

The Sunday School Lesson

BY JOHN R. BRAYBOY

SALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

A Compelling Invitation Luke 14:15-24

I. What A Day That Will Be (Luke 14:15)

II. It's Supper Time (Luke 14:16-17)

III. Thanks But No Thanks (Luke 14:18-21)

IV. No Second Chance (Luke 14:22-24)

The Jews of Jesus' day often held great suppers for the influential and wealthy Jews. On this one occasion Jesus was invited to dine with one of the Pharisees. The Pharisee, because of his religious upbringing, assumed that he would inherit the Kingdom of God, therefore he was looking forward to the great day when he sat down in the Kingdom of God. It is sad today that many people are relying on their works, or what their parents have done to get them to heaven.

II. It's Supper Time (Luke 14:16-17)

Customarily when the Jews had a great supper, they set it far in advance so that those who were invited would not have other plans. Jesus presented this parable to the Pharisee who had invited Him to be a guest at supper. Many were invited to come. We can see this as an invitation to Israel to receive the Lord Jesus as Messiah. In John 1:11 the scripture says "He came unto His own, but His own received Him not." The servant of the man was sent to tell those who were invited to come. This is typical of God's invitation to the nation of Israel to receive His love and redemption for them. One day there is going to be a supper in heaven and those who have accepted the invitation will be seated at this supper. Revelation 19:9

III. Thanks But No Thanks (Luke 14:18-21)

When the servant alerted the guests that it was time for the

supper those who had been invited began to make excuses. One had bought some land that he had not seen. What a lame excuse for not going to the supper. If he had bought land he had not seen, he wouldn't be able to tell anything about it in the dark. The devil's goal is to keep those who are in the dark in darkness forever.

Another had for his excuse that he bought oxen that day that he had not seen, therefore he needed to try them out to see if they met his approval. That would be like me buying a used or even a new car from someone, having never seen it, much less driven it. A third had gotten married and would not come. This man knew that he was going to marry when the invitation was given. It would have been just as easy for these to have told the truth when the invitation was given and said "I don't want to come."

Today many unsaved people refuse the invitation to come to Christ with lame excuses. Some are waiting until they can serve God, but that is a ploy that the devil uses on the. Nothing within one's self can help him to serve God. It is through Jesus Christ who abides within that we can serve Him. Many use the excuse that they are as good as those who profess to be saved. I assure you that the devil failed to tell you the whole truth. If the blood of Jesus Christ has not been applied to your heart, you will spend eternity in hell.

Still others think they have to give up something so they choose to hold on to those worldly things that they think bring them pleasure.

In our parable the servant reported back that those who had been invited made excuses and would not come. The Lord of the house was upset; no doubt he had put much time and energy into preparing this supper and it was an insult to him that those who were invited did not come. God had given the invitation and promise to Israel long before Jesus came that He would provide a deliverance for them through the Messiah. The Lord of the house told his servant to go out and invite the less fortunate to come to his supper. As with this lord, God extended the invitation of salvation to the Gentiles when the Jews refused to accept His plan of salva-

tion. We're reminded her that the outcasts are passed over many times while we try to reach the influential for Christ. These outcasts are the ones we ought to be sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with. God's invitation is to all Jews and Gentiles alike.

IV. No Second Chance (Luke 14:22-24)

The servant did as he was told, yet there was room for more. The lord of the house told the servant to go to the outlying areas, highways and hedges and compel others to come. The great commission that Jesus gave to his disciples in Matthew 28 is still the responsibility of the local church today. TO go and spread the gospel to all people.

The cost for rejecting the invitation to come to Christ that God has given is great. Just as the lord of the house had bidden those to come and they rejected, those that

God calls and they refuse they will spend eternity in hell.

God has made provisions for everyone to spend eternity with Him in heaven. It is up to each one to make his or her decision. Remember this, just as the lord of the house told the servant that those that did not come would not taste of the supper, those likewise who refuse the great salvation God has provided will not sit down at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. There will be no second chance after this life. Nothing you possess in this life is far more important than your soul. If you choose the things of this world or your good works over the finished work at Calvary, then you will be eternally separated from the love of God. Hell is a real place, just as heaven is. Where will you spend eternity?

