

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1967

The Coldest Month

January, usually the coldest month of the year, is the month with more darkness than any except the last December. Yet with the new year the days are beginning to get longer and the increased sunshine promises warmer weather of spring and summer to come.

For both warm weather and cold weather holidays January is a good month, though February and early March (with their longer days) are considered peak holiday months.

Though heating bills are stiff in the colder climates in January, it's a good month for indoor entertaining and reading. It is also the month in which new Congresses open, and Presidents are inaugurated — when the political gas attacks begin, in other words.

The night sky is always exciting in January and the colder weather often provides clear visibility at night — especially when high pressure systems from Canada move in. In cold weather one naturally eats more and this has its appeal to too many of us.

January is also happy income tax payment month—

for the final installment on 1966 income taxes, which reminds us of the high cost of government and defense in this post-war era.

This Is The Life
 By DONALD THOMAS
 Immanuel Baptist Church

BY WHAT AUTHORITY?

Take your Bible and turn with me to St. Matthew 21:23-32.

As Jesus was teaching in the temple one day, the elders asked Jesus, "By what authority do you do these things?" By what authority did John baptize, Jesus asked them. They couldn't agree that it was God's since they didn't believe in John. They couldn't say by man since the people held John to be a prophet. "We can't tell," they said. "Neither can I," said Jesus. Jesus told them of a man who ordered his two sons to work in a vineyard. The first refused but later repented and went. The second said he would and didn't.

Which one did the father wish? The elders had to answer, "The first." "Just so," Jesus said, "the tax gatherers and sinful women will go into the Kingdom of God before you; for they do repent and afterwards believe."

This message sure hit home for a lot of us. We use God's word but we don't back it up. Are we like the elders or are we like the second son who said he would but didn't?

The Bible says: "Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, the first. Jesus saith unto them, verily, I say unto you, that the publicans and the harlots go into the Kingdom of God before you."—St. Matthew 21:31.

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Sunday School Lesson
JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

International Sunday School Lesson for January 8

Memory Selection: "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."—John 14:12.

Lesson Text: Luke 4:16 to 6:11.

In the lesson we are studying today we learn of the healing of the palsied man before the multitude who had come to hear Jesus teach in the synagogue.

While most of those present had come to worship, to listen and to learn, there were some who had come hoping to catch Jesus in some violation of the strict Jewish laws. Of this Jesus was fully aware—hence the public healing of the palsied man, following Jesus' forgiveness of the man's sins.

For—while Jesus was basically concerned with man's spiritual state—He also knew that great controversy raged around His claim of Messiahship.

It is not too surprising, therefore, that—being greatly impressed by the faith of the sick man's friends (demonstrated by the lengths they went to to get their companion into Jesus' presence against great odds)—Jesus demonstrated the Divine power invested in Him by healing the man of his physical affliction. He knew that the scoffers would say that it was easy for just anyone to say: "Your sins are forgiven"; what was needed to convince the doubters was a concrete demonstration of His Divine Sonship.

For Jesus never for a minute lost sight of the fact that His mission was to bring sight to the spiritually blind, to enrich the poor of spirit, to heal broken lives, to deliver from the captivity of sin. The parables He taught, the help that He gave to the materially poor, the restoration of physical sight to the blind—all of these practical demonstrations had but one end—the teaching and acceptance of God's Word.

In assuming His ministry on earth, Jesus was fulfilling the promise of centuries. All during His ministry He was careful to proclaim the fact that He was only the instrument of God. What great deeds that were wrought through Him were evidences of God's caring. The Holy Spirit was at work in Christ's life; it must necessarily be at work in our lives if we dare to approximate Christianity in its basic concepts.

It was fitting that Jesus should make a public announcement of His call to the people of His birthplace, and it is equally fitting, today, that we should reflect that every Christian's ministry begins where he lives and has his being. For it is not only charity that "begins at home"; Christian concepts and Godly living should emanate from the surroundings in which we first become aware of the ultimate goal of our lives.

Concern for their friend was the motivation for the lengths to which the sick man's friends went to to bring him before Jesus, and in this regard we would do well to remember that the church has been referred to as "the company of the concerned." We are not good members of that church if we allow our concern to center solely around personal concerns and interests. We need to be exquisitely aware that man's condition will not undergo an essential change until man, himself, has changed. And it was this change that motivated the advent of Jesus and His ministry on earth.

The men who brought their afflicted friend to Jesus were blessed with conviction—conviction that Jesus could help him be whole again; they had FAITH! The man who had received healing at the hands of our Lord also had faith, and he walked away a living testimony of God's concern for His children. Concern and conviction—these are the basics of Christianity!

(These comments are based on outlines of the International Sunday School Lesson, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education, and used by permission.)

