

# Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with Him

**Lesson Scripture:** Luke 14: 7-11, 15-24

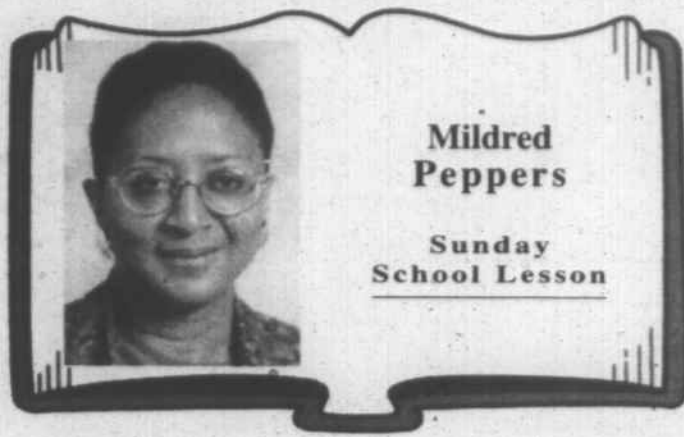
**Lesson Aims:** to explain the parables in the lesson, to understand the relationship between humility, sacrifice and discipleship, and to follow Jesus faithfully.

**Background:** Our studies this quarter have revealed more about Jesus' life, teachings and ministry than ever before (for some of us any way).

The final lesson centers on humanity's response to the Great Invitation. Luke 14 opened on a Sabbath day when Jesus was dining at a prominent Pharisee's house. All eyes were on Him as He spotted a man suffering from dropsy (edema). Jesus posed the question; "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" Everyone was silent. Jesus knew the Law better than they did! "Rabbinical interpretation allowed medical treat-

ment in cases of life and death" (Bible Expositor and Illuminator). Knowing their hearts, He healed the man and sent him on his way. A second question was raised, "If a son or oxen of theirs fell into a well on the Sabbath, will they not immediately pull him out?" The dinner guests kept their mouths closed. Throughout his Gospel, Luke presents Jesus as "Lord of the Sabbath" who models compassion daily.

**Lesson:** While the guests continue to eat, Jesus notices them "jockeying" for position at the table. He uses their behavior to teach about humility. A guest Himself, Jesus becomes the host as He presents more parables. Both parables today recognize two opposing groups - the elect and those deemed the non-elect. When the invitation to the wedding or banquet is issued, how should believers respond? Like the lawyer



from last week, should a believer promote self? God isn't fooled by self promotion!! Jesus teaches that the first (the elect) shall be last and the last (the non-elect) shall be first (Matthew 19:30, 20:16; Mark 10:31; Luke 13:30). What does it mean? Rest assuredly, it doesn't mean to come late! Simply put, don't think more of yourself due to an education, a title, a neighborhood, a car or who you know. Instead sit at

