

The Sunday School Lesson

by John R. Brayboy, Salem Missionary Baptist Church

I. Turning Away from God (V. 11-13)

A foolish that Israel had a continual failing memory. They forgot God's delivering them many times, giving them the Land, and even their commitment to serve God. Joshua had told them that when they made the commitment to serve God that they were a witness against themselves. Now Joshua has died, and there is no central leader. God allows us to make choices, but if they are bad choices we will suffer the consequences. Even though Israel knew the right choices to make they decided to follow after other gods. They chose to serve Baalim (plural for Baal), in other words many gods. Israel had turned from the Lord God of their fathers, and turned to serve the gods of the people around them. When we take our eyes on God, we fall into danger of being caught up in the world's trap. Those that are around may influence us into doing things that are contrary to God. Lost people had no allegiance to God, therefore they have no desire to please Him. Therefore, when Christians choose to fellowship with them, they do not elevate them to the Christian level but are dragged down to their level. Also, when we let up in serving God, the devil can paint us a pretty picture of what the world has to offer, an cause us to desire it. Israel at their guard down and forgot the God of their fathers, so that the gods of their neighbors looked very appealing to them. They simply decided contrary to what they have committed to do, they chose to serve Baalim and Asaroth. These gods supposedly controlled the elements and could bring good crops and fertility. People today are not a whole lot different from Israel. They are looking for pleasure and an easy, prosperous life; therefore, they will serve or worship whatever it takes to get what they want.

II. God's Judgment (V. 14-15)

God's anger was kindled against Israel for their behavior. God put them into the hands of their enemies. Everything that they attempted to do turned into disaster. Things got so bad that their enemies overtook them. It is a dangerous thing to walk contrary to God's will especially if you are a child of God. Everything that they did or tried to do went sour. After a while if things go wrong long enough one can get distressed, and that's what happened to Israel.

III. God's Provision of Judges (V. 16-17)

Even when the consequences of our choices comes upon us God is willing to forgive us, and come to our rescue if we will repent. God's grace is accessible even when we walk contrary to His will. Even as judgment was on Israel God heard their distressful cry, and made provisions for them. The same God who brought them out of Egypt, that parted the Red sea, that gave the victory at Jericho, and that passed judgment on them was willing to extend grace to them again.

The grace of God is ready and available when people are ready to accept it. God gave them Judges with the spirit of God upon them to deliver them. Israel would not listen to the judges. Israel was like many people today they wanted to be delivered from their present trouble, but let them go on living the way they were. God being a loving God heard Israel's cry and delivered them. Israel's problem was that they looked to the judges to help them instead of putting their trust in God. Many people today look to the pastor or some very spiritual person for help when in trouble instead of seeking or turning to God. It is important to heed the man of God when he instructs us from the word of God, but he cannot save or deliver anyone. It is God who saves or delivers

us. God heard Israel's cry for help and was grieved. Even though God raised up judges to deliver Israel they went a whoring after other gods. They even went so far as to bow down and worship them.

IV. The People's Apostasy (V. 19)

A lot of people can go to church faithfully and serve God as long as they like the pastor; but if the church gets a new pastor many will not go to church. Many people will not go to church if they know that the pastor will not be there. The question here is "did the pastor save you or did God?" Israel was doing well as long as the judge lived, but when he died they turned back to the pagan gods. They became more corrupt than their fathers. Like Israel many people today want to do their own thing and refuse to follow God. When people make that choice then they must face the consequences of their choice. Someone said that the prodigal's son could have turned around anywhere along the road to the piggens, and have gone home; but he chose to suffer the consequence of eating with the swine before he would go home. We have choices in this life that we must make; and after we make them we must live with the consequences. If we choose to seek God's will and leadership in our lives we will be pleased with the consequences and enjoy the blessings of God. If we make wrong choices then we will not want to reap the consequences. If you are not saved and you choose to reject the risen savior then the consequences of your decision will be to spend eternity in hell. What will your answer be? For the saved remember the choices you make can be blessings or can bring disaster. May God Bless all of you until next week.

Pembroke BPW's Organization



The Pembroke Business and Professional Women's Organization held their monthly meeting on September 12th at 7:00 p.m. at Pembroke State University Chavis Center the highlight of the program was awarding of our scholarship by Geraldine Maynor to Glostoria (Dottie) Locklear a student at Pembroke State University majoring in Business Education with a 4.0 average. Ms. Locklear said her goals, was to be able to encourage my students to strive for the highest standards possible and to provide comfortably for my daughter and myself a good education opens the door for this opportunity to be a role model to my community for individuals who are seeking promotion and advancement through education.

