

The Sunday School Lesson

John Brayboy, Salem
Missionary Baptist Church

Prepare for a New Life (Matthew 3:1-5)

Outline

- I. John's Preaching (Matthew 3:1-4)
- II. The People's Response (Matthew 3:5-6)
- III. John's Rebuke (Matthew 3:7-12)
- IV. The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-15)

I. John's Preaching (Matthew 3:1-4)

The Gospel message of Jesus Christ is an unusual message even today. It was very unusual in John's day because many people were religious, but not righteous. The prophet Isaiah had prophesied the messenger John the Baptist 400 years prior to his coming. John came preaching in the wilderness of Judea. He preached the message of repentance, telling the people that the kingdom of heaven was at hand. It was a different message than people had been hearing. They were being taught that by religious practices they could please God. They were somewhat like those folks who Paul warned Timothy about in his letter. They had a form of godliness but denied the power thereof.

John the Baptist's purpose was to prepare the way for the Messiah to come who had been prophesied of by the Old Testament prophets of the long ago. John's gospel was of repentance, a message of turning away from sins. To repent means to have a change of mind or direction. When people truly repent, they will live and act differently.

II. The People's Response (Matthew 3:5-6)

Even though John had an unusual message that he preached, many believed and repented of their sins. Today the problem with a lot of people

is that they go to church regularly but don't think they have anything that they need to repent of. It is said to say but there are many who are faithful to the house of God who do not know Jesus in the pardon and forgiveness of sins. When people respond to the gospel sincerely, there will be a change made in their life. Lots of people today are confused because they are being told to do these best they can and everything will be alright. I remind you that Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3: 5 "Ye must be born again." Jesus is the way the truth and the life. There is only one way to heaven and that is through the blood of Jesus Christ, the son of God. Jesus said if you try to make it any other way, you are a thief and a robber, none of which will be in heaven.

Many believed John the Baptist's message of repentance and came to the Jordan to be baptized and confessed their sins.

III. John's Rebuke (Matthew 3:7-12)

Some might say that John's message to the Pharisees and Sadducees was harsh, but sometimes folks need to hear the harsh facts. Lost people need to know and recognize that they are lost, and realize that Jesus is the only one who can save them. John told those religionists to bring something worthy for repentance. Of course, he knew that they could not do that. We have got religious groups in our county today who are telling people that they can work their way to heaven without repenting of sin. I warn you, if you believe that, you will die and go to hell. What grandma and grandpa done is not sufficient for my sin. Oh had to have the blood of Jesus applied to my life, and so will you, if you see God in peace. John the Baptist's message of repentance was with water. That is to say that people confessed their sins and to prove that

that there was a change, they accepted baptism as a testimony that their lives were changed. Let me say there that contrary to what some may say, baptism by water is not essential to salvation. One can be submerged in every water hole in Robeson County, but if he has not had forgiveness for his sins by Jesus Christ, he will go to hell. We find in Acts, Chapter 19 that some of John the Baptist's followers were met by Paul who had never heard the gospel of

Jesus Christ, but when they heard it they accepted it. John spoke of a greater messenger than he that was to come who he was not worthy to tie his shoe laces. Jesus' baptism would be of the holy ghost and fire. Those who were baptized of Jesus would have the holy spirit living in them and have the power of God to enable them to live pleasing to God. John could not separate and judge people, but the one whom he spoke about could and would. The gospel message of Jesus Christ will separate people one way or the other. Christians today more than ever, need to cry out the message of the good news of Jesus Christ, that he saves those who are lost, if they will acknowledge their sins and repent.

IV. The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-15)

Jesus came to John at the Jordan to be baptized of him. John recognized Jesus, but was hesitant to baptize Jesus because he was not worthy and felt the need to be baptized by Jesus. Whenever we realize that we need to be touched by Jesus, then we can allow God to be Lord of our lives. Jesus, as John said, did not need to be baptized of him. Jesus was simply fulfilling the righteousness of God. Simply put, Jesus was being obedient to the will of God. As I said, baptism is not essential to salvation, but it is an example set by Jesus that we should follow. It is an outward testimony to the world that we have had an inward change in our lives. We have put the old man to death and raised the new man in our lives. II Corinthians 5:17 says "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed way, behold all things are new."

I urge you to accept the gospel of Jesus Christ in your heart today. God bless you.

Sha-Na-Na's Honored

by Anetra Dial

PSHS Living History Club competed in the N.C. Theater Arts Competition on November 22 at the Givens Performing Arts Center in Pembroke.

Under the direction of John Hodges, the Sha-Na-Nas received 30 "excellent" ratings out of a possible 50 with Priscilla Woods receiving Honorable Mention in acting and John Hodges the Excellence in Directing Award.

