

