

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

## JESUS USES HIS AUTHORITY

International Sunday School Lesson For January 10th, 1954.

Memory Selection: "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."—John 4:24.

Lesson Text: John 2:13-25.

Our lesson for last week was a discussion of the Prologue to John's Gospel, in which the Beloved Disciple sought to prove that Jesus was both human and divine—the Son of man and the Son of God—and that before the world began, Jesus was with God, and that he was made flesh and dwelt among men.

John 2, from which our lesson for this week is taken, marshals further evidence for faith in Christ as the Son of God, the aim, as pointed out last week, of John in writing his gospel. This purpose, John felt, could be best accomplished, not by argument, but by relating certain "signs" or manifestations, which elicited faith in the first disciples and still bear evidence of the unique personality of Jesus.

In this chapter, John relates two of these "signs." They indicate the authority of Jesus in the intimate, personal matters of social courtesy in the home, and also in such public affairs as the proper manner in which the things of the Temple should be conducted.

There are three institutions in our modern society which are fundamentally important—the home, the church and the school. In Jesus' time, the home and the church (synagogue) provided whatever schooling the child received and, therefore, it is significant that, in one lesson, we consider Jesus' attitude toward both institutions.

In the first part of the second chapter of John's Gospel, John relates an incident which happened in Cana, a village only a few miles from Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus. The wedding to which he and his mother were invited was probably a neighborhood event within the circle of relatives and friends of the family. In the midst of the festivities, the refreshments gave out before the guests were all served. It was a most embarrassing situation and the fact that Mary was concerned about it indicates her intimate relationship to the family.

She turned instinctively to Jesus for help in the emergency, showing how naturally she had learned to depend on him and trust his resourcefulness in the details of family life. Feeling that he would know just what to do in this domestic crisis, she told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." The rest of the story is familiar. The significance of this incident is that it reveals to us that Jesus is interested in the home, and in all the celebrations of life. No relationship is so important and no incident so trifling but that they can be transformed by the spirit of Jesus. He would like to be master of our entire life, rejoicing with us when we rejoice and comforting us when we are sad.

The second incident, with which this lesson is particularly concerned, is that of Jesus going up to Jerusalem for the celebration of one of the outstanding feast-days of the Jews—the Passover. Going into the temple, he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers busy at their trade. The animals had been brought in for the people to buy for use as sacrifices in the Temple, while the money-changers handled the purchases and, through various forms of graft, cheated the people. Not only did they profit by their nefarious transactions, but even the Temple authorities profited through a system of graft of their own.

Filled with righteous indignation at this desecration of his Father's House, Jesus, taking a whip of cords, drove them all, with the sheep and the oxen, out of the Temple. Then, taking the coins of the money-changers, he poured them out and overturned their tables. Turning to those who sold the pigeons, he ordered: "Take these things away; you shall not make my Father's house a house of trade."

This was Jesus' first public and unmistakable assertion of his authority. He spoke and acted as one who had, not only the right of interference which any good man might claim, but too, a right altogether unique. He spoke of the Temple as "my Father's house," as though he were delegated by a divine commission to set things right.

Jesus was, and is, not only interested in the welfare of individuals, but also in those social, political and religious reforms which affect the welfare of the whole.

BE A BETTER CITIZEN!

GO TO SOME NEXT SUNDAY CHURCH



### LITTLE BOY IN HIS DADDY'S SHOES...

Imitation is one of the basic impulses of human life. From earliest infancy man has learned the ways of life and the paths of progress by imitating others who possess and practice such knowledge. The child learns to walk as the fledgling learns to fly—by imitating its parents.

The impulse to imitate others is stronger in infancy and childhood than at any other period in life. The child is anxious to learn things and to be able to do things as grown-ups do in this great, big interesting world. That is why the little boy in the picture tries to walk in his daddy's shoes.

Children learn to walk in their parents' footsteps in many ways, during this formative period of their lives. They acquire their habits, their mental attitudes and their sense of values mainly from their elders. And these are the things that will most largely determine their characters and shape their courses in the years to come. This makes it all-important for people to walk uprightly before their children, and lead them in the ways of strength and safety.

Above all, parents should teach their children the dependence of all life upon God, and the value of religion and the Church as the guardian of man's spiritual existence. And this must be done, line upon line and precept upon precept, in practice as well as in words.

**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 his community and world. (4) 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.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verse
Sunday	Matthew	5	43-48
Monday	I Corinthians	4	10-21
Tuesday	Ephesians	6	1-9
Wednesday	Philippians	3	12-21
Thursday	Titus	2	1-8
Friday	Hebrews	2	1-11
Saturday	I Peter	5	1-11

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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 CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor  
First Sunday  
11 A. M. and 8 P. M.

**BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Colon Jackson, Jr., Pastor  
Church services second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.  
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.  
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.

**PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES**  
H. M. Jamieson, Pastor  
First Sunday:  
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Oak Grove Church, 7:00 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, 7:00 P. M.  
Fifth Sunday  
Woodland Church 11:00 A. M.  
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday  
Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.

**ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH**  
C. H. Beale, Pastor  
Church School, 10:00 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

**WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Harvey L. Coppidge, Pastor  
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.  
First and Third Sundays at 7:45 P. M.  
Sunday School 9:45 A. M.

**UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH**  
James Rahenkamp, Pastor  
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.  
Church Services 11 A. M., - 7:30 P. M.  
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.  
Prayer Service, Wednesday 7:30 P. M.

**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Bennie Crawford, 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 CHURCH**  
D. Virgil Pike, Pastor  
Church School 10 A. M.  
Morning Worship 11 A. M.  
Young People's Meeting 7 P. M.

**WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Caleb Goodwin, Jr., Pastor  
Sunday School, 10:30 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.  
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.

**HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH**  
A. L. Chaplin, 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.

**HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
Rev. Charles F. Wulf, Rector.  
9:45 A. M., Church School, every Sunday.  
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 1st Sunday.  
8:30 A. M., Holy Communion, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.  
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday.  
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.  
10:00 A. M., Holy Communion, Fridays and Saints' Days.

**BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Walker Perry, Pastor  
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.  
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.  
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.

**CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Ralph Knight, 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.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Do Go