I am currently a student worker in the financial aid office at Pembroke State University. I work approximately 15-20 hours per week.

House of Representative, Frances Cummings, was the guest speaker at the Pembroke Business and Professional Women's club on Monday, September 12th at Pembroke State University Chavis Center.

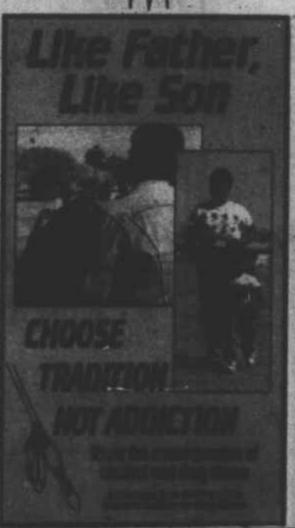
Encouraging BPW members to get involved in Politics. Ms Cummings requested that women seek office at the state level and let state legislators know that they want to get involved.

Some issues affecting women have been shared by various women's groups with state legislators. As a result, four major concerns included: Reducing violence against women, creating jobs, promote peace, and protect the environment.

It has been exciting, stated Ms. Cummings as she shared her experience in the political endeavors.

Her presentation ended in challenging BPW members to empower themselves with knowledge and skills.

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Reflections by Alta Nye Oxendine

"THE O.J. SIMPSON CASE"

I keep thinking: "I'm NOT going to watch that story on TV today. But, on several different days, I've done just that. When this man was in his white Bronco going down the freeway, reportedly with a gun to his head, I found myself praying that he would NOT take his own life, whether or not he had already taken the lives of two other people. So, like a lot of other people, I was relieved to hear that he was out of the car, surrendering to police at his own home. And, seeing his face looking more alive has been encouraging to me. However, I would not want anyone (including him) to literally "get away with murder". By the way, I'm one person who did not keep up with sports at all when he was playing football. Until this crime he been committed, I barely knew the man's name.

If we are going to keep up with this case, either by TV or by newspaper, perhaps we can learn some lessons. I've been impressed with the court process necessary to even bring the man TO a real trial. Surely this tedious step-by-step process must be a lot more fair than many methods used in other countries. And, by the way, even though there were vigilante groups out west, including my family's Madison County, I do not believe that many communities in the "old West" would have approved of "gunning down" a man just because he had somehow wronged you. I was REALLY disappointed with the way that KEPT you I was REALLY disappointed with the way that KEPT you. I was REALLY disappointed with the way that KEPT happening in "The

Returning of Lonesome Dove" (much of which was filmed in Montana). Wonder how much of this will be in the new Lonesome Dove series.

The Simpson case has also called attention to spouse abuse. In most cases, that means husbands abusing their wives. But sometimes it's the other way around! I appreciate the fact that lots of people through the years have felt free to confide in me. But I was surprised to learn, a number of years ago, that an intelligent professor had been the victim of physical abuse on the part of his wife. A lot of things work both ways. Often it's hard to figure out which person started things. Likely, in many cases, both partners have done things (perhaps innocently) which got on each other's nerves. Of course violence (even verbal) can create a LOT more problems than it can solve!

I do hope that O.J. gets a fair trial. There is still a chance that some unknown assailant was responsible for that tragedy that took the lives of two apparently innocent people.

CEDRAS AND ARISTIDE

According to an article in this week's Washington Post National Weekly Edition, Jimmy Carter has said that Cedras once saved Aristide's life. I wish we could get both sides of the story in every situation. For seven years I've been trying hard to study all sides. This is the person I've invested so much time (and quite a lot of money) in my personal research.

Let's keep the whole world in our prayers!

LREMC Participates in Educational Grant Program

Lumbee River EMC, in cooperation with Carolina Electric Cooperatives, is participating in an educational grant program for North Carolina teachers and principals in public schools grades K-12.

Lumbee River EMC, headquartered in Red Springs, will distribute more than \$10,500 in calendar year 1995 to teachers and principals in schools in or near its service area. Grants will be awarded for projects in any discipline and are intended to help school personnel enhance their efforts to produce a better-educated work force.

The Bright Ideas Grant Program developed by Carolina Electric Cooperatives will make available \$225,000 in mini-grants to support innovative, creative and effective initiatives that can not be covered by traditional school financing.

Bright Ideas Grants will offer

teachers and principals an opportunity to incorporate creative teaching techniques in their classrooms without tapping school budgets and without having to cover the expense out of their own pockets," said Ronnie Hunt, LREMC's General Manager.

