

# The Sunday School Lesson

John Brayboy, Salem Missionary Baptist Church

### How Can We Succeed (Zech. 4:1-4)

- I. Power (Zech. 4:1-6)
- II. Promise (Zech. 4:7-10)
- III. Personnel (Zech. 4:11-14)

**I. Power (Zech. 4:1-6)**  
Zechariah was awakened from his sleep by an angel. God gave him a vision and the angel questioned him about the vision to see if he understood what he saw. There was a candlestick of gold, seven lamps and seven pipes. This no doubt represented the all seeing eyes of God and God himself.

Zechariah did not understand the meaning of the vision so he asked the angel. Understanding the vision was not as important as was the message. The message was for Zerubbabel to get back to work on the temple. Even though he was not getting the support for the work that he desired, God wanted him to continue the work. Zerubbabel's problem was not much different than the problem churches and pastors face today.

There were those who criticized the work on the temple. There were those who said it could not be done. And there were those who thought there was a better way to do it. Today in our churches we face the same problem: there are those who are quick to criticize, those who will not do anything, and those who think there is a better way. The work of the Lord is often misunderstood by the majority of those in church and certainly by those in the world. God's message to Zerubbabel was quite simple. Rebuilding of the temple was not based on the willingness of the people, but on the Spirit of God. God's power would enable Zerubbabel to accomplish his mission he had put to his charge. While we may get discouraged with the non participation of others in the work of God if we are working in the power of God, His work will be accomplished.

**II. Promise (Zech. 4:7-10)**  
It would seem that Zerubbabel faced a difficult task in the eyes of man, but with God instead of a mountain, it would become a plain. God can and will move mountains in our life, if we will allow him to have preeminence in our lives. Zerubbabel had started the work

on the building, and God wanted him to finish, regardless of the opposition that he might face. Sometimes people let criticism, and doubt from others cause them to complete their mission for the Lord.

Sometimes in our churches God sends a pastor to enhance his work and the church fails to see the work that God wants to do and the pastor is dismissed and the work comes to a halt. God assured Zerubbabel that he laid the foundation and that He would enable him to finish the building of the temple regardless of the oppositions that he faced from the people. The all seeing eyes of God would keep everything on course. Seven in the word of God is the number of completion, so the seven pipes and seven lamps represented completion. When we completely trust God he will complete the work in our lives.

**III. Personnel (Zech. 4:11-14)**  
God always provides able leadership for the work that has to be done, whether or not we think that it is the person for the job. When God calls, he qualifies, and anoints, so what God's people need to do is

support the person and the work. Zerubbabel did not understand the olive branches or the golden pipes in his vision. The angel told him that they represented Zerubbabel and Joshua who had been anointed to build the temple. No one can do work for the Lord in their own power; they must be anointed of God for the work. Apart from the Holy Spirit of Holy God, we have no empowerment to do anything and be successful.

Many people are trying to work their way to heaven apart from salvation. God has provided the way to heaven, through his son Jesus Christ. One must accept the finished work on the cross to go to heaven. Ephesians 2:8 tells us "By grace are ye saved, and that not of works lest any man should boast."

Dear unsaved, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved today.

God bless you all until next week. Come visit us at Salem, Sunday morning 9:45 a.m. Sunday worship-11 a.m. Wednesday night Bible study 7:30 p.m. First and third Sunday evening worship 6 p.m.

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When I was sick, you nursed me, when I was hungry, you fed me. When I lived in a shack you turned it into a home. She was known in one description as "the saint of the gutters". A lady who was born in Albania and was later adopted by India. Who definitely lived by the Holy Bible. She was Mother Teresa. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize which she accepted for "all of the unwanted uncared for people in this world". It was once said "that she found a woman in the gutter dying, right outside of the hospital. Mother Teresa went into the hospital to get the woman help and she was denied (mostly because they knew that she was dying). So Mother Teresa laid down in the gutter with her until she died.

These past weeks since Mother Teresa died, her love and compassion has been placed in pictures on walls all over the world. I believe with the death of Mother Teresa and Princess Diana that "some folks in the world have begun to care." This indeed is a good sign. I don't know about you but I think that both of them should be saints.

By the way "has anyone told you that they love you today?" Well, I do.



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