

RELIGION

Understanding the meaning of 'Bread of Life'

Lesson Scripture: John 6:11-12, 14, 26-27, 35-40, 47-51.

Lesson aims: To understand the meaning of "Bread of Life," to focus on the work of this bread and to share Him with others.

Background: The entire sixth chapter of John is devoted to the theme of "spiritual bread." In the Old Testament times, bread was often used as a symbol for spiritual food. This metaphor probably developed when the Israelites were leaving bondage (Egypt) on their way to the Promised Land (Canaan). Exodus 16 explained the situation and gave a complete description of manna (bread). Rules governing its collection were also given. After their food supply ran out, God provided manna continuously until the first harvest at destination's end.

This food, often called "bread from heaven," was a miracle. For



Mildred Peppers

Sunday School Lesson

them it symbolized a gift from God instead of simply a natural product from the earth. Five thousand men, women, and children followed Jesus across the Sea of Galilee to witness more great acts. When Jesus looked around, He asked Philip how were they going to feed them (this was a

test - v.5). Philip didn't know but Andrew brought a boy to Jesus with five barley leaves and two small fish. Jesus told His disciples to sit the people down in an orderly fashion; the lesson begins.

Lesson: Jesus blesses the food and the disciples pass it out among the people. All are fed well and the extra is collected. Having witnessed another miracle, the people began to call Him a prophet (they hadn't had one in 400 years). He withdraws from the crowd and the disciples. The disciples get into a boat to cross the lake to Capernaum. About three miles out the winds become strong and they see Jesus walking on the water. Fearful, they eventually recognize Him and He gets on the boat. They are delivered!

The next day the crowd searches for Jesus. When He is found, they ask, "How did you get here?" He isn't impressed with their pursuit

because they are still missing the point. He identifies Himself to them and informs them to search for the bread that sustains forever. He is that bread. They are admonished not to seek those things that spoil. The crowd questions and Jesus begins a discourse with the proclamation, "I am the bread of life." He further states that they are to reach for a higher level of understanding concerning this bread. He continues to teach them that once they eat this bread from heaven (Him) they will never be hungry again. Somewhat confused, they grumble among themselves because they know (think) that his father is Joseph.

He continues the discourse on how to get the bread and the fact that they must go through Him. Three key points are made. First, it is eternal - it doesn't vanish, melt or spoil. Second, this bread is Jesus -

you can't get to the Father except by Him. Finally, this bread is by far better than any other, including manna. The bread is actually His body.

Application: It appears that too many of us are seeking bigness, popularity and theatrics as an indication of the will of God. So many people hunger for the void in their lives to be filled. They run from church to church seeking to get the empty space full. It works for a while and they move on. There are others who mistakenly believe that all of it is about receiving earthly wealth and power. When it doesn't come, it is as if their very foundation is crumbling - they continue to look.

At times we are just like that crowd in today's lesson; we got a taste and we want more of the physical. Jesus is much more than that. It isn't about getting wealthy only, it

is about receiving eternal life. God blesses us with a source of income; with proper planning a lot of material things can be amassed. They don't bring eternal joy and fulfillment! That void can only be filled by Jesus.

As we mature in Christ, that wisdom becomes clear. It's about accepting Jesus as God's Son and depending on Him in all situations. The love of Christ permeates our lives and points us to share Him with others. There are many needs in this world where Christ can fill the void. Racism, homelessness, dysfunctional families, people getting over Kosovo and others are all indications that humanity needs to be filled by the Bread of Heaven. Take your blinders off! Those of us who have eaten from the Master's table have work, awesome work to do! Oh, thy Great Jehovah, feed us till we want no more.

Three annual events in April at Winston-Salem Bible College

Special to THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem Bible College will host three important annual events during the month of April. These events show both the history and diversity of the historically African American Bible College located on Northampton Drive.

WSBC banquet

Winston-Salem Bible College has been hosting an annual fundraising banquet for more than 40 years. The banquet brings together the college's friends and alumni from every part of the Triad, including southern Virginia.

The WSBC banquet is the oldest continuing integrated religious gathering in the Piedmont, originating during the late 1950s, when large meetings of whites and African Americans were uncom-

mon. Friends of the college have been able to cross these racial boundaries because of their common commitment to the mission of WSBC to train ministers for the African American and urban communities.

This year's speaker is John Samples, Cincinnati, Ohio. Samples is recently-retired from Standard Publishing Co., one of the nation's largest suppliers of Sunday school and vacation Bible school material. While at Standard, Samples traveled across the United States, helping local congregations improve their outreach and witness. Samples also has an exciting testimony from his personal experiences in crossing some of our country's racial barriers.

