

**Weekly Devotional Column**  
By JAMES MACKENZIE

You're a grand old flag,  
You're a high-flying flag,  
And forever in peace may you wave;  
You're the emblem of  
The land I love,  
The home of the free and the brave;  
Every heart beats true  
For the red, white and blue,  
Where there's never a boast or brag;  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
Keep your eye on the grand old flag.

So sang George M. Cohan some forty years ago (as I recall the words of the song). Not the greatest poetry ever written; nor entirely true in that line about never a boast or brag, but all of us will agree with the sentiment. "Keep your eye on the grand old flag." Not so easy a task as it once was. On Veterans' Day I noticed flags in front of a few places of business, in front of one church (St. Ann's), and by all public buildings, but I didn't see a single flag displayed by a private home. Time was, and not so long ago, when every home blossomed forth with an American flag on patriotic holidays. Time was—but no more. We have abandoned the custom. Why? Certainly not because we are less patriotic than then. Because it is impossible to buy a large display flag in Edenton? Perhaps—but they may be ordered, at very low cost, from the

mail-order store. Because we see no special value in displaying the flag on our homes? Because no one else does it? Because we are no longer in the habit?

Whatever the reason, I cannot help but feel we have abandoned a custom that should have been continued. In these times of international stress and conflicting loyalties we do well to do everything in our power to display and encourage love for our nation and its ideals. How much it would mean to our children to see the flag they are taught to honor in school displayed in front of our homes—and how it would impress tourists passing through our community! It is through visible symbols we often express and increase our loyalty to God and country; and what more beloved symbol of American than the grand old flag?

Therefore I would like to suggest that one of the veteran organizations, or the Boy Scouts, sponsor a campaign to have the American flag displayed in front of every home in Edenton on every national holiday. Civic clubs could enlist their members to be responsible for displaying the flag in front of their own homes. The newspaper and radio station can help publicize the correct dates for display of the American flag. They are:

- New Year's Day
- Lincoln's Birthday
- Washington's Birthday
- Mother's Day
- Memorial Day
- Flag Day (June 14)
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Veterans' Day
- Christmas Day.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

Continued from Page 2—Section 2

Mark 3:1-6 portrays Jesus' grief over the hardness of heart in the minds of some Pharisees and Herodians. They were more interested in strict obedience to the Old Testament law than in service to their fellows. Jesus healed the paralytic on the sabbath, and the law-minded went into a huddle to decide how to destroy him.

Jesus ran the gauntlet of displeasure and disapproval on all sides with his new and different viewpoint; by the very nature of his beliefs and practices his clash with Judaism was unavoidable and inescapable. He was aware of the inner quality of his divinity, and when for this reason he asserted his power to forgive sins, the Jews thought him arrogant. The conflicts related in the passages we are studying today help

illustrate the great conflict that existed between Jesus and entrenched Judaism. His most formidable opposition came from this quarter.

Today Christ is harassed not only by the same forces that opposed him in the past, but also by

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others, some of which are even more subtle. Material prosperity can quickly switch us from dependence on God to dependence on human ingenuity. A church that prides itself on its forms of godliness but shrinks from the task of bringing the good news of redemption to sophisticated men and women because it may have to face ridicule is falling back into the evils of Judaism which Jesus took to task so zealously. Christ was morally courageous and we who are his disciples should give evidence that we are of the same mold.

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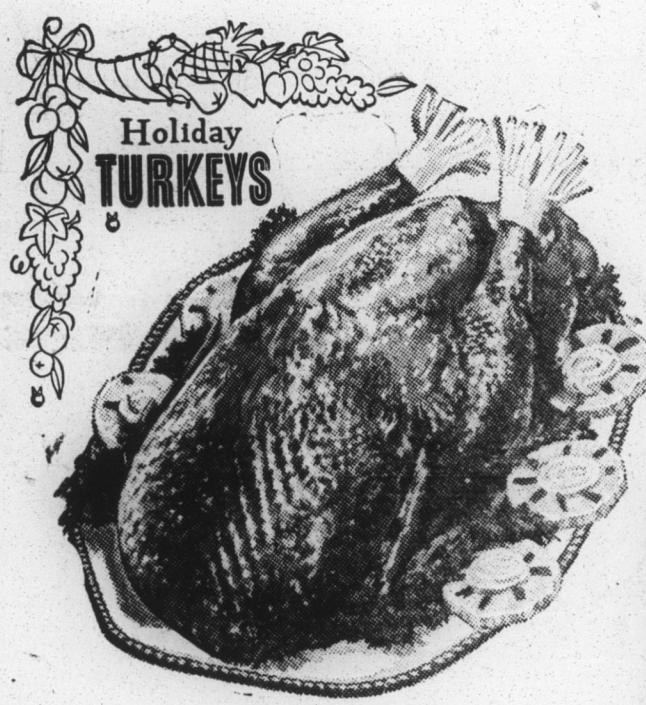
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