So far the Sha-Na-Nas have performed at the Robeson County Fair, Pemberton Rest Home and the N.C. Theater Arts Competition. The group will also be performing at the Lumberton Civic Center in January.

Mr. Hodges would like to give a big personal thank you to the cast and the students and parents who have supported the Living History Club.

Students Attend NASA Day

by Anetra L. Dial

Purnell Sweet NAS Club students attended NASA Day at the Indian Education Resource Center on November 5.

Along with the club advisors, Robert N. Brayboy and Sharon Locklear, the students enjoyed the day which consisted of a visualization-spirituality ceremony given by Kayron Maynor and Indian Sign Language taught by Darlene Cummings. Remarks were given by Dr. Dalton P. Brooks, Chairman of the Lumbee Tribe.

A solo performance was given by Lorna McNeill, Miss Lumbee. Other events consisted of craft workshops and a speech given by Dr. Jeff Collins, DDS, and Ruth Locklear on the Lumbee Constitution. A mini-pow wow was also held and an evaluation of crafts.

Advisor Robert N. Brayboy commented "More students enjoyed craft workshops, the cook out and the speakers. The six county high school NASA club were in attendance."

Readers Forum

Rep. Ron Sutton Responds to Allegations by Rep. Cummings

To the Editor
During the most recent campaign, I decided to stand by and not publicly comment on the statements and advertisements of Rep. Frances M. Cummings, North Carolina House of Representatives, District 87. While most of her initial comments surrounding the highly effective Democratic ad supporting a Straight Democratic Ticket were accurate, she has now moved beyond the point in which I can conscientiously withhold public comment.

In the November 24 edition of the Community News Advertiser, she alleges that I asked her to send me a "mugshot" for the ad and infers that I am one of the "irresponsible leaders" in Robeson County.

The following is given as a background to the much talked about ad. After discussions within Democratic Party circles, a decision was made to publish a straight ticket ad. I was asked by Wade Sealey, the Democratic Party Chairman, to prepare the ad and solicit the authority of the General Assembly Delegation to use their names and pictures in the ad. Others were designated to contact non-delegation members.

At the time no one expected Rep. Cummings to object to the ad since she is a Black representative elected in a predominantly Black Democratic House District that was specifically designed so that a Black should be elected.

When I first called Rep. Cummings on a Wednesday she agreed to the ad. Then she called me back about fifteen minutes later and said to hold her name off until I heard from her after the weekend. At her request, I mailed a draft of the ad to her. The ad draft had a notation on the top "with pictures."

Early the next Monday morning Rep. Cummings called and acknowledged that she had received the copy and said to leave her name and picture off the ad. I complied and the ad was published without her name or picture.

Following her decision not to include her name and picture in the ad, I have not discussed the ad or its publication in the newspaper with her. At no time was the term "mugshot" mentioned. In fact, we presumed the newspaper had photos of all those listed in the ad.

As for Rep. Cummings' right to withhold her endorsement of a straight Democratic ticket, certainly that is a political decision that she made. That's why I did not publicly get involved in what I perceived to be her recent self-induced political destruction within the Democratic Party. However, I do

Take exception to her statement concerning the "irresponsible leaders." Obviously, she failed to recognize that the straight Democratic ticket was a political strategy, a highly effective

one I'm proud to admit. The recent Robeson County vote will attest to that. Her failure to be personally consulted about developing the strategy should tell her something about her past stature within the Democratic Party.

Now that Rep. Cummings has publicly opted to become a Republican, it is a moot point. Certainly she should give them something to be proud about. When a party has no elected officials at all in the entire county, then any Democratic converttee should be welcomed with open arms.

Certainly, I cannot comment on how the Republicans feel about Rep. Cummings joining their party. However, I am confident they are no happier to see her coming than the Democrats are to see her going!

The above factual account of the origin of the straight ticket ad is accurate. Any version to the contrary is absolutely untrue, no matter how many Biblical quotes may appear within a rebuttal. Therefore, having set the record straight on this point, I hope the matter can be put to rest.

Rep. Ronnie Sutton

Student to Attend Leadership Conference

Mr. Howard McGirt of Maxton has been selected to attend the National Young Leaders Conference from November 29, 1994 to December 4, 1994 in Washington, D.C. The National Young Leaders Conference is a unique leadership development program for high school students who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit. Howard, a junior at Purnell Sweet High School, will be among 350 outstanding national scholars attending the conference from across America.

ROTC News

On October 22 the ROTC Department had a car wash in order to raise funds for the ROTC Booster Club.