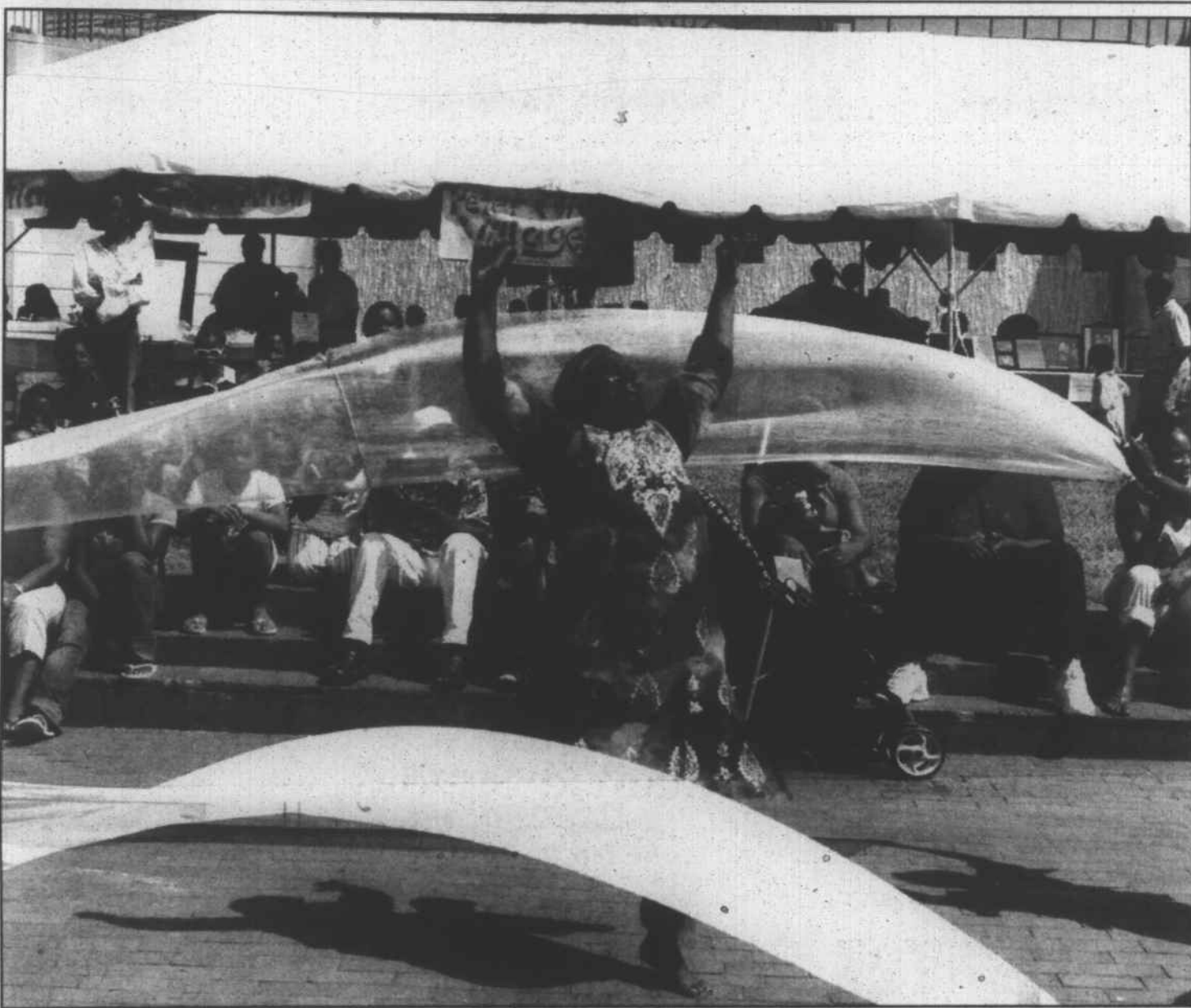
the back (humility) to allow the host to invite you closer. If the believer isn't careful, their self-importance will make them appear foolish. There is no room for arrogance as a disciple of Jesus, the Christ! What about those who are unclean - the crippled, the lame, the blind and the poor? God invites everyone to the table! This means that the non-elect are just as important as the elect! Luke has expanded the former cate-

gory. In the second parable, the invitation is given three times. Society's elect gives three excuses why they can't attend the banquet - the recent purchase of land, oxen bought, and a new wife must be attended to. The second invitation goes out to society's outcasts in the streets and alleys. They come but there is room at the table for more. When the invitation is extended a third time to people who live far away (hedges and highways) the house becomes full!! All of the invitees who didn't come will simply miss out. Jesus goes on to teach that humility and sacrifice are the qualities that disciples must possess (vs. 25-27).