Special music will be provided by the WSBC Ambassadors, a singing group composed of college

students and staff. The group includes five students — each from different congregations in Winston-Salem and from the island of Haiti — plus two staff members. Harold Moore, WSBC director of recruitment and development, will also present special music.

The offering for the evening is designated for the college's building program. Winston-Salem Bible College is growing and needs to increase its student housing, expand its classrooms, offices and library facilities. This summer the college plans to begin construction on additional student housing, which will permit the reassignment of current areas, enabling the college to begin the process of meeting future needs. The banquet will be held April 16 at 7 p.m. at the Hawthorne Inn, 420 High Street, Winston-Salem. For tickets

(\$15) contact the college office, 744-0900.

Urban ministry seminar

One segment of Winston-Salem Bible College's primary mission is to train ministers to work in the urban community. Currently, WSBC has alumni ministering in the cities of New York, Los Angeles, Denver, Memphis, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh and Detroit.

In an effort to help prepare current students and to assist local congregations, the college invites an outstanding urban minister to present an annual urban ministry seminar. This year's speaker is Anthony Moss, Phoenix, Ariz., pastor of one of the fastest growing African American congregations in that state. His congregation offers many outreach ministries, including the homeless, drug abusers,

battered women and teenagers. During one session of the seminar, Pastor Moss will explain the goals of their ministry and how the congregation has been able to use the witness of Christ in the city of Phoenix.

The seminar will be Wednesday and Thursday, April 21-22. Sessions will be at 11 a.m. and at 7 p.m. There is no registration charge and the public is invited. WSBC is at 4117 Northampton Drive in Winston-Salem.

On-Campus Days

Friday and Saturday, April 23-24, Winston-Salem Bible College will host its annual On-Campus Days for high-school-age youths. Pastor Anthony Moss will remain in Winston-Salem to speak at this event. Moss' experience working with the young people of

Phoenix provides him with a wealth of understanding of our young people and their problems. He will teach young people successful methods of dealing with peer influences that they face daily. Every young person who attends will be encouraged by his testimony.

The Friday program will begin at 6 p.m. with registration and an evening of fun activities, including the presentation by Pastor Moss, and will conclude with a bowling party. The Saturday program will begin at 9 a.m. and will feature several activities as well as a second presentation by Pastor Moss.

All high school youths from across the Triad are invited to attend all or part of the activities. Registration is \$20. Call the WSBC office for more information, 744-0900.

'Celebration of the Body' health fair to be held

Special to THE CHRONICLE

The Emmanuel Baptist Church senior nurses board will sponsor a health fair titled "Celebration of the Body" on Saturday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The guest speaker will be Dr. Mary T. Perkins, director of nursing, Brenner Children's Hospital of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. Dr. Perkins will speak at 10 a.m.



Dr. Perkins

The fair will focus on the care of the body; therefore, it will include hair care, exercise and fitness, make-up tips, body wrap, nutrition, along with blood pressure and diabetes screening, trauma care,

HIV/Aids education, organ and tissue procurement, first aid and safety, and much more. So, please come out and get a taste of preventive medicine this Saturday at Emmanuel Baptist Church, at 1075 Shalimar Drive where Rev. Dr. John Mendez is pastor. Elizabeth Newton is coordinator for the event, and Shirley Jamison is president of the senior nurses.

52nd Men's Day Service scheduled for April 18

Special to THE CHRONICLE

The men of New Bethel will celebrate their 52nd Men's Day observance on Sunday, April 18, at 11 a.m. The speaker for this occasion will be the Rev. Robert Anderson, associate pastor of Union Baptist Church.



Rev. Anderson

ment. He has been associated with Gold's Aerobics and Fitness Center as both its director and as a consultant. Our speaker has been affiliated with numerous educational institutions and organizations. Among these are Winston-Salem State University as an assistant football coach, academic counselor and lecturer from 1993 through 1997; the Pittsburgh Steelers football team as a scouting intern from 1992 through 1993; Grambling State University as a teacher and coach; and Taylor University as assistant football coach.

Rev. Anderson's denominational affiliations include: Progressive National Baptist Convention, Baptist State Convention, Forsyth County BTU, General Baptist State Convention, Rowan Baptist Association and Southern Baptist Convention. At Union Baptist Church he serves as recreational director, Sunday school teacher, member of Ruth Missionary Group and member of Pastor's Aid Committee.

