

# Sunday School

## Lesson For Sunday, February 4

By Dr. Paul Caodil?

### TOPIC: "SIRIUS" CONCERN FOR ALL

Lesson Text: Matthew 9:1-13; 23-28

That Jesus had a genuine concern for all mankind was manifest in all that he said and did while on earth. His earthly ministry from beginning to end was completely given over to the answering of the needs of others.

He was never too busy to be interrupted by the least and most unworthy soul that sought his presence. Blind Bartimaeus could approach him just as readily as one of his noblest followers. His heart ever went out to those who were in distress, irrespective of their individual worth. He was no respecter of persons. One cannot

go far in the study of this lesson without realizing this glorious truth.

#### Healing a Paralytic

The first division of our lesson (Matt. 9:1-8) has to do with the healing of a paralytic by Christ. The scene of the miracle was apparently in Capernaum (Mark 2:12) and likely took place at the home of Peter, which seemed to be our Lord's customary stopping place. At any rate, while there, he looked up and, behold, they were bringing to him a man sick of the palsy "lying on a bed".

Mark and Luke tell us that the paralytic was borne by four men as he lay on the bed, which appears to have been a sort of thin mattress or padded quilt, which an ordinary sleeper might have used for a bed on the floor. Jesus was impressed by the manifestation of their great faith. He understood their motive in bringing the man. They believed that he had the power to rid the man of his disease. Upon seeing their faith, Jesus said "Courage, child," and then informed the paralytic that his sins stood forgiven.

"It seems probable that the disease had in this case resulted from some form of dissipation, such as not infrequently produces paralysis" (Broadus). One knows from actual observation and experience, this does happen. There is many an individual whose bodily strength is impaired because of some given sin. This does not mean, however, that all bodily infirmity is brought about by some form of sin. Far from that. Many physical illnesses are due to causes for which the individual is wholly not responsible. Some illnesses can never be explained while we are in the flesh.

At any rate, the scribes boldly declared Jesus to be blaspheming because he had laid claim to a power and right which belonged, in their sight, exclusively to God; namely, that of forgiving sins. To

this Jesus replied, "Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, Thy sins are forgiven; or to say, Arise, and walk?" And then, as if to validate or corroborate his assertion, he said to the man who was sick of the palsy, "Arise, and take up thy bed, and go into thy home." The man did as Jesus commanded. He arose and departed into his home. It must have been a wonderful moment in the life of the paralytic as well as in the lives of his followers who stood hard by.

There stood the man, a while while before completely paralyzed by the great hand of disease, now triumphant in the vigor of health, and with his sin all forgiven. The bed which previously had carried him was now carried by him.

#### Eating With a Sinner

In the second division of our lesson (Matt. 9:9-13) we behold Jesus as he sat at meat in the house of Matthew, whom he had just called into his service. His association with Matthew, a publican, as Luke calls him, was utterly revolting. Matthew, because of his previous association, had naturally lived "in open violation of the moral or ceremonial law". To be associated with him, therefore, was "polluting" to the last degree. "Matthew's previous association has brought him into connection not only with publicans, but with all those other men, who disregarding many of the prevailing religious observances, and feeling themselves to be objects of popular dislike, naturally flocked together.

Matthew, evidently desiring to do honor to Jesus, had invited a large number of his friends and the friends of Jesus to join him at his house in a sort of public feast. Manifestly, there were no pharisees at the feast, for in that event they would have been guilty of the very thing they were finding fault with Jesus for doing. For that matter, they could not think of "keeping low company". They would not dare to mingle with such a motley throng as were gathered at the feast.

One can easily behold them with the mind's eye as they stood round about looking in with a sort of holier-than-thou attitude. They said therefore unto his disciples, "Why eateth your teacher with the publicans and sinners?" Evidently Jesus did not give his disciples an opportunity to answer the pharisees, but rather replied to them himself: "But when he heard it, he said, They that are whole have no need of a physician, but they that are sick".

Jesus made it clear to his captious critics that his mission in the world had to do with those who stood in need of spiritual guidance and salvation, irrespective of their rank or station in life. His mission was to save sinners, wherever sinners were to be found, whether among the rich or the poor, or the halt or the maimed, or the blind. Here is a lesson needed in every age, for we are too apt to hold ourselves aloof from the vile and disreputable, when kind and patient effort might win some of them to better things. At the same time we must, like the physician, take great pains to avoid the contagion of the disease we seek to cure, and if our good is evil spoken of, as happened here to our Lord, we should be careful not to afford any just occasion or excuse for such reproach.

Jesus went further with his answer and reminded his hearers that he desired mercy and not sacrifice, saying, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners". The church of today, if she is to have power to achieve her holy mission in the midst of this sin-cursed world, must go with her loving ministry out into the realms of need, wherever those realms may be. A tender and loving concern must be manifested for all mankind.