**Application:** Like all parables, the characters and places mean much more than the simple words!

The ministry of Jesus is

based on love and compassion for all. The unity that Jesus refers to crosses all lines of division - religion, race, sex, physical condition, economic status, education acquired, and the like. Old folks used to sing about sitting at the Welcome Table, what a time what a time! The last banquet table (the eschatological one) will be full with those who accept the Great Invitation (Matthew 11: 28) and live faithfully. Living faithfully includes fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and loving God first, and then our neighbors as ourselves. This is the Great Commandment found in Matthew 22: 37-40. Ministry as we all know is doing. The Model Teacher set the standard; use no other to measure yourself. What does the Lord require? To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:8).



Ronee Walker performs at a Juneteenth event in 2005.

## Walker

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Aerobics." She has also appeared in TV commercials for Winn-Dixie Stores, Subaru, Payless Stores and VanGrak Sports Wear.

Walker has appeared in industrial films, as well as print and department store modeling for Nordstrom's,

Meier & Frank and J.C. Penny. In 1992, Minister Ronee appeared off-Broadway, in the critically acclaimed stage drama, "Sister's Under the Rainbow."

The 2001 YMCA Adult Black Achiever honoree is also a member of the American Federation of Television and Radio Announcers and the Screen

Actor's Guild.

Walker recently celebrated 15 years of service with the Pepsi Bottling Group. She plans to retire within the next 5 years to devote time to her daughter, Aaliyah, now 7, to explore entrepreneur endeavors and to continue to develop her Worship and Arts Ministry.

Overall, she wants to help

build the kingdom of God with her time, talent and resources. Walker is the middle child of James Zell Walker II and Jeanette (Walker) Mason. Her siblings include, Jimmy, Debra, Freda and James (Zelton).

Exodus United Baptist Church is located at 2000 Wilbur St. in Winston-Salem.

## Calendar

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the "2008 Word of the Lord, The Year of the Open Gate" service to be held on Friday, Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. The church is located at 901 Peter's Creek Parkway. Apostles Theophilus and Valarie Jones are pastors. Call 723-1792 for more information.

Jan. 26

### Ladies Fellowship

The S.I.S.T.A.'S Program at Holy Trinity Full Gospel Baptist Church is seeking ladies to be a part of their program on Saturday, Jan. 26, 6 p.m. at the church, 651 Akron Dr.

This program is designed to provide mentoring and activities that strengthen the roles of wives, mothers, grandmothers, aunts and ladies of all statue. For more information, call 744-9293.

Jan. 27

### Van drivers appreciation service

Mount Calvary Holiness Church of Winston-Salem, Inc., will sponsor a Van

Drivers Appreciation service on Jan. 27 at 3 p.m. The guest church will be Alpha and Omega Church of Faith. Bishop John Huntley, Sr., will render the service. The church is at 1615 E. 22 St. Wardlow Frazier, Sr. is the pastor. The public is invited to attend. For more information contact the church secretary at 767-0105

Jan. 29

### Church anniversary

Greater Higher Ground Ministries will celebrate its 15th church anniversary on Sunday, Jan. 29 with an evening service at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. Host pastors are Bishop John H. Heath and Pastor Janice O. Heath. For more information, call the church office at 759-1125.



Bishop Heath

Feb. 1

### Express yourself

Life Changing Church Ministries will present "Express Yourself" on the first Friday of each month at 7 p.m. Whether you dance, sing, play an instrument, recite poetry or read, come out and "Express Yourself" unto the glory of the Lord. This event is scheduled by the Youth Department, Minister Carl Archie, Youth Minister. The church is located at 690 Brookstown Ave. Call 336-725-4755 for more information. Pastor Alice Mitchell is the host Pastor.

Feb. 3

### Superbowl party

RICH Community Development Corporation M.A.L.E. program is sponsoring a 2008 Superbowl party on Sunday, Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. at Holy Trinity Full Gospel Baptist Church, 651 Akron Dr. The party will be a night of food fun, fellowship, door prizes, games and more. Bring the entire family, there will be fun for everyone. For more information, call 744-9293.

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Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
M.Y.P.U. .... 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday Services**  
Prayer & Bible Study ..... 7:30 p.m.

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