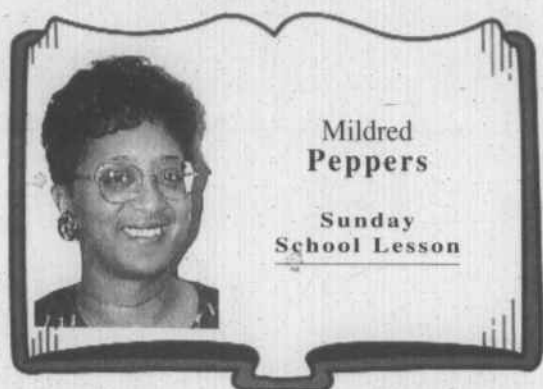


Too many believers want the crown but not the cross

Lesson Aims: to recognize and appreciate God's love for humanity, to understand that there is some suffering associated with following Him, and to be ready to declare the cross and the empty tomb to an unbelieving world.

Background: He was present at Creation. The prophets of old foretold of His coming and His mission. Isaiah called Him Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, Redeemer, the Suffering Servant. Born to a virgin in a manger. He was both divine and human. Sin broke the relationship between humans and God. Due to His love, He sent His Only Son as a ransom for all of humanity. The Jews knew that a Messiah was coming but they failed to recognize Him for the most part. You see, He came through the back door (poor) of society and changed it forever!

His cousin, John, baptized Him and thus inaugurated His ministry. His message did not reject the law as some thought.



Mildred Peppers
Sunday School Lesson

Instead He opened their eyes to the spirit of the law. The law wasn't designed to be a burden but to teach people how to live in community.

Shortly after His ministry began (in Galilee), the religious hierarchy became suspicious. His popularity spread, and they became outright jealous. They set traps for Him, but all of them failed. Eventually His time came, and obedi-

ence was the order of the day.

His last Passover celebration was marked by new meanings for the bread and the wine, feet washing and betrayal. The prophecy was being fulfilled.

The "Passion Story" began with His triumphant entry into Jerusalem (Mark 11). The week was filled with many things and culminated with His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. The scribes, Sadducees,

and the Pharisees felt that "they got Him now." Little did they know. Jesus was dragged from judgment hall to judgment hall. They wanted Him dead and would stop at nothing. Pilate found no fault in Him but needed to stay in good with the religious leaders, so he obliged them. The disciples fled and the crowd scattered. Jesus was beaten, mocked and had to carry His cross to the hill.

Lesson: On His way to be crucified, Jesus is exhausted. The soldiers force Simon of Cyrene to carry the Master's cross. Nailed to the cross, Christ refuses a mixture that will "ease the pain and dim the conscious" ("Bible Expositor and Illuminator"). Being obedient, His choice is to bear all of the pain, shame and suffering caused by sin. The very act of crucifixion is humiliation enough coupled with the torture, name-calling and casting of lots for His clothes. Jesus pays it all!

By the ninth hour (3 p.m.): He cries out to God. Many misunderstood what He said. "He dies in our place and it is His choice alone" ("Bible Expositor and Illuminator"). He feels forsaken but stays on that cross!

Too many believers today want the crown but not the cross. We desire the blessings without the sacrifices. Examine the references Jesus makes about "taking up the cross" (Matthew 10:30, 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23, 14:27). Christianity is no magic wand to wealth, good health and popularity. If we are believers, we must recognize that suffering for His sake is inevitable. Our desire to follow Him should be based on gratitude and love, not for what we can get out of it.

Darkness comes upon them; the temple curtain is torn from top to bottom; the earthquakes and the graves of the holy are open. Jesus' body is quickly prepared for burial because the Sabbath is near.

Laid in a borrowed tomb, a high stone placed in front of it, Jesus' body is guarded by Roman soldiers.

On the morning after the Sabbath, several women go to the grave to prepare the body properly. The body isn't there! A young man (angel) calms their fears and informs them that Jesus is risen. They must tell the disciples who are hiding out in the Upper Room. Jesus has done exactly what He said He would. On the morning of the third day, He arose the victor over death, hell and the grave. The cross and the empty tomb are the foundations of our faith. We cannot accept one without the other. Our faith depends on both!

Now for those of us like Thomas, evidence remains to convince us. Yet it is our choice to believe. His resurrection is evidence that He lives and will never die! His promise is to be with us forever. Trust Him today. Study faithfully so that you will be instrumental in leading someone to Christ.

Calendar

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"The Resurrection"

The drama ministry of Piney Grove Baptist Church will present "The Resurrection" on April 18 at 6 p.m. The church is at 4715 Indiana Ave. Dr. James F. Linville is pastor.

April 18, 20

Morning Star Missionary Baptist

The Original Seven Last Words Service will be held April 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Morning Star Baptist Church: the first word - Rev. Darryl Scott, AME Zion Church; the second word - Rev. Dr. Sir Walter Mack, Union Baptist Church; the third word - Rev. Dr. Dwight Hash Sr., Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church; the fourth word - Rev. Dr. A.T. Griffey, Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church; the fifth word - Pastor Essie McCullough, New Directions Movement Cathedral; the sixth word - Bishop John Parks, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church; and the seventh word - Rev. Philemon Samuels, Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church.

