

The Sunday School Lesson

John Brayboy, Salem Missionary Baptist Church

Sunday December 11, 1994
Hold On To Your Faith
Matthew 11:2-15

- Outline**
I. John the Baptist's Inquiry (Matt. 11:2-3)
II. Jesus' Response (11:4-6)
III. Jesus' Affirmation of John (11:7-15)
I. John the Baptist's Inquiry (Matt. 11:2-3)

John had come preaching repentance and water baptism, as the means of turning from sin. John's message of repentance had a great impact on the people he talked to, because many believed the message and repented. Now after baptizing Jesus and recognizing him as the Messiah he has been sent to prison. No doubt John while locked up in prison began to have doubts that Jesus was the Messiah. John sent two disciples to question Jesus as to whether He was the Messiah that he had been preaching about, or did they need to be looking for someone else. Apparently John thought that Jesus would get him out of prison, or maybe the devil was trying to trip him up. Whatever the case John had a question in his mind as to whether Jesus was the Messiah. It is easy to say you believe and trust God when you are on the mountain top. When you are in the valley and it seems everything has gone sour for no apparent reason, you can have a tendency to doubt whether God will do what He says He will do. John was in prison for telling the truth, so one can see how the devil could use that situation to question His faith. There are times in our Christian lives that we have doubts and we need assurance from Jesus that He is truly our salvation.

II. Jesus Response (11: 4-6)
The answer Jesus give to the disciples was simple. Go tell John about the miracles, how the blind see, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel

preached to the poor. When we are having doubts about whether Jesus is what He claims to be it would do us well to think about where He brought us from. We were lost and headed to hell when Jesus reached down and took us out of the flames. Most of the Jews were looking for a Messiah who would take them from under the oppression of Rome, but Jesus came to comfort and give peace to the soul of man. We need to learn in difficult situations to rely on that inner peace that God gave us when He saved us. Without Jesus there is no peace; neither is there a relationship with God. When we have doubts about God let us stop and listen for that still small voice that will remind us of what God has already done for us.

III. Jesus' Affirmation (11:7-15)
After John's disciples departed Jesus told the crowd about John the Baptist. Even though John thought

he had failed miserably Jesus told the people that John had accomplished what he came to do. He had been sent to announce the coming of the Messiah, and preach the Kingdom of Heaven to the nation of Israel to prepare them for His coming. While John doubted himself Jesus proclaimed Him to be the Greatest among men; yet in Heaven the least is greater. The message bearer is of great importance, but those that receive the message are equally important. Sometime we think little of ourselves when we are trying to do something for the Lord; but if we are sincere it is just as important to God as the well known evangelist that is leading numbers to Christ. If you are God's child you are important. John the Baptist like you and I was human. Disappointments came his way and like most of us when the loneliness, heart break, or despair comes we begin to doubt and feel sorry for ourselves. Let this lesson find a lodging place in our hearts, that Jesus is what He claims to be and will do what He says. We are important to God, so important that He gave His only Son that we might have life eternal. If you are not Saved Please accept Jesus now as your personal saviour. In closing I ask Christians to Pray for our Sheriff Brother Glenn Maynor. He has an awesome job before him. Pray that God gives him Wisdom and courage to carry out his duties. God Bless You until Next Week.

Sanderson and Lowry to Wed Christmas Eve



Dr. Rhonda Victoria Sanderson and Courtney Brooks Lowry announce their forthcoming marriage on December 24.

Miss Sanderson, daughter of Vergie Sanderson and the late William Sanderson, graduated from South Robeson High School in 1986, Pembroke State University in 1990, and East Carolina University School of Medicine in 1994. She is employed by Pitt County Memorial Hospital of Greenville, NC.

Her fiance is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Lowry of Pembroke. He graduated from West Robeson High School in 1986 and East Carolina University in 1991. He is employed by Purdue of Robersonville, NC.

The wedding is planned for December 24th at 3:00 p.m. at New Bethel Holiness Methodist Church, Rowland. Friends and Relatives are invited to attend.

