

Church

Sunday School lesson

Sermon tells Christians how to live

MAKE PEACE.
(Matthew 5:9; 38-48;
Luke 6:31; 34-36)

"Blessed are the peacemakers: For they shall be called the Children of God." (Matthew 5:9)
The Matthew scripture given for today's study is part of Jesus' sermon on the mount. Christ gave this sermon sometime about the middle of His Galilean ministry; probably A.D. 28. In it, He is not telling us how to be

saved, rather, how we, as Christians, are to live.

Jesus had said, in the preceding verses that He had not come to do away with Jewish laws, but to fulfill them. That is, fill them full. In response to questions put forward by some Jewish leaders, notably the Pharisees, He began re-interpreting the old religion in light of His coming—and the needs of the new day.

It is interesting to note, however, that in each instance where He re-interpreted the law, He did not lower the demand of the law but raised it. In today's scripture verses 38-48 we are given an excellent example of this. Our scripture lesson begins with Matthew 5:9 which is one of the "Beatitudes" which Jesus cited just prior to giving the sermon on the mount.

PEACEMAKING.
(Matthew 5:9)

The Beatitudes each begin with

the word blessed. If the word blessed means "happy" as many theologians believe, then Jesus is saying "happy are the peacemakers." Christ had much to say about peace; He emphasized it. He came to bring peace to the world.

As He said on one occasion, not peace as the world knows it, but an inward personal peace that comes only when people have the right relationship with the Father. However, in this verse of scripture, Jesus is emphasizing the role of peacemaking.

He is speaking of the influence of a life of promoting harmony among people. Paul, when writing the epistle to the church at Rome, said, "How Beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of Peace." (Romans 10:15) In matters of controversy, Christian people ought always be on the side of peace.

JESUS' WAY OF PEACE
(Matthew 5:38; Luke 6:31)

Many years ago I heard an evangelist preach a sermon on the "Four ways to give," referring to Christians' every day interactions with others. He said, "To give good for good is human; to give evil for evil is beastly; to give evil for good is devilish; but to give good for evil is divine."

It was an impressive sermon and I remember most of it. Under the Old Testament law, people were commanded to love God first, and secondly they were to love their neighbors, as noted in the book of Leviticus. It isn't too difficult to love lovely people, however, the problems for people come into play when we are admonished to love the unlovely, evil, despicable people.

That kind of love is not a human trait, and I dare say that humanly speaking it borders on the

impossible. In verse 44 of this scripture text Jesus says, "But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate, and pray for them who despitefully use you, and persecute you."

If we are unable to do this humanly, how then may we fulfill God's command that we do it? If we love, and bless, and do good to those who do us harm it is because of the divine element that is within us. As Christian believers, we are indwelt with God, the Father, God, the Son and God, the Holy Spirit, and they become our enablers.

It is through divine power that we are able to transcend our humanness and love our enemies. The Lord expects us to walk obediently before Him and to walk in daily fellowship with Him, and He will enable us to overcome our human tendencies of actions an re-actions in our relationship with others.

"Be ye therefore merciful, as your father also is merciful." (Luke 6:36)
(Lesson based on the International Sunday School Lessons)

Church News

Women's Aglow to meet

The Elizabeth City of Women's Aglow will meet Saturday, February 15th, 9:00 a.m. at Virginia Dare House on McMorrine Street. Our guest speaker is Jean

Wilson of Currtuck. A brunch will be served. This meeting is open to the public. For more information, call 330-2647.

Semi-Annual Circuit Meet held

More than 1400 Jehovah's Witnesses and friends met Saturday and Sunday at the Washington High School, Washington, N.C. for their Semi-Annual circuit assembly.

The theme of this assembly, according to Kelly Bond, local minister, was "Love For The Worldwide Brotherhood." "Love for one another proved to be absolutely necessary for the disciples of Jesus Christ in the first century. In this 20th Century it is just as necessary that such love be shown. The program was designed to consider many aspects of this love that is so necessary as a bonding agent, holding God's people together in unity and integrity," said Bond.

Principal speaker for the two-day event was D. Raftopoulos from the world headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses. The climax of the two-day assembly came Sunday afternoon when Mr. Raftopoulos spoke on the subject "A Worldwide Brotherhood Saved from Calamity." In his address Mr. Raftopoulos identified the true brotherhood as faithful and

loyal Christians dedicated to declaring abroad Jehovah God's name and the good news of His established kingdom through His son, Jesus Christ. "Among Jehovah's Witnesses there is a real international brotherhood," he said. Raftopoulos also identified the "calamity" to be that which is spoken of in the Bible as Armageddon and pointed out how survival of a worldwide brotherhood was foreshadowed by ancient types, such as Noah and his family, Jehovah's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt, and saving of first-century Christians when Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 C.E. Concluding his address Mr. Raftopoulos drew attention to the Bible's requirement to be saved with the "Worldwide Brotherhood."

