



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Mrs. Lawrence

Subject: Hearing God's Command Lesson

**A Book Is Found in the Temple
A Standard for God's People
A God to Worship and Obey**

Scripture

**II Kings 23:1-2
Deuteronomy 10:12-19
Deuteronomy 10:20-22**

**Background Scripture - II Kings 22:3-20
Heb. 4:12**

LESSON BACKGROUND

The Book of II Kings continues the drama begun in I Kings which describes the depressing history of Israel and Judah on a collision course with captivity. This Book has probably been included in our reading because most scholars believe that the Book of law that was rediscovered was part or all of Deuteronomy. During King Josiah's reign one of his objectives was to repair the Temple. It was at this time, the Book of law was found by Hilkiah, the high priest.

Shaphan, the secretary reported the discovery to King Josiah who yearned to turn his spiritually lifeless nation back to God. So after the reading of the Book he was moved to repentance for himself and the people, for he knew that the former King, Manasseh and the people had done great sin against God. As a result of the discovery Josiah put forth the most far reaching effort to reorder Israelite life and worship. He appeared as a star of brief hope upon the National horizon in the last days of a wicked King, Manasseh. so God postponed Judah's judgment because Josiah used His Word to bring change in the nation.

LESSON EXPLAINED

Josiah's reform is the setting for our lesson today. Realizing that there was much religion in the nation but little Godliness, he called all the people together and read "all the words of the Book of the covenant." After committing himself to God through repentance for himself and the people who were in agreement with him, he began a thorough reform of the nation. For complete details of Josiah's reign, read II Chronicles, Chapter 34.

The Book of Deuteronomy seems to be a collection of Moses' speeches, including restatements of Israel's history. The people were urged to fear the Lord: walk in His ways, love and serve Him and keep His commandments. The exhortation "Circumcise...your heart" is used figuratively in order to show that the evil to be dealt with is a stubborn heart. We're reminded of who God is; He is impartial and cannot be bribed. God desires justice for the poor and defenseless. He shows His concern for strangers by meeting their physical needs. He says "love ye therefore the stranger," because they "were strangers in Egypt."

The last part of this lesson is calling on the people to worship and obey the Lord. This call to the people to fear the Lord was an invitation to commit themselves to Him and His ways. They were to be like Him regardless of how many gods others might worship, they should serve Yahweh, cling to Him, and make their vows in His name.

They should show their love for God by being faithful to the covenant and obeying His laws. We should realize here that it is foolish to say that we love God when we've failed to do His will.

TRUTHS TO LIVE BY

1. The way to true prosperity to life and well-being, is the way God has shown us in His written Word and in the Living Word, Christ Jesus.
2. Worship and obedience always go together.



Luvenia Ivey was crowned "Mrs. St. Paul Baptist Church" for the second year in succession. Representing the usher board, Mrs. Ivey worked diligently to raise the most money from within the church. Eighteen ladies competed for the title and none seemed to worry about hard work. Rev. Dr. Paul Drummond, pastor of St. Paul, congratulated Mrs. Ivey for her tremendous contributions and reemphasized the type of strong leadership abilities displayed by her. On Saturday, May 23, a brunch was given to honor Mrs. Ivey at the home of Carolyn Ginyard. This Women's Day program was chaired by Sophese Blackmon. Runner-up in the Mrs. St. Paul Baptist Church competition was Carrie Miller. Speaker for the special 11 a.m. service was Dr. Mrs. Elizabeth Randolph, Board of Education. Mrs. Ivey, who has been a member of St. Paul Baptist Church for 10 years, is the mother of seven children and seven grandchildren.

Sonic Club

The Sonic Social and Civic Club will present Anita Stroud with a check for her boy's camp on Sunday, June 7, at 4 p.m. at her home. Miss Stroud leaves June 19 for the camp.

The donation is being made in memory of the late Lilaemae Sesperman, a former member.

Read The Post



Rev. Bryant Clancy
...Community leader

Clancy Earns Doctor Of Ministry Degree

The Doctor of Ministry degree has been earned by Rev. Bryant E. Clancy Jr., pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3001 Beatties Ford Rd.

Rev. Clancy will receive the degree from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill., during the school's 147th commencement exercises on June 9.