Readers Forum

Rep. Frances Cummings Responds

"THE STONE BUILDER REJECTS BECOMES THE HEAD CORNERSTONE"

I am the Honorable Frances McArthur Cummings, an "A+" Legislator Award recipient (NCAE) who has been extremely successful in the NC House of Representatives.

Being an educator of over thirty years and was also the 1. President of the North Carolina Association of Educators, 2. Associate Executive Director of the NCAE, 3. A seven year member of the Board of Directors of the National Education Association, and 4. A member of the Education and the Appropriation Education Committees in the General Assembly, I can take a bouquet for having Pembroke State University included in the extra appropriations to receive millions of dollars to be added to its budget and thousands of dollars for scholarships for Native Americans. Pembroke State University is located in Rep. Ron Sutton's District 85.

I am always willing to give adults and children the opportunity to be educated because "Education is The Key to Progress".

In the November 24, 1994 Education of Community News-Advertiser, I "never" mentioned the names who were the "irresponsible leaders", but there is an old saying, "Whoever the shoe fits, wear it." Rep. Sutton knows himself better than I or anyone else. Is

he really admitting to himself and others that he is "irresponsible"? Had I ever believed Rep. Sutton was irresponsible, I would have never given to him the opportunities to be seated beside me as committee co-chair during my 1992 Elections' activities and to appear as participant on my programs, thus giving him more exposure as a candidate. Also, I would not have advised Rep. Sutton when he came to my office or desk during the 1993-94 session in the House of Representatives.

Every intelligent person had known that I would "not" have added my name to the Democratic Straight Ticket Ad, because there was a Republican Candidate, and I will repeat, "I am a True State Representative for Republicans, Democrats, and those who are not affiliated with any political party."

How could anyone believe I would have been so foolish to support only a Democratic Straight Ticket?

I can be described as black; my constituents can be also described as black, white, or red, but we all have the same "Red Blood" flowing through our veins as Rep. Ron Sutton. We all are of the Human Race.

I did not make a "Political Decision" not to add my name to the Straight Democratic Ticket, it was a "WISE DECISION".

I regret I had remained for so many years as a Democrat. I have

wasted Almighty God's "Precious Time". Being known as a Democrat did not give to me the Wisdom and Understanding I am Blessed with to revise and write new State Laws for ALL People of Robeson, Hoke, and Scotland Counties -- District 87 to have Happier Years Ahead. In 1993-94, I introduced ten bills; was successful with eight; and two remained in committee. I co-sponsored over 184 House Bills. Each vote cast for me in 1996 will be a Blessed Contribution toward a Better Tomorrow for the Voter, Family and Friends and less sleep for me.

Rep. Sutton remember, "When Almighty God be for you, no man can be against you."

The Republican Party's symbol is the elephant. This symbol speaks for itself -- "STRENGTH". I am very Happy while a few Democrats have tried and failed to convince "Wise People" to listen and accept their expressed "ill-thoughts" toward my re-election 1996. I am a 100% Qualified, Successful, Loyal Legislator for Robeson, Hoke, and Scotland Counties -- District 87. ALL WISE REGISTERED VOTERS will re-elect Me. Looking forward to seeing Rep. Ron Sutton in the General Assembly in 1995. Rep. Sutton, JESUS said, "MY PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU" and SO DO I.

The Honorable Frances McArthur Cummings, District 87.

"Feelings From the Heart"

Contemporary Native American Art Exhibit to Open in Greensboro

The Guilford Native American Art Gallery is pleased to announce the opening reception of "Feelings From the Heart," a Contemporary Native American Art Exhibit, by Connie Jenkins. The reception will be held Sunday, December 11, 1994 from 2-5 p.m. at the Greensboro Cultural Center, 200 North Davie Street.

As part of the Opening Reception, Ms. Jenkins will present an artist talk and signing of her work.

Connie Jenkins is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation of the Western Bank and resides in Locust Grove, Oklahoma.

Familiar with the country and its ways, Ms. Jenkins has a great appreciation for what she sees. "Knowing that it's here only for a season."

"I've been blessed with a talent that I do not understand. It's comfortable and simple, doing each piece and having an understanding of what to do next. This is not of me, but of a higher power...this gift to create, for this I am thankful," states Ms. Jenkins.

