

The Sunday School Lesson

BY JOHN R. BRAYBOY
SALIM MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH

- Witness About Christ (Mark 1:4-11, 14-15)
- I. Repentance (Mark 1:4-5)
- II. Predication (Mark 1:6-8)
- III. Affirmation (Mark 1:9-11)
- IV. Gospel (Mark 1:15-15)
- V. Query (Luke 7:18-20)
- VI. Proof (Luke 7:21-23)

I. Repentance (Mark 1:4-5)
John the Baptist came baptizing people in the Jordan. John's instructions to the people was to repent of their sins and be baptized for the remission of their sins. The preaching of repentance by John was words of hope for people to turn from their sins and live a life of obedience. By being baptized they were making a commitment to live a dedicated life to God.

The news of John's message spread all over Judah and Jerusalem and everyone came to be baptized in the River Jordan. The best way for people to learn the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is from others' experience being shared with them.

II. Predication (Mark 1:6-8)
People came to the Jordan to see John whose raiment was camel's hair and his diet was wild locust and honey. He prophesied of one greater than him who was coming, whose shoes he was not worthy to tie.

John preached water baptism and repentance, but he reminded his followers that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Ghost. The difference in John's baptism and that of Jesus was that Jesus brought about an inward change by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. There are those today who teach that water baptism is essential to salvation, but that is contrary to the teaching of the word of God. The thief on the cross was not baptized with water, and Jesus told him "Today thou shalt be with me in paradise."

III. Affirmation (Mark 1:9-11)
Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee for John to baptize him. John no doubt was reluctant to baptize Jesus because he felt unworthy and besides Jesus was the sinless son of God. Jesus came to be baptized for sin, not His but for the sins of humanity that He had taken upon Himself.

Because of the obedience of Jesus to the father's will the heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended upon Jesus like a dove, then God spoke

from Heaven and declared to John and the others that Jesus was the Son of God and that He was pleased. Are we pleasing God so that He can say that He is pleased with His beloved?

IV. Gospel (Mark 1:14-15)
Shortly after Jesus baptism John was imprisoned by Herod Antipas. Jesus began His ministry in Galilee preaching the gospel of the kingdom of heaven.

Four things that Jesus noted in the beginning of His ministry (1) the time is fulfilled, God's time for putting into action His plan of salvation or mankind had come (2) The kingdom of God is at hand, meaning that the kingdom was present and people could enter now. Man would no longer have to wait to be redeemed from his sin (3) Repent ye, meaning to turn from sin and receive Jesus by faith (4) Believe the gospel, meaning that the good news about the kingdom through race and received by faith.

V. Query (Luke 7:18-20)
John now in prison because rebuking Herod Antipas for taking his brother's wife was having some second thoughts about who Jesus was. One might wonder why John would have doubts about Jesus after what he had seen. He had expected Jesus to bring judgment and what he saw and heard was not what he had expected, many times God does things we ask for but not in the way that we think.

John having doubt in his mind about whether Jesus was the Messiah sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus if he truly was who he said he was. John wanted to know if he should look for someone else. Many times when we are faced with trouble and we are doing our best for God we may have doubts as to whether Jesus is with us.

VI. Proof (Luke 7:21-23)
While the disciples were asking the question Jesus was healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, and casting out evil spirits. The instruction Jesus gave to John's disciples was to go tell him that they saw. Jesus could have told him yes, but he wanted John to decide for himself. Jesus said those that were not offended by him were blessed.

God does not force man to serve him; the choice is left up to him. Dear unsaved, you do not have to believe in the darling son of God, neither do you have to go to heaven. Whether you accept it or not Jesus died for your sins to keep you out of hell. It is up to you to decide whether to repent and accept Jesus as your savior or die in your sins. If you die in your sins, you will be eternally separated from God in the regions of the damned. There is no peace in hell, nothing but torment continually. Don't let the devil deceive you that Jesus is not real. HE is alive and well and wants to save you. Believe on Him now and be saved.

God bless all of you until next week. Pray for us and especially for Bro. William Barnes.

Pediatric Pointers

by Dr. Joseph T. Bell
Pediatrician with Robeson Health Care



Well, it looks like the winter season is finally here to stay in our part of North Carolina. The wind, which is always blowing in North Carolina, seems to be coming mostly out of the North these days. And with the cold season comes that age old illness we all know as the croup.

The croup is a common illness, especially in children less than 3 years of age. It usually lasts from several days to a week, and most often develops in fall or early winter. It is caused by a virus of the upper part of the respiratory tract (or windpipe). The illness is mildly contagious, and there is no way to prevent it.