"This is just one more way the co-op has of showing we are committed to the communities we serve. LREMC's Youth Program presently offers scholarships, trips to Washington, DC and classroom instruction on electrical safety. The Bright Ideas grant will be a great addition to our program," said Marketing Manager, Alan Smith. "We hope to have the applications distributed to area principals in the first week of October."

Lumbee River serves more than 36,000 members in Robeson, Cumberland, Hoke and Scotland counties.

Readers' Forum

Reader Cancels Robesonian Subscription Stating Blatant Racism as Reason

Well, the Robesonian never ceases to amaze me with its, in my opinion, ever present biased reporting. The ideology depicted in Sunday's issue (9-25-94) make tapes like "You Know You're a Redneck When" a top best-seller. I would like to address several of these articles.

The first to grasp my attention was "History will be made in November." Norm Morton should have been made Sanderson for Sheriff campaign manager, in my way of thinking. Throughout his over-view of sheriff's candidate, Glenn Maynor, he continually set the tone to down grade and discredit Mr. Maynor's aptitude and ability. On the other hand Mr. James Sanderson was given a Four Stars and Two Thumbs up summation. With all the great press Mr. Sanderson received you would have thought he was running for President instead of a mere sheriff's position.

While shaking my head in disbelief I came upon comments made in another article which really stuck in my craw. James Hardin, Executive Director of LRDA, reports that the tribal government's role under the constitution is basically to bring home the golden egg and that's federal recognition. This statement is a fallacy. At no time does the constitution define governmental roles as solely federal recognition capacities. This is Mr. Hardin's way of passing the buck in the event federal recognition efforts fail, I believe. The constitution and tribal government are a result of a people's self-recognition and their intentions of moving forward without regard to the status of the Lumbee Bill. Ken Freeman, President of Pembroke Chamber of Commerce, wishes to know our newly elected government's vision mission and goals. The government's mission is defined in the constitution. Had you taken the time to read the document your answer could have been found within the constitution preamble and

role descriptions of government officials. Goals and visions must come from the chair and individual council members. You may not know where this government is going, Ken, but I'm sure if you asked your council members they could give you some much needed insight. This is a formal government not an organization. When you speak of do nothing organizations I visualize the Human Relations Council, now defunct, which is in my opinion, you helped to bury.

How persons such as Hardin and Freeman, who appear to have such limited intelligence, acquired positions within Lumbee Society is beyond the scope of logical thinking! I feel they are prime examples of those infamous Indian Crickets.

Heaven forbid that I not mention the O.H. Lewis, Jr. commentary where the Board of Elections, member Mitchell Locklear was crucified, dead and buried. At no time did Mr. Lewis offer quote or any content thereof to confirm his allegations against Mr. Locklear. Do you feel your mere word is proof enough, Mr. Lewis to condemn Mr. Locklear? The real truth of the matter is that you can't handle an Indian being in Mr. Locklear's capacity on the board, in my opinion. I feel sure that if Mr. Locklear had been a Mr. Britt instead there would not have been a need for any commentary.

The reporter who was sarcastically addressed would not have by any chance have been Brant "Bubba" Clifton now would it? I'm sure the king of Dirty Laundry (as I think of Mr. Clifton) must know what goes around comes around, besides you have to have feelings in order for them to be hurt. By no means is Brant Clifton a lamb! A wolf in sheep's clothing maybe, definitely not a lamb. Those thirty pieces of silver were given to Judas not Sitting Bull!

In my opinion, you, Mr. Lewis, are a racist work of art. I'm sure you

would have made Catfish Cole proud!

In your feature article I was appalled to see a photograph which showed Tom Lowry's body proudly displayed by the Wishart Brothers and friend. I have seen photographs such as this at my local sporting goods store. Tom Lowry's body was just like a prized Ten Pointer shot that a hunter proudly displays. It is one thing to question ability, aptitude or integrity, it is another to depict a people as a prized KILL.

Throughout the Sunday issue I saw Norm Morton proudly display Glenn Maynor's body. I saw O.H. Lewis Jr., proudly display Mitchell Locklear's body then I suddenly saw the big picture: The Robesonian proudly displaying the bodies of people of color. All of which were prized KILLS!

I strongly urge you to review your lists of subscribers. I would assure you that many are people of color; predominately Indian. I am only one of these, but I have grown weary of what I perceive as your continual, blatant racist attitude. I will no longer be a financial contributor to what I believe is such outright displays of bigotry. Therefore my subscription shall be terminated. With God's help after November 8th you will be made fully aware that white is not always right, black will no longer get back and Red is not dead; We are Alive. Well and Voting!

Wendy Moore Ledwell



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.