The feelings and memories that last a lifetime are what Ms. Jenkins shares with the appreciative eye and heart. "My appreciation for nature and all her beauty has opened my eyes to what I am willing to offer, what I am willing to share and what I am

open to accept," states Ms. Jenkins. "Nature offers many simple pleasures...the touch, a smell, beauty and feelings from the heart."

From Contemporary design and style to the traditional Native American flat style, Ms. Jenkins works are available in fine art limited edition prints, original works in acrylic, gouache, pencil, wood carving and a new developing style in clay sculpting. With no formal training, Connie began her full time professional career as an artist in 1986. Winning numerous awards in painting and sculpting, her works can be found in collections throughout the United States, Europe, Japan and Saudi Arabia.

In addition to the reception on Sunday, December 11, the Greensboro Cultural Center tenants will be sponsoring a Holiday Open House from 2-5 p.m. The Open House will host international entertainment with performances by many local cultural groups and other activities for children and adults. All performances are free and open to the public. Also available for sale will be personalized Native American wooden ornaments.

"Feelings From the Heart" will be on exhibit at the Guilford Native American Art Gallery from December 11-February 25.

Agnes Chavis Elected to Executive Committee

Joseph Abeyta (Tewa, Santa Clara Pueblo) has been elected chairman of the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE) for fiscal year 1995. NACIE members cast their votes for Abeyta during a full-council meeting in Denver, Colo., Nov. 14-17, 1994.

Abeyta, currently superintendent, Santa Fe Indian School, Santa Fe, N.M., was among 13 individuals appointed to NACIE by President Clinton this summer. As the newly elected NACIE chairman, Abeyta has identified two key education related areas for council emphasis: working with the new Congress and working toward unity among all American Indian/Alaska Native organizations involved in Indian education.

"It is obvious with the changes on the national scene, we must become organized to work with the new leadership and present the most comprehensive agenda as possible that responds to the education of Indian children and adults," Abeyta said.

"There is a need for unity, and NACIE plans to work on coordinating efforts between Indian parents

and educators at the local level as well as with major American Indian organizations at the national level."

Abeyta has served as the superintendent of the Santa Fe Indian School since 1979. He is currently working on his Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley. He received a M.Ed. from Harvard University in Education Administration and received a B.A. from New Mexico Highlands in Education Administration and Sociology.

In addition to the chairman's election, the following members were selected to serve on the council's executive committee: First Vice Chairperson, Sherry Red Owl (Rosebud Sioux) education director, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Rosebud, S.D.; Second Vice Chairperson, Janine Peace-Windyboy (Crow) president, Little Bib Horn Community College, Crow Agency, Mont.; First member-at-large, Warren J. Scyler (Spokane) tribal chairman, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Wellpinit, Wash.; and Second member-at-large, Agnes Chavis (Lumboc) retired educator, Pembroke, NC.

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Thanks To Our Wellness Programs, Vicky Clark Is Turning Over A New Leaf.

When Eileen Harkins, Program Coordinator of the Lifestyle Wellness Programs at Southeastern Regional Medical Center, put together "The Great Weight Race" for hospital employees, she was surprised at the participation...the participants were surprised at the results.



Eileen Harkins with participant Vicky Clark

Nurse Vicky Clark was looking for a means of losing a few extra pounds. What she found was a new lifestyle. "It started out as a 12 week program, but it's now a way of life," says Vicky. "By watching my nutrition, lowering fats, and daily exercise, I have

reached and have maintained my goal of losing 12 pounds. It's not like a diet...I don't get hungry...there's a lot of food you can eat if you simply eliminate excess fats."

The idea behind "The Great Weight Race" is the same as the "NuCise" nutrition and exercise program, another of SRMC's many Wellness programs which also include "Freedom From Smoking," "Supermarket Tours" for nutrition awareness and "The Body Shop" for overweight young people. Plus, a variety of health screenings.

If you'd like to turn over a new leaf, call Eileen at (910) 671-5595 for more information on our Lifestyle Wellness Programs.

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