This infection usually starts as a runny nose with low grade fever. Sometimes it causes the windpipe to narrow, and then the patient may have some difficulty breathing and develop a cough that sounds like a barking seal. This is the classic "croupy" cough. Croup always seems to be the worse at night and may waken the child up from their sleep.

The best initial treatment for a simple croup is to hold the child in the bathroom while running the

shower on "hot." Fifteen minutes of breathing in the steamy air will probably make breathing easier. Another good treatment is to take the child outside for about 10-15 minutes. The cool night air often relieves the problem by reducing the swelling inside the windpipe. Offer lots of fluids to drink and use Tylenol for significant fever having a cold-water vaporizer or humidifier to use in the child's bedroom may be helpful also.

Most simple cases of croup respond to these basic treatments, there are some cases that do not respond and need more medical attention. You may want a check with your doctor if the following things are happening: 1) the home therapy is not working, 2) Your child looks very pale, seems unusually worn out, or isn't eating or sleeping, 3) Your child seems to have difficulty catching their breath, especially if this is happening in the day, when croup usually improves, or 4) You can see your child's chest wall draw in with every breath.

That's all on croup I hope everyone had a great holiday. Take care and we'll talk again next week!

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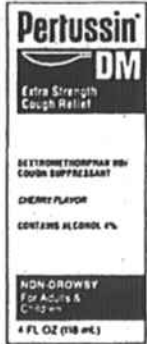


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"AWAKE THY SOUL TO LIFE"

Oh, how joyful I usually be whenever I witness the "Happy Smiles" on faces after sharing the "Holy Word" with others. What a "Happier World" will it be when people can put their shoulders together and Build a Heavenly Nation where "Peace" will Reign Supreme.

The majority of people hold close to themselves 'visible materials' as security, but they are only fools. I am always conscious that 'naked came I out of my Mother's womb.' And again I will say, "A Holy Nature" with contentment is Great Gain for we brought nothing into this World, and it is certain we carry nothing out.

The Strength and Faith of "Divine Nature" is A Great Blessing.

Awake, Awake, my People. "Let Not Thyself Sleep in Darkness Any Longer." "Awake Thy Soul to Life" and "See the 'Creation' of The Holy Creator."

Look Up and See the 'Sun' whose Energy can be used for many purposes on Earth. The 'Moon and Stars' with their Light can Guide the traveller on his journey. Inhale the Sweet Fragrance of 'flowers' and admire their Beauty. Touch the 'waters' of oceans, rivers, and seas, and feel the "current-filled" vibration. Walk on the far stretching 'lands' and know from Earth that plants are grown which bear fruits to feed you and keep you healthy.

Within the bowels of "Earth" there are Diamonds, Gold, Uranium, Iron Ore, Copper, Pitch, Mineral Oil, aged Rocks and many more items which are very necessary for your survival.

Did Man on Earth provide the Sun, Stars, Moon, Oceans, Seas, and Earth? "NO." The "Holy Spirit of Creation" created all of the Natural Resources for you to explore and use towards Happiness; not to destroy yourself and others.

To "Dwell in Darkness" where you Cannot See the "Beauty of Creation" is as Being Blind. You are "Blind" when your "Soul" is Filled with "Poisonous Thoughts." To Live in the "Light of Almighty God" is having Sight.

To have Life, you are to "Free Yourself" from "Ill Thoughts" and "Live" According to the "Holy Word."

Lord Jesus said, "I Am The Way, The Truth and The Light." Meaning, His Teachings were Truth, and Obeying, "You will have Light to 'See the Way' to 'Eternal Life.'" When your "Thoughts" are Holy, THEN, Your "Words" are Truthful. Your "Deeds" will be Kind.

Pray Unceasingly for "Wisdom" and "Understanding of the Holy Word." Pray for "Divine Strength" so you 'Can Stand' the "Test of Life's Trials" and have the "Victory" over all your Enemies.

Please! Say to Yourself...

1998 General Elections, "I Shall Cast My Precious 'VOTE' for the 'NAME' of the Candidate Whom I Believe Will Speak, Revise, and Write Laws for People's Progressive Prosperity and NOT for Self-Recognition."

Where there is "Peace" there will be Prosperity. Frances McArthur Cummings for U.S. Congress.

Remember: Robeson County will need a Sheriff who will be Wise, Healthy, and Law-Abiding so he can 'Hold the Scale of Justice, also, to be determined to 'Treat ALL People' with the "Same Penalty" According to State Laws.

We Need a Sheriff who we can 'call anytime' whenever there is a Problem involving a Criminal Act. "As You Know Who?"

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Peace Be Unto You. AMEN.

Yvonne Maria Leow

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