The Doctor of Ministry degree is open to pastors who have at least two years of experience in the ministry. Successful completion of the minimum of 36 hours and a major project in the practice of ministry are required for graduation.

Rev. Clancy was exposed to courses in the program that focused on ways to improve his practice of ministry by developing competency in the areas of worship, preaching, counseling, teaching, and administration.

The McCormick Theological Seminary is set up so that students can complete most of the required work near home and in the context of the surroundings where he or she practices the profession of ministry. Courses are taught by McCormick faculty who travel to regional centers.

Title I Students To Receive Free Trip

More than 3,000 CMS students in grades 4-8 will receive a free trip to the Carowinds theme park on June 9-10 as a reward for achieving a high level of class attendance during the current school year. Admission to the park, located just south of Charlotte, is being donated to 60 CMS schools which receive Title I federal funds by the park. Special admission rates are \$6.50 per person, making the total dollar value of the donation, as estimated by Carowinds officials, in excess of 1242,000.

The "Attendance Excellence Days" began September 15, 1980, and lasted through May 22, 1981. During that period of time, detailed daily attendance records were kept for all 10,688 eligible Title I students. Those who achieved 95-100 percent attendance rates during the period have been awarded the trip. Almost 35 percent of those eligible reached the attendance goal.

The idea began in the CMS Title I Parent Advisory Council as a way to meet at least one of the school system's objectives for the 1980-81 school year and has involved hundreds of parents in a variety of planning and execution tasks.

"One of the objectives," CMS Title I Director Barbara Davis said "...was that all schools would reach or exceed 91 percent in attendance on the secondary level and 95 percent on the elementary level during the current school year. Another objective dealt with improving standardized test scores.

"Traditionally," Ms. Davis continued "the attendance at Title I schools has been lower than at many other schools in our system. We felt this kind of incentive would help improve attendance by giving

students an innovative goal to reach in improving their attendance.

"We think it offers a good entertainment and learning opportunity for many children who might not have had the chance to go otherwise," Ms. Davis concluded.

Another of the school system's goals is to have all schools in the system reach or exceed expectancy levels in reading and mathematics as measured by the California Achievement Test (CAT). "It's a simple fact," Ms. Davis said "that the more a child is in school, the greater his or her chances are of getting a good education. If the child is not there, there is absolutely no opportunity to absorb the material being offered.

"The better the understanding and comprehension, the greater the likelihood of improved test scores," she concluded.

Half of the 3,335 students plus chaperones and bus drivers will attend June 9; the other half on June 10.

Students will be picked up at 34 locations throughout the county by school activity buses at 8:30 a.m. on their designated day and will return to the same location at about 3 p.m. Volunteer chaperones and parents will supervise the trip. They will spend about four hours in the park and be treated to an ice cream-Coke party, sponsored by the Coble Dairy Products and Coca-Cola companies, at 1:30 p.m. A special awards presentation for students and sponsors will recognize students with the highest attendance level and thank sponsors for their participation. "We think the program has worked well," Dr. Jay Robinson, CMS Superintendent, said.

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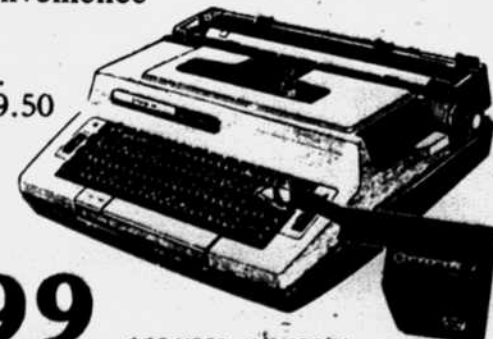
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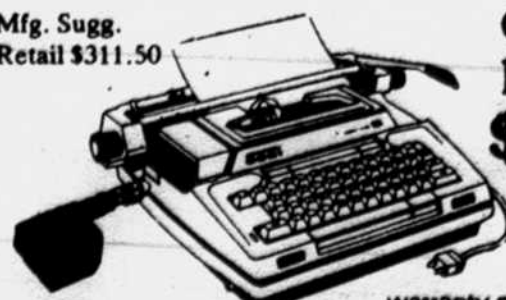


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