One of the highlights of the assembly came Saturday when 8 new Witnesses were baptized. These new ones have joined over three million other Witnesses who spend much of their time teaching the Bible to interested persons free of charge.

First Baptist to hold service

Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m. Morning worship begins at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor London preaching from the subject "The

Fate of God's Word." Luke 8:15. The senior choir is singing under the direction of Mrs. Barbara Shannon.

Fellowship Union to meet

The Perquimans County Fellowship Union will be held at the Melton Grove Baptist Church Winfall, NC. The Rev. Joseph L. Wills and Pooles Grove Baptist

Church will be in charge. The Rev. John W. Law, Host Pastor. The Rev. J. H. London, President. The meeting is scheduled for Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

Gospel Singers to give concert

The Gates County Caranan Gospel Singers will give a concert at St. Paul A.M.E. Zion

Church, Hertford, NC, Sunday, February 23, 1986, at 3:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Church Unity Service held

The Elizabeth City area Ministerial Association sponsored an Ecumenical Prayer Service at the Cornerstone Baptist Church on Sunday, February 2, 1986 at 7:30 p.m. The service was attended by more than 400 members of various denominations in recognition of the nation-wide observance of Church Unity Week.

The Rev. John London, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Hertford and Sister Helen Scanlon, MSBT, Director of Catholic Social Ministries of the Albemarle Region represented Perquimans County.

The Rev. Earl Alexander, Pastor of Pearl Street Pentacostal Church was chairman of this annual event. The Rev. John Trot-

man, President of the Ministerial Association, was host pastor. The sermon, delivered by the Rev. Brad Horgett, Pastor of Northside Assembly of God, was a stirring reminder that we are "Commissioned to Witness to Christ."

Greetings, Scripture texts and prayers were offered by ministers representing Disciples of Christ, Baptist and Lutheran denominations. A combined choir offered hymns of praise accompanied by Dr. Olive Wilson and under their direction of Mrs. Loreta Daniels. The Senior Choir of the host church provided refreshments for all following the service.

Dear Friends,



Prearranging and prefinancing of funerals has become a sensible way to relieve your survivors of that burden at time of death. With prefinancing, the funds are placed in trust with a local bank of your choice. Usually the interest earned exceeds the inflating funeral costs, and a refund to your estate is most probable. Discuss both pre-arrangement and prefinancing with us, at Swindell Funeral Home Inc. Respectfully,

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A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

"LOVE, PEACE, AND JOY"

George Wilmore, Pastor
Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
Hertford, N.C.

When a man who has been living in sins turns from his sins, and turns to God with all his heart, he is met on the threshold of the divine life by these sister graces. The love of God is shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Spirit. The peace of God comes at the same time, and also the joy of the Lord. We can all put the test to ourselves, if we have them. It is not anything that we can make. The great trouble with many is that they are trying to make these graces. They are trying to make love; they are trying to make peace; they are trying to make joy. But they are not creations of human planting. To produce them of ourselves is impossible. That is an act of God. They come from above. It is God who speaks the word and gives the love; it is God who gives the peace; it is God who gives the joy, and we

possess all by receiving Jesus Christ by faith into the heart; for when Christ comes by faith into the heart, then the Spirit is there, and if we have the Spirit, we will have the fruit.

"Make love, not war" as a popular slogan of the last decade. The scriptures say, "God is love", now, how are we going to make God? Love is to be received, and with love comes peace and joy. If the whole church of God would live as the Lord would have them live, Christianity would be the mightiest power this world has ever seen.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law. . . If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Galatians 5:22, 23, 25)

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Cards of Thanks

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who remembered me in their prayers. Also, for the cards, visits, flowers, food, telephone calls and all other expressions of kindness shown me and my family while I was a patient in Albemarle Hospital and since my return home I shall always be grateful.

Iona Baker

The family of Daniel Robertson would like to thank their friends, families, and neighbors for the prayers, visits, cards, food and other acts of kindness bestowed upon us at the death of our loved one. Your thoughtfulness and expressions of kindness will always be remembered.

Clodie Hunter and family,
Polly Robertson,
Raymond (Funnyboy) Rogerson and family

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the flowers, visits, gifts, and prayers since my surgery. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

Cheryl Phillips