In 1991-92, the ROTC department at Swett High adopted Harpers Ferry Road. Cadets voluntarily took three hours of their time to clean up along side the road that is 2.5 miles long.

Sophomores Study the Iliad

The sophomores of Mrs. Yvonne Dial's English class completed a unit on the Iliad, by Homer and involved themselves with various activities. Upon reading the Greek classic, students along with Mrs. Dial and Mr. Jim Hynus, dramatized scenes of the selection to give students a more vivid picture of the literature and improve comprehension. Through journal writing and essays, students were also allowed to apply what they had learned and express their feelings involving certain behavior and actions of characters. With a great amount of artistic ability, students were grouped and each group designed a piece of art upon a round container. The winners and first runners up received gifts and candy for their effort.

Cameron's Comment

By Paul Cameron

The Average life span in the NFL?

Three seasons. That's if you count players who only last a year because they're not good enough to continue.

Filtering out those one year "flashes in the pan," the average life in the NFL increases to over 7 years.

Which is why the NFL set four yeears as the minimum time a player must spend in the league before he becomes a free agent. It's about the halfway point of the "average" career.

Panthers general manager Bill Polian knows these numbers inside and out.

Polian was with the league management when the most recent labor contract was negotiated and Bill says statistics point toward knee injuries as the most debilitating blow to NFL careers.

That's certainly no surprise. Nor is news that artificial turf is a big culprit. Which is why the Carolina Panthers have insisted on building a stadium with real grass. Jerry Richardson's reasoning is, why expose your own players to the risk if you can help it?

Duke's Fred Goldsmith deserved national coach of the year honors in my book.

He built an offense around a cool QB named Spence, a brassy runner named Baldwin and an offensive line which weak in and weak out gave up pounds but not desire. On defense, the Blue Devils didn't have the talent on paper to stop my grandmother.

Duke's secret weapon? A belief of accomplishment that began at the top and spread like a virus. It's a season like Duke lived in 1994 that we say to ourselves, "With the right leadership, anything is possible."

521-2826

PSHS Student Wins Character Education Award



Robert Earl Charis, Jr. was awarded the Character Education Award sponsored by the Belk/Nike/Fox 62. This award was presented to a football player who maintained acceptable grades and displayed good character and discipline on the field as well as off. The Award originated in Fayetteville's school system but was offered for the first time this year in Robeson County Schools.

Robert is a senior at Purnell Swett High School and plans to further his education at N.C. State. He is active in ROTC, NASA and the Army Reserve. He played football, wrestles and is on the golf team at Swett High. He is an honor roll student and a member of the Mt. Airy Youth Group. Robert is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Earl Charis.

PTSA Meeting held

Purnell Swett High held its PTSA meeting on November 7 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. The meeting was to inform parents of report cards and their children's progress. Guidance counselor, Ms. Rosa Pearson, welcomed everyone. Afterwards she introduced Mrs. Herring who gladly thanked everyone for nominating her for teacher of the year. Mrs. Herring said, "I am proud to represent PSHS and hope we all can work together by making our students' future brighter."

Art Talk

by Chris Kennedy

Things are very busy here in the art department these days. There are contests among contests, there are projects to be worked on, community services to be done, and also displays for Christmas to be made.

Rowland sponsored a Christmas Parade November 21st. There is a Christmas Card Contest sponsored by the Board of Education and a logo contest sponsored by the Unity Conference.

For community services, the art club just recently painted faces for Pembroke Junior High for NASA day. Christmas is almost here and the art department has been very busy designing Christmas displays and selling them. A set consisting of a Santa, a sleigh and two reindeer. There is also a new segment in Art Talk this month called Artist of the Month. Ms. Delora Cummings the art teacher, chooses two of the best students from art, an Art I student and an advanced student. This month's Art I student is Lizer Michell and the advanced student is Christopher Kennedy.

Pembroke Chamber of Commerce Honors PSHS Students

Carlitta Lynn Lowry was the winner of the Senior Class Student of Excellence Award sponsored by the Pembroke Area Chamber of Commerce Coalition of Robeson County.

The recipient was chosen from a list of six nominations. The nominees were Shannon Denise Chavis, Christina Locklear, Carlitta Lynn Lowry, Ashley Reed Lowery, Vanessa Lynn Locklear and Clyde Brandon Locklear.

Carlitta is a typical teenager who enjoys spending time with her friends, doing the usual, watching movies, going out, and just talking. She is a member of Bear Swamp Baptist Church where she is a member of the youth group and youth choir. She has been singing since she was a child.

Carlitta enjoys working with children and her peers. She participates in various community outings. She stated: "As I continue working to reach my goals, I must also continue giving thanks to God because He is the reason I have come this far."

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