#### Raising the Dead

Our lesson closes with the tender picture of the cure of the ruler's daughter. The scene takes place at the home of Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, whose little daughter had fallen asleep. Jairus had come to Jesus with the entreaty that he come and lay his hand upon her to the end that she might live. When Jesus reached the home, he found a great crowd assembled and a tumult. In the East it was the custom then, as now, for relatives and special friends to gather around the couch

of a dying person, and the moment the breath ceased they would break out into loud cries, with every exclamation and sign of the most passionate grief; and unable to contain this themselves, they would hire professional mourners, especially women, who would keep up the loud, wailing cry throughout the day and night".

Jesus, upon approaching this throng said: "Give place, for the daughter is not dead, but sleepeth". Scornful laughter on the part of the sumptuous mourners followed his words. How soon he came back to life on that occasion, Jesus said, "I have said, and she is now alive." And the same crowd that followed him, went forth into all that land.

At long last one had come into the world with touching concern for all humanity. He ministered unto their every need and was himself utterly unpolled.

### 13-Year-Old Girl Solicits \$25.00 In Funds For Polio

Hessie Male Holloway, age 13, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Holloway, of Brushy Mountain township, was very successful in soliciting funds for the polio campaign. Miss Holloway, a student of Mountain Crest school, solicited \$25 from the following contributors: Mitch Davis 50c; W. H. H. Waugh 35c; J. G. Holloway 55c; Joe Reavis 10c; Odell Moore 5c; Mrs. Hessie Roberson 50c; Ralph Holloway 25c; Edmon Roberson 25c; Herman Wales 50c; Mrs. P. A. Jenniffs 1c; Mrs. Lura Treadway 25c; Mrs. W. T. Finley 50c; H. H. Morehouse 1c; Mr. and Mrs.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE**  
Having qualified as administrator of the estate of William H. McNeill, late of Wilkes county, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned, whose address is Hays, N. C., duly verified, on or before the 2nd day of January, 1945, or this notice will be plead in bar of their right to recover. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 2nd day of January, 1945.  
R. N. McNEILL,  
Administrator of the estate of William H. McNeill, dec'd. 2-8-45

J. A. Gentle \$1; R. C. Adams \$1; J. P. Roberson 25c; H. T. Moore \$1; Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Barnett \$1; Mrs. Pearl Moore \$1; Earl Love \$1; Floyd Moore 10c; Mrs. Carrie Roberson 15c; Mrs. Grace Fletcher 10c; Mrs. Julia Hinton 15c; Carl Mitchell 11c; Bob Towsen 5c; Durant Hayes 10c; Kin Roberson 15c; Mrs. J. G. Holloway \$1.07.

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CHEVROLET—or—BUICK SEE US!

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## TONIGHT! Relieve Miseries of Your BABY'S COLD

**As He Sleeps**  
Now most young mothers use this modern way to relieve miseries of a child's cold. Even as you rub it on, Vicks VapoRub starts to soothe irritation in nose and throat, loosen phlegm, ease coughing. Then, as baby sleeps, VapoRub

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Often by morning most of the misery of the cold is gone. Remember, Mother... ONLY VAPORUB Gives You this special double action. It's time-tested, home-proved... the best known home remedy for relieving miseries of children's colds.

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Remember, you pay for insulation in wasted heat when you don't have it. So why not enjoy its comfort and fuel savings—it soon pays for itself!

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BUILDING MATERIALS

# Draft Changes Won't Affect PULPWOOD CUTTERS

Under Selective Service regulations, pulpwood workers are classed as essential. If you are deferred for pulpwood work, your deferment is still good so long as you stick to your war job of cutting pulpwood. If you change to a non-essential job, you can be immediately reclassified as 1-A.

Remember, pulpwood is a vital war material. The present pulpwood shortage may deprive our fighting men of the supplies they need. Over two-thirds of America's pulpwood now goes directly into the war effort.

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**Draft Won't Affect Essential Workers**  
By the Associated Press.  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Does your deferment for military service give you any assurance that you will not be called to military service in this age bracket? They declare that so long as you are clearly in essential work they will not be affected. On the other hand, those who have switched to a peacetime job—and remain there—can just as surely expect classification in 1-A.

Get Concession...  
It has not been determined yet whether local boards will give registrants who...



#### NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF LAND

Under and by virtue of the power contained in a mortgage deed executed by Snow Prevette to the undersigned mortgagee, same being recorded in Book 168, Page 150, office of the Register of Deeds of Wilkes county, N. C., default having been made in the payment of the note thereby secured, the undersigned will offer for sale at public auction for cash, at the courthouse door, Wilkesboro, N. C., on Monday, March 5, 1945, at 12 o'clock, Noon, the following described real estate:

Lying and being in Edwards township, Wilkes county, N. C., adjoining the lands of Mersey Prevette on the east; on the north by the heirs of W. M. Prevette; on the south by the land of Silas Prevette and Alley Prevette, and on the west by the lands of T. M. Holloway, containing 50 acres, more or less.

This 20th day of January, 1945.  
HILLARY PREVETTE,  
Mortgagee