

# The Sunday School Lesson

by John R. Brayboy, Salem Missionary Baptist Church

Acting on Faith  
Joshua 3:7-17

Outline  
I. Joshua Receives God's Promise and Instructions (Joshua 3:7-8)  
II. Joshua's Instructions to Show Faith (v. 9-13)  
III. The Power of Faith Displayed (v. 14-17)

I. Joshua Receives God's Promise and Instructions (Joshua 3:7-8)

Joshua had made preparations to receive the land that God had promised His people. Now it was time to act on faith. God instructed Joshua that it was time to move and take the land. Israel faced a great obstacle. The Jordan River was at flood stage and was dangerous to cross. If one was to evaluate this situation on the surface, the response would be that we must wait until flooding recedes. God does not always deal in practicalities, but in impossibilities. God can only test our faith when situations are difficult and we cannot see light at the end of the tunnel. Joshua and Caleb had faced impossible circumstances in their exodus from Egypt. It is easy to trust God when we have no barriers in our way, when we've got a job, food on the table, money in the bank, etc. But when we are at our rope's end, we can be faced with a difficult situation. God told Joshua to send the tribe of Levi to step into the Jordan first with the Ark of the Covenant. God would lead the way, the people had only to obey and trust Him. God told Joshua

that he would have the respect of Israel as their leader that day. It was a test of faith for Joshua, as well as the priest. When we exercised faith to please God, He will enable us to do whatever He wants us to do. Also, others will recognize that we are following Christ and His will in our lives.

II. Joshua's Instructions to Show Faith (v. 9-13)

Joshua gathered the people together to give them the words of the Lord. He told them that God was among them and that He would move their enemies. The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord would go ahead of them to prepare the way. Israel was about to see a miracle of God. Remember that this was a new generation of Israelites, except for Joshua and Caleb. They were not part of the group who crossed the Red Sea. Every tribe was told to pick a representative to represent them as they crossed Jordan. God had instructed Joshua that the people were to say 3000 feet behind the Ark of the Covenant. As soon as the priest's feet touched the Jordan, the waters would be cut off so that the Israelites could walk across on dry land. When we act on faith, God will remove obstacles out of our way for us to do His will.

III. The Power of Faith Displayed (v. 14-17)

When people put their trust in God, He will make things happen for them. The Christian way is a faith way, and we must walk by faith. We do not

always have a rosy path to follow, but God is always there to provide for and protect us. Israel obeyed God and acted on faith. It was threefold in that Joshua acted, then the priests acted, and then all the Israelites acted. Today church congregations ought to do as the Israelites when the pastor acts on faith, the congregation ought to follow. When the priests stepped into the water as Joshua had instructed them to do, the flood waters were cut off and rose up in a heap, not only the waters of the Jordan, but all the streams that dumped into the Jordan were cut off. All of Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.

Can you remember a time in your life that you exercised faith and God did the seemingly impossible for you? Remember when you were lost and you acted on faith to trust God for salvation. God saved you as He said He would. Thank God for the miracle of the new birth. Now, dear sinner, you need the miracle of the new birth, but in order to receive it you must act on faith. Jesus says come, believe and repent, and He will save you. Now it is up to you. Remember, Israel could not have crossed Jordan had they not trusted God and gone God's way. There is only one way to eternal life and that is through Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. People may go to hell any way they choose but they can only go to heaven in the way God has chosen. Accept Jesus as your personal savior today.

God bless you until next week.

## Ol' Wiz Wisdom from the Country

Dear Miss Connee, as you know, the Bro. James A. Hunt, preacher at Deep Branch Baptist Church said he would not call for a run off in the race for Tribal Chairman. That means that Bro. Dalton Brooks is the first Lumbee to hold the title Tribal Chairman. Ol' Wiz is glad he lived to see this history being made. That and our first tribal council I am mighty proud of my people. I have to say that Bro. Hunt done the big thing. You know, Miss Connee, not many people are willing to do the big thing. Most people want only what's good for them. But Bro. Hunt just done the big thing and said we need to get on to other things. I am mighty proud that I know him. When the run off election is over Sept. 24, Ol' Wiz wants to be there to see that first council and the first Chairman sworn in. History in the making. It's enough to make a old man happy. Miss Connee.

Here of late, Miss Connee, I'm been keeping up with that felon thing at the board of education. The way Ol' Wiz sees it, some of them people that's a hollering about hiring felons ain't necessarily telling the truth. Seems to me that that Sellers woman's real problem is that she don't like the idea of Miss Connee, of Indians being in charge.