Easter sunrise service will be 6:30 a.m. April 20. Rev. D.B. Salley is the pastor.

April 19

Easter egg hunt

On April 19 at 3 p.m., Judah Praise and Worship Center will have an Easter egg hunt at Winston Lake Park. The pastor of the church is Elder Ricky A. Pouncey. For more information, call 721-3290.

"What's the Dilly About Easter?"

The Messiah's House Worship Center music and arts department will present "What's the Dilly About Easter?" on April 19 at 3 p.m., featuring Big Mama, Paw Paw, Aunt JoJo, Mama Kay, Aunt Shay, Cousin Pookie and special Messiah's House youth appearances. The center is at 3980 N. Liberty Street (one block past the Smith Reynolds Airport). For more information, call 661-6238.

April 20

Resurrection Sunday worship

Macedonia True Vine Pentecostal Holiness Church invites you to worship there April 20 at 10 a.m. for Resurrection Sunday Celebration of Worship. Apostle Sylvester Davis Johnson, senior pastor, will impart a life-changing message into your spirit. Call the church at 725-2190 or visit www.macedoniatvph.org. Apostle Sylvester Davis Johnson.

Sunrise service

Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church will have Easter sunrise service on April 20 at 6 a.m. Rev. Ray Watlington, pastor of Christian Fountain Baptist Church, will deliver the message. Dr. James F. Linville is pastor.

Sunrise service

The annual sunrise service will be held Easter Sunday at 6 a.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church, 916 E. 12th Street at Highland

Avenue. Breakfast will be served immediately after this service. Morning worship service will be held at 10 instead of the normal hour, 11 a.m. The public is invited to attend both services. Dr. Paul A. Lowe Jr. is pastor.

Sunrise service

Beulah Baptist Church, 1352 N. Trade Street, will hold its Easter sunrise service at 9 a.m. with a message by Rev. Paul Thombs. All are invited. Call the church, 722-2907, for more information.

Sunrise service

Easter sunrise service will be held at Union Bethel AME Church, 1716 N. Trade Street, on April 20 at 6 a.m. with St. James AME Church. Rev. Mary Peterson, pastor of St. James Church, will speak. Host pastor is Rev. William Propst. Breakfast will be served.

Sunrise service

The Messiah's House Worship Center, 3980 N. Liberty Street, will hold Easter sunrise service at 6 a.m. Pastor Michael K. Williams Sr.

April 21-25

Revival

Pastor Dennis W. Bishop of First Waughtown Baptist Church will conduct revival services at Freedom Baptist Church April 21-25. Tyrone Tyson is the host pastor.

April 22-25

Anniversary

Shiloh Baptist Church Senior Pastor Paul A. Lowe Jr.'s 11th anniversary will begin April 22-25 nightly at 7 with the following ministers fellowshiping with us: Bishop Freddie Marshall, pastor, and Christ Cathedral of Deliverance, April 22; Rev. Wendell Johnson, pastor, and First Baptist Church, April 23; Rev. Charles W. Leak, pastor, and Solid Rock Baptist Church, April 24; Rev. Samuel J. Cornelius, pastor, and New Jerusalem Baptist Church, April 25; and services will climax April 27 at 6 p.m. with special guests Dr. Serenus Churn and Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

April 26

Pageant

Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church will sponsor Miss Mt. Carmel Pageant on April 26. The program will begin at 3 p.m. and the banquet will be at 4:30 p.m. There will be a donation. For information, contact Annie Parns or Doris Jones at 784-7802.

The church is at 3230 Heitman Drive, Dr. A.T. Griffey III is the pastor.

April 24-26

Book sale

The Shepherd's Center of Winston-Salem will hold its annual book sale April 24-25 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on April 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The sale will take place at Coliseum Park Plaza, 710 Coliseum Drive. The sale location is the former Intimate Book Store site.

Thousands of hardback, paperback and audio books; videos; cassette tapes; and LP

records will be available. There is no admission charge, and all proceeds support the programs and services of the Shepherd's Center.

The Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem is an interfaith ministry whose mission is to support and promote successful aging through educational, service, volunteer and support opportunities for older adults.

April 26 and 27

Family and Friends Day

Holy Trinity Full Gospel Baptist Church, 651 Akron Drive, will hold Family and Friends Day April 26 and 27. The event is open to the public. Times: begins at 8 a.m. Saturday; 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday services. The theme will be "I'm Gonna Make It Happen." There will be dancing, singing, drama, etc. For more information, call the church office at 744-9293.

April 27

Choir anniversary

The New Birth Worship Center Inspirational Choir will celebrate its sixth anniversary April 27 at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited. The address is 1033 Newbirth Drive (located off Hwy. 67) in East Bend. The pastor is Dr. James "Jim" L. E. Hunt. For additional questions or concerns, contact Elvita Hunt at (336) 768-1749.