Make Church Going A Habit

AN EYE ON THE WORLD

The fascination of a globe . . . let the eye roam over the world map . . . notice the different countries and continents . . . try to imagine what life must be like in each of these places.

Yes, every spot on the globe has its particular need. Sometimes it is a need felt in that one place alone. Yet, in a sense, every place is the same, for all countries are made up of people. And all people have the same basic needs.

One of these needs is faith—faith in a God who also has an eye on our world—faith in a God who sustains us, and who gives meaning to time and eternity. Your own life has this need. You can answer that need by attending church, and discovering the strength and joy which come through regular worship.

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 three main reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake; (2) For his children's sake; (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs its moral and material support. Start to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

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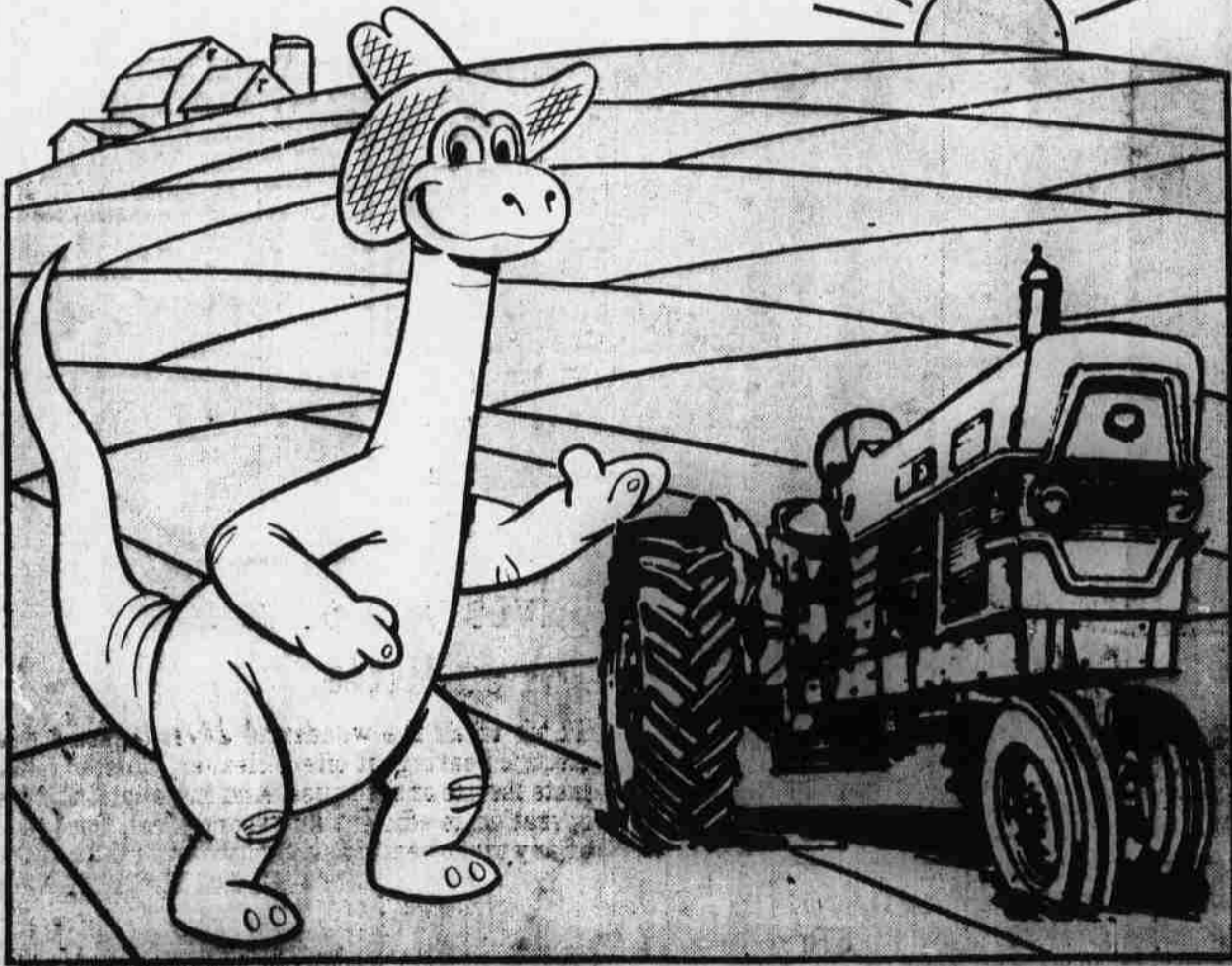
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Genesis	Nehemiah	Jeremiah	Ezekiel	Zechariah	Matthew	Acts
12:1-9	9:16-25	2:4-13	11:14-21	8:18-23	13:53-58	17:22-31

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