I was real surprised to read in that Lumberton paper that our district attorney, Johnson Britt, was saying some things about felons. I hope that Mr. Britt ain't one of them whites that thinks Indians should stay in their place. Now, Miss Connee, I'm been reading behind that policy change since the board of education said they

would take applications from ex-felons. Seems to me, Miss Connee, that all that fuss them folks is making is sort of like a smoke screen, it's a hiding the real thing. I would be mighty disappointed, Miss Connee, to find out that the upcoming District Attorney don't care nothing for Indians. When I looks at all the fuss and read that Lumberton paper, Miss Connee, I spect the real trouble is Mr. Purnell Swett is a Indian and is being paid a good salary in his job as head of the schools. Funny thing, Miss Connee, I didn't see not one Black nor one Indian at that board meeting with that Sellers woman. I wish, Miss Connee, people would just come honest. If they don't want Indians in charge, they ought to say so in plain every day language instead of trying to hide it behind policy changes.

I expect, Miss Connee, if we knowed the truth behind these actions, we'd find out that some of these white folks is mad cause they think Glenn Maynor's gonna be the sheriff. Some how things bothers some of these white folks more if Indians is in good paying jobs. I don't remember all this fuss about ol' Young Allen when he was in charge of our schools. In them times, we Indians had to raise a fuss, get us lawyers and pray a lot to git where we are now. And they ain't no way, Miss Connee, that we're gonna be going backwards. I just hope, Miss Connee, that our new district attorney don't feel the way some of these other white folks do. If he does, we're gonna be in one mess when he takes over that district attorney's

office. I really want to know, Miss Connee, if he and other people that was elected in May is gonna be good Democrats. I want to know, Miss Connee, if he's gonna vote for Glenn Maynor. Course, you know, Miss Connee, the way it is, the way folks vote is their own business. But I'm got a feeling deep in my bones that some of these white people in Lumberton is a wanting to rile up the white folks about us Indians having everthing. You see, Miss Connee, if they can do that, they can make sure that no whites don't be a voting for Glenn Maynor. Us Indians is got to keep us a eye open for them folks that is racial and don't want to come out and say it. I'm mighty glad, Miss Connee, that I'm learned to read the pages and that stuff that ain't wrote down.

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## Readers' Forum

### Reader Sees Hope in Eyes of Indian Children

Dear Ms. Connee

As I look around I see something that I didn't notice before. There is hope in the eyes of some of our children. Yes, there are a few that the worlds has not been able to bring down with them, and they have hope. I know many of you are asking where is that hope coming from? I can guarantee you it doesn't come from anything foolish, or else it would not last. It is as if they know something we don't (meaning us adults). It is like they know a secret we don't know. I think to myself and say maybe we as adults have just forgotten it. You know they say memory is one of the first things to go on as an adult. Then, I thought maybe it is because they have ore energy. You know, none of us an do the things we used to do. And some of us shouldn't do the things we do.

Now, before I go further, I want to say I am not talking about everyone but sometimes hearing someone else medicine is a good preventive medicine. Therefore, just as I am not talking about all adults, I am not talking about all students. Working with children as closely as I do, I hear a lot of interesting things. This is some of the things they say about adults. One of the biggest complaints is "we don't listen to them." If Rap music is what the young people are trying to say, then I agree with the idea of what they are saying isn't worth hearing. They say we have one set of rules for them and another set for ourselves. One student said, "They put down our heroes, but they don't give us any reason to look up to them." There was a lot of anger and truth in what this young person said, which I will go into in great detail.

You know, when I was growing up I had grandparents, Danny and Cassie Chavis. They would listen to me. I had an Aunt Ader Lowry who listened to me. And I loved listening to them. I tell kids today that before everyone had TVs and a little after, people talked with one another. But you can tell kids whose parents listen to them because those kids are great listeners themselves. As far as their heroes, let's just say they don't have a lot of good ones to chose from. Not when their heroes are overpaid sports figures and Rap stars who only want to shock people. What I tell students is this: the real heroes of today are like the Lion on the Wizard of Oz. They don't wear

medals, most never receive recognition at all. They are our parents, or those who took time to raise us, to see that we got to school and church. They put clothes on our backs and food on our tables. Sometimes I wonder if we have gotten too caught up in the "I want my child to have it better than I did" habit. What happens is that we end up giving our children things instead of the one thing they need the most which is us.