April 28

Anniversary

Red Bank Baptist Church, 6592 Baux Mountain Road, will celebrate the 31st anniversary of the Senior Choir on April 28 at 4 p.m. The church invites you to come to share with us in song and praise. The pastor is Rev. James R. Clyburn Sr.

May 5-9

First Waughtown Baptist

Pastor Dennis W. Bishop of First Waughtown Baptist Church will conduct revival services at First Baptist Church in Donora, Pa., May 5-9. Members of First Waughtown Baptist Church will travel to Donora on May 8 at 2 a.m. and return on May 10. For more information on travel arrangements, contact Jacqueline Jones (788-8903), Betty Dillard (794-0702) or Beverly Bishop (995-4855).

May 7-9

Choir revival

Greater St. Matthews Gospel Choir invites you to its choir revival May 7-9 at 7 p.m. On opening night the Renaissance Choir will be the featured guest. Various choirs of Winston-Salem will also be featured nightly. On May 9, Pastor Gentry A. Palmer and the congregation of Mount Glory Missionary Baptist will preach and teach. The church is at 149 N. Wheeler Street. William J. Purvis Sr. is pastor. For more information, contact Brenda West at 922-2058 or 784-5056 after 6 p.m.

Other

Jehovah-Jireh Provision Center Food Pantry

If you are in need, Jehovah-Jireh Provision Center Food

Pantry can help. It is located at 651 Akron Drive in Holy Trinity Full Gospel Baptist Church. The hours of operation are every second Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon, and every fourth Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. If you have any questions, call 744-9293.

Wild Wednesday Worship

Have you been missing the UH-OH? Then you need to come join us at WWW@beulahland.com. That's Wild Wednesday Worship at Beulahland.com. You are invited to attend our Wednesday worship service every week from 6-8:30 p.m. Call the church at 722-2907 for more information. Beulah Baptist Church is at 1352 N. Trade Street.

St. Matthew

Activities at St. Matthew Apostolic Temple, Church of Jesus Christ Inc.: 1) April 19 at 6 p.m. - Rena Davis Missionary Circle will sponsor a baby pageant/fashion show. Pageant is for the age group newborn to 3 years old. 2) April 26 at 6 p.m. - women's ministry program. 3) April 27 at 4 p.m. - First Lady's Aide Anniversary. 4) May 16 at 7 p.m. - Youth Ministry Joy Night. 5) May 31 at 2 p.m. - Mother/Daughter Luncheon. Speakers: missionary Alice Rubin and missionary Kia Williams. St. Matthew is at 3640 New Walkertown Road. Bishop Joseph P. Lowery is pastor.

Youth church

Emmanuel Baptist Church premiered its Youth Church on March 16 at its 10 a.m. worship service. Families without a

Speas

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cation, Trustee Charles Hunt; announcements, George Horton; recognition of visitors, Richard Walker; special recognitions, Deacons Charles Robinson and John Posey; pastoral reflections, Pastor Dr. Jerry Drayton; offertory prayer, Deacon Cleveland Griffin; introduction of speaker, Alfred Poe; and altar call and prayer, Rev. Louis Wefts.

A special men's chorale, under the direction of Trustee Kenneth Rocker, will sing.

Deacon Douglas Joyner is chairman of the annual Men's Day Observance.

church home and all interested youths are invited to worship in both the main sanctuary and in the youth church. The youth church features choirs, step teams, drama and the written word of God. Emmanuel Baptist Church is at 1075 Shalimar Drive. For more information, contact Mark Samuel at 659-4768 or Beverly Leavy at 744-5258.

New Jerusalem Christian Church

New Jerusalem Christian Church, 3784 Bethania Station Road, opened its doors for worship service March 12. Bible study is Wednesday from 7 to 8 p.m.; Sunday school, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.; and worship service, 11 a.m. Van service is available. Contact Pastor Ada Davis at 969-2425 or 969-2045, or the church secretary at 767-4464. All are welcome and come and worship.

Break-Through Services

Do you need a break-through? Come to Mt. Olive

Mt. Olive Baptist Church
1301 E. Belews Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
"Let God Be God"
724-5842 or 721-1959
Sunday Morning Broadcast 6 - 6:30 A.M.
WUPN 48
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Worship Service 11:00 A.M.
Wednesday 12:00 Noon
Bible Study 7:00 P.M.
www.letgodbegod.org

Piney Grove Baptist Church
4715 Indiana Ave. • Winston-Salem, NC 27106 • (336) 767-4044
✦ Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
✦ Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
✦ Evening Services 4:00 p.m.
Bible Study Every Wednesday 10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Mission Statement: "A Saving Station for Lost Souls and Enrichment Center for Christians"
Website: www.pineygroveinc.org • E-mail: pgbc2005@bellsouth.net

Pentecostal Lighthouse Baptist Church of W-S, Inc.
317 Jefferson St.
Kernersville, NC 27284
(336) 992-0011
Schedule of Worship Services
Sunday Morning Worship 8:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Thursday Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.
Dr. A. Thomas Griffey, III
Pastor/Teacher
"To Love, To Know, To Serve and To Grow God's Kingdom!"

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