Others appearing on the program are: presiding, Mr. Charlie Davis; Scripture, Rev. Louis Werts; announcements, Mr. Richard Smith; recognition of visitors, Trustee Joseph Bartley; special recognition, Deacons John Posey and Charles Robinson; and remarks by Pastor Jerry Drayton. Deacon Douglas Joyner is chairman of the Men's Day Committee.

St. John CME will celebrate homecoming and spring revival

Special to THE CHRONICLE

St. John Christian Methodist Episcopal Church will be celebrating its annual homecoming and spring revival beginning Sunday, April 18, and continuing through Friday, April 23. The theme for this grand occasion will be centered around "Transformation" as this relates to our theme for our General Church, which is "A Transformed Church: Living In Hope For The Life Of The World."

The homecoming will be a time when former members, out-of-town family and friends can come together to commune with God and fel-

lowship with one another. The message for the morning service will be delivered by the pastor of the church, Rev. Bobby R. Best. Dinner will be served after the morning worship.

Class Leaders Day will be the focus of our afternoon service. It will be a recognition service for our class leaders for the work they are doing in keeping up with the members under their charge and conveying their needs and concerns to the pastor and church. The guests for the afternoon will be Rev. Howard Daniels and the congregation of Living Waters Non-Denominational Church. The captains of our

class leaders are Mr. Sandy Payne and Mrs. Teretha Miller.

Our spring revival will open nightly at 7. Our evangelist for the week will be a former pastor of St. John, Rev. Johnny L. Adams Sr. of Charlotte. Rev. Adams is an outstanding and gifted preacher, an anointed man of God.

If you need to hear a word from the Lord, we cordially invite you to come out to any or all of these services. The church is at 650 NW Crawford Place. The Rev. Bobby R. Best is the pastor. Minister James Brannon is the chairperson for these events.

Shiloh Baptist celebrates pastor's seventh anniversary

Special to THE CHRONICLE

The congregation of Shiloh Baptist Church, at 12th Street and Highland Avenue, will begin celebrating the seventh anniversary of its pastor, Rev. Paul A. Lowe Jr., on Tuesday, April 20, at 7 p.m.

Rev. Lowe, a native of Seattle, Wash., is a graduate of Bishop College, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in religion and philosophy. He is also a graduate of Virginia Union University's School of Theology, where he was granted the Master of Divinity degree. Lowe pursued his post-graduate studies at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, where he completed the Master of Arts degree in Christian education. He is pursuing his Doctoral of Ministry degree at the School of Theology at Drew University in Madison, N.J.

He served as the pastor of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Essex County, Va., for four years and was an associate minister of the Golden Gate Baptist Church while matriculating his undergraduate studies at Bishop College.



Rev. Lowe Jr.

Rev. Lowe is actively involved with the ecclesiastical community and the community at large. He serves on the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Inc. and The Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem. He served as a board member of the AIDS CARE service. He is also involved with the United Way, The National Baptist Convention USA Inc. (serving as a lecturer for the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education), The Lott Carey Foreign Missionary Convention, the Rowan Baptist Association, as well as the Missionary and Education Union of Forsyth County.

Rev. Lowe is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Salem Lodge No. 139 Prince Hall

Affiliate, and the King Solomon's Consistory No. 84, where he serves as the assistant deputy and Grand Chaplain for the Grand Lodge.

The celebration will begin on Tuesday, April 20, at 7:00 p.m. with the Rev. Donald Jenkins and the congregation of St. Paul United Methodist Church as the guests. Wednesday, April 21, at 7 p.m. the guests will be the Rev. Sheldon McCarther and the Cleveland Avenue Christian Church. Thursday, April 22, at 7 p.m., the guests will be the Rev. F.O. Bass and the congregation of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church of High Point. Friday, April 23, at 7 p.m., the guests will be the Rev. Sam Cornelius and the congregation of New Jerusalem Baptist Church. The celebration will culminate on Sunday, April 25, at 6 p.m. with Dr. Serenus T. Chum Sr. and the congregation of Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend this spirit-filled anniversary celebration.

FAMILY UNITY DAY BANQUET

Masjid Al-Mu'minun
presents
10th Annual Family Unity Day Banquet

Guest Speakers
Dr. Nat Irvin II / Rev. Steve McCutchan

Keynote Speaker
Imam Faheem Shuaibe
of Oakland, California

THEME
"God's Plan For Our Families, Schools,
and Communities in America"

Entertainment By:
The Abdul Rahman Ensemble
Saturday, April 24, 1999 at 6:00 p.m.
The Anderson Center
Winston-Salem State University
DONATIONS: ADULTS: \$25.00
Seniors and Children (under 12) \$15.00

For tickets and further information contact:
Veronica Hasan (336) 784-7328 / Wali Salaam (336) 724-0258