To me heroes don't have to leap high buildings, nor are they faster than a speeding bullet. As a matter of fact, many of them have lost a step or two. Now, as for the different set of rules, remember that James 5:12 says "Let you vea be vear and your nay, nay, lest ye fall into condemnation." We must always remember, we all learn by examples. Be an example not an exception to the rule. As much as some people make not like to admit it, we can't ell if we are a good example by the kind of children we have. Then there are those children who are just naturally mean as grandma's snuff, no matter if the preacher or a Sunday school teacher is their parent.

The children with hope in their eyes are raised a special, certain way. They are told they can, not they can't. Because they grow up in church, their faith is in God, not foolishness. Their heroes are real people, like you. True, we all make mistakes, but a true hero never stops trying to do better the next time. So the next time things get out of hand and you don't have time to explain things, or you said one thing and did another, remember someone is watching and learning from you. The effects you have today are hard ones to try and change tomorrow. Today more than ever it is hard to raise children right. But the Good Books has a lot to say about raising children. We all remember Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." I know many of you are saying who is he to talk about children, he has none of his own. Well, you don't have to put your hand in the fire to tell it is hot. I also remembered something I was told, "The secret to working with kids is to never forget you were one at one time."

In the True Way,

Derek Lowry

## Indian Voice! Governor Hunt Signs Proclamation For NC

Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. recently signed a proclamation declaring September 8, 1994 as International Literacy Day, and the entire month of September, 1994 as "North Carolina Literacy Month."

The proclamation states, in part, "The non reader in today's society faces overwhelming challenges that result in stress, monetary loss, and a lower quality of life. Almost 40 percent of those aged 16 and older in North Carolina need some form of literacy education. For those individuals, simple daily activities become difficult or impossible. Fortunately, this condition can easily be remedied."

The North Carolina Press Association and the United States Postal Service, in cooperation with the Governor's Office and the National Council on Literacy, are sponsoring a special observance to increase public awareness about the importance of literacy in our state.

Throughout the month of September, daily and weekly newspapers, television and radio stations nationwide will be offering the opportunity to join in publishing articles and running stories that outline the economic and societal importance of literacy and encourage readers to become involved in sharing the gift of reading with others.

The need for literacy education in Robeson County is more critical than mother, quinnies. Reading this article, reading a menu, shopping in a supermarket, or reading simple instructions on the job are all but impossible for about half our population.

If you think that you might be able to help, please call Sarah Whited at the Robeson County Church and Community Center at (910) 738-5204 or Lou Brewington at Robeson Community College at (910) 738-1011.

by Bill Hunt  
Special Correspondent

## INDIAN HERITAGE WEEK 1994 at Pembroke State University

September 11..... **N.A.S.O. Awards Banquet**  
7 PM, Old Foundry Restaurant

September 12..... **"Geronimo" (movie)**  
8 PM, Moore Hall  
No admission charge

September 13..... **Indian Stories and Legends**  
by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear  
Indian flute selections by Tony Clark  
10 AM, Performing Arts Center  
Public school classes welcome  
No admission charge

September 13..... **POWWOW**  
4 PM until..... Campus Quad, beside Old Main  
Traditional Indian music, dance, arts, crafts & foods  
Indian flute selections by Tony Clark  
Indian Storytelling by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear  
Traditional crafts demonstrations by John Jeffries  
Host Drum..... Stoney Creek  
Master of Ceremonies..... Ray Littleturtle  
No admission charge

September 15..... **N.A.S.O. Dance**  
10 PM, Chavis University Center  
PSU students \$1 / guests \$3

For information call (910) 521-6282.  
PSU Indian Heritage Week events are sponsored by  
Native American Resource Center, Native American Student Organization,  
Performing Arts Center, Office of Student Activities,  
Student Government Association, Lumbee Regional Development Association  
and by a grant from the Grassroots Arts Section of the North Carolina Arts Council.

## The Intertribal Council of Elders

is looking for members from all Carolina tribes, groups, and bands to aid in Traditional Heritage, Cultural, Spiritual Gatherings.

For More information call Spotted Turtle at (910) 521-4178, Painted Turtle at (910) 521-0020 or Wild Turkey at (910) 521-2826. Or write in care of the Carolina Indian Voice, P.O. Box 1075, Pembroke, NC 28372. Fax (910) 521-1975.

