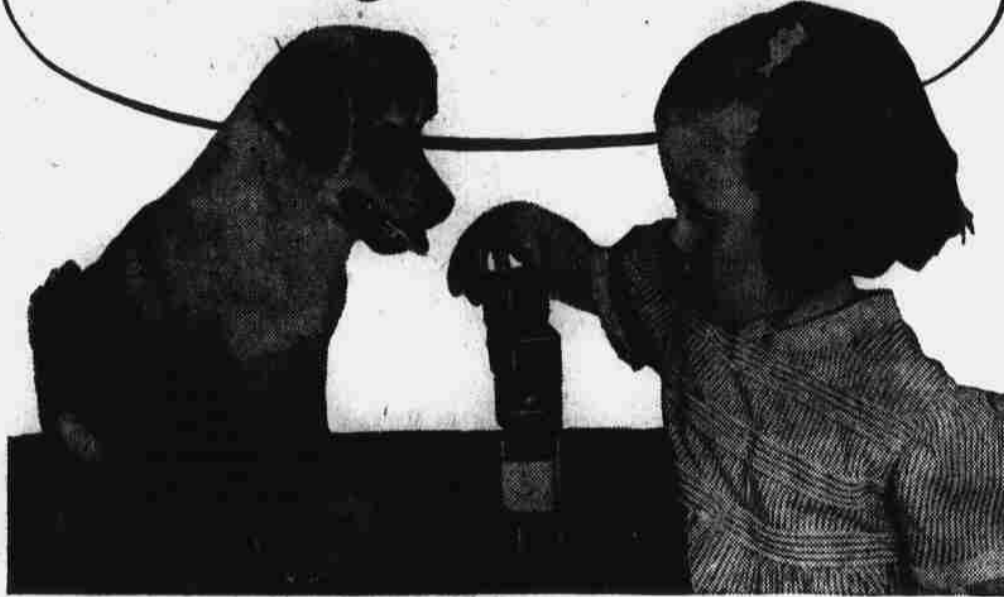
The scribes from Jerusalem took note—this lay-preacher dared to assume divine power, that of remitting human sin against divine command. This, they readily reasoned, was blasphemy—a serious ecclesiastical crime then as it was later in the Dark Ages. How often have the assumed and assured upholders of truth been revealed by history as selfish, prejudiced enjoyers of privilege which warped their judgment and discernment.

Jesus knew the thoughts of his critics and accepted the challenge. Nobody could disprove his spiritual miracle of forgiving sins, which gave no outward signs, but "that ye may know that the Son of Man hath authority on earth to forgive sins," he would perform the visible, physical care of the body of the sufferer. This done, it was not strange that those who witnessed it were "amazed and glorified God."

Various other incidents brought about the continued condemnation of the Pharisees.

Levi was called from the seat of custom to follow Jesus, and assumed his new name, Matthew, "the gift of God." The Roman tax system was iniquitous. The higher imperial officers charged with tax collecting farmed out the local privilege to others who were more or less compelled to extort duties from the surrounding population in order to pay for the privilege. These collectors were called publicans and usually made money (Concluded on Page Two)

How long will it stand?



This little builder is being very careful. But her block house is a rather shaky structure. One swipe of the puppy's paw and down it will tumble.

Even if the puppy keeps a respectful distance, the house is quite likely to fall before it is finished. But it will have served its purpose. It will have given this child entertainment and manual dexterity.

What matters a great deal more is another structure this child is building—the invisible edifice of character. Will its foundation be deep and solid? Will the structure be strong and beautiful? Will it stand the strain of years of living? Will it stand firm if the fierce winds of misfortune blow and the rains descend upon it?

Fortunate is this child if in these early, formative years she is surrounded with the influences that help build strong character. Chief among such character-building influences has always been the Church. Within its walls the child learns reverence, truthfulness, honesty, fair play, unselfishness.

THE CHURCH FOR ALL... ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For the sake of his children and nation. (3) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Sunday Psalms 118:19-24
Monday Matthew 7:13-28
Tuesday I Corinthians 3:10-16
Wednesday Ephesians 2:19-22
Thursday Jude 1:17-25
Friday I Peter 2:1-7
Saturday Hebrews 11:1-10

For schedule of yearly readings, write American Bible Society, 450 Park Ave., N. Y. 22, N. Y.

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Be a Better Citizen!
Go to Some Church Next Sunday

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

A. H. Outlaw, Pastor
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.
Church Service 3 P. M. every first Sunday.
Sunday School at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST

Walker Perry, Pastor
Bible School 10:30 A. M., except first Sunday, at 10 A. M.
Morning worship on first Sunday at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first Sunday at 7 P. M.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

E. T. Jilson, Rector
Holy Communion, 9:00 A. M.
Every Sunday except first Sunday at 9:00 A. M.
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11:00 o'clock.
Holy Communion first Sunday at 11 A. M.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Do Go

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Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
C. W. Duling, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

BETHLEHEM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Harold C. Turner, Pastor
Church services first and third Sundays at 3:00 P. M.
Christian Union, 7:30 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. R. Byerly, Pastor
Church services first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.
Burgess and Bethlehem Churches hold Christian Union together on second and fourth Sundays.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES
E. B. Edwards, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 3:00 P. M.
Second Sunday:
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.
Woodland Church, 7:00 P. M.
Third Sunday:
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
New Hope Church, 7:00 P. M.
Fourth Sunday:
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.
Winfall Church, 7:30 P. M.
Fifth Sunday:
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church at 7:30 P. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School, 11 A. M. every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 11 A. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH
Elizabeth White, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services, 11 A. M.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. E. G. Willis, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Preaching first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Preaching second and fourth Sunday evening at 7:30.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS MEETING
Bertha V. Smith White, Minister
Bible School, 10 A. M.
Meeting for worship, 11 A. M.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
G. M. Singletary, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:30 A. M. on first and third Sundays and 2:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.
Church services, 3:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
D. L. Fouts, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Young People's Meeting, 6:30 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.