God bless you until next week. Pray for us and especially the lost.

Grants Available for Native American Economic Development

First Nations Development Institute is seeking to fund Native American projects which promote economic development on Native American reservations and in Native communities through its Eagle Staff fund. The Eagle Staff Fund is a national grantmaking program that provides grants and technical assistance to Native American controlled projects which harness the spirit of entrepreneurship and Native cultures. Eagle Staff Fund grants are for reservation or community based efforts which have a direct economic benefit for the community. To date the Eagle Staff Fund has awarded over \$1.7 million to 48 grantees located in 18 states.

The Eagle Staff fund offers four different levels of economic development grants to tribes, Native non-profit community organizations and Native individuals: seed up to \$5,000 start-up (up to \$3,000), working capital (up to \$100,000 multi-year) and development capital up to \$150,000 multi-year. First Nations is particularly seeking applications for working and development capital

grants from existing programs and of stable organizations that have demonstrated experience with economic development projects.

Typical working capital projects are for tribally run enterprises that in turn generate profits or benefits for other tribal or community-wide projects. Examples include an oyster farm, publishing company, telework center, micro enterprise loan fund, and a health clinic.

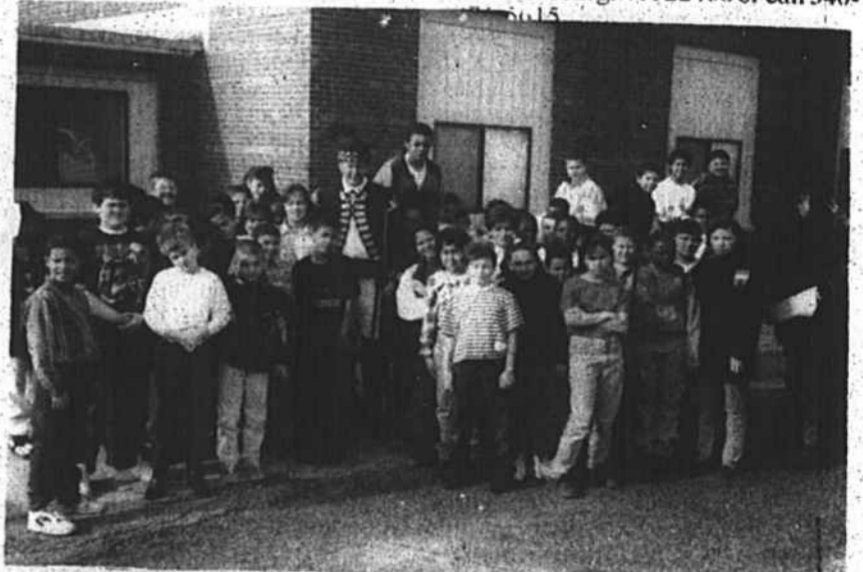
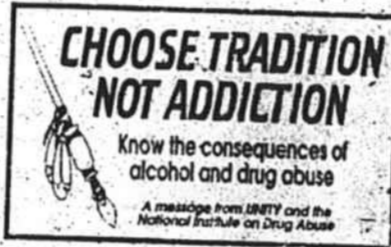
Development capital grants tend to take a comprehensive approach to economic development and involve work that will have implications for policy and systemic change at the national level such as developing strong culturally based institutions and leaders. Development capital grantees usually have considerable experience with economic and community development projects.

With an emphasis on grassroots empowerment and economic entrepreneurship, the Eagle Staff Fund offers a targeted strategy designed to build Native American communities from within and provide Native Americans with the opportunity to create their own solutions. Our Eagle

Staff Fund working capital grant has made such a difference in our company's prospects," stated Larry Skidmore, General Manager of Shoalwater Bay Oysters, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe of Washington. "The training made available to us, the site visit, shared experiences with their tribes and First Nations' general encouragement has enabled us to move forward toward a healthy business, which will be the flagship for Shoalwater's enterprise development," said Mr. Skidmore.

Located in Fredricksburg, Virginia, First Nations Development Institute is a Native-run and led non-profit organization funded 16 years ago to help Native American communities gain economic self-sufficiency. The Eagle Staff fund was launched in October 1993 to provide resources that enable Native peoples to fulfill their needs as they view them and as they aspire to solve them.

For Eagle Staff Fund guidelines or more information on First Nations' programs, please write to First Nations Development Institute, The Stores Building, 11917 main Street, Fredricksburg, VA 22408 or call 540-



Mr. Bill Flemming visited Deep Branch Montessori School on Friday, February 9. He visited the classes of Mrs. Diane Hunt and Mrs. April Hunt as a follow up activity to enhance the study of the Revolution. Mr. Flemming dressed as a British soldier and discussed life as a soldier during the war. He also brought artifacts to display from that time period. Mr. Flemming's talk was about the American Revolution.

THE TAX SHELTER
TAX & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE
"EXPRESS REFUND SERVICE"
(910) 521-8384
COLLEGE PLAZA • PEMBROKE

ELECT
BILLIE BRITT
For Register of Deeds
An Experienced, Proven Leader
For Robeson County
Paid for by the Billie Britt Campaign Committee

Elders & Traditionalist Events & Pow Wows

(Please note the differences from past years.)
 *March 14-16-Native American New Year Ceremonial Festival. Thursday, March 14- Elders Council meeting; prayer circle; talk circle and social time. Sunrise-Noon-Evening-Sundown Ceremonies. And other times as needed by guests and attendees. In between will be social, education, talk and prayer groups meeting. All are invited.
 May 3-5- Lumbee Spring Dance Festival. Lumberton Fairgrounds.
 April 12-13- Pee Dee Indian Association Pow-Wow. Lindsay Park, Bennettsville, SC.
 June 13-16-Traditional Spiritual gathering.
 No fees. No admission. No vendors. No competition. Praying, singing, drum, learn, teach, enjoy. Free admission. Free camping. Bartering only. 24-hour security. Meet Native Americans from all over Indian country.
 June 30-July 7- Lumbee Homecoming
 *September 20-22- Lumbee Fall Ceremonial, Picnic style meals. No admission. No vendors. Barter only. No competition. "Celebrate the creator's Harvest Gifts."
 October 11-13- Lumbee Fall Pow Wow
 Note: * means that food at this event will be pot luck, picnic-style. There will be a cooking committee that will cook donated food or you can grill or picnic on your own. There will be no admission fee, no vendors, no competition. A donation box will be available for support of other Elders Council programs.
 *November 21-22- Indian Cultural Center Fall Festival.
 Fire circle ceremonials, sunrise, noon, evening, sundown. Come learn, socialize, support the Elders and the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center.
 TBA- Tree lighting and fire ceremonies. Sunrise, noon, evening.
 *December 21- Winter Solstice. Sunrise and Noon.

The UCB Equity BuyLine.™

**THE MONEY YOU DESIRE.
THE TAXES YOU DEDUCT.**

With an Equity BuyLine from United Carolina Bank, you can get extra money when you need it simply by writing a check. You pay interest only on what you use, and because you're using the equity in your home as collateral, 100% of that interest may be tax deductible. Please consult a tax advisor about the deductibility of interest. To make an Equity BuyLine even more pleasing, United Carolina Bank offers you Diamond Banking-- a flexible package of seventeen valuable services--without a monthly service fee with any Equity BuyLine of \$15,000 or more. So don't just let your equity sit around the house. Put it to work, and get a tax break in the process. It's easy with a UCB Equity BuyLine.

Please stop by any UCB office or call 671-6100.

The Personal Touch. Easy As UCB.

UNITED CAROLINA BANK

Text telephone number for the hearing impaired, 1-800-876-6545.
©1996 United Carolina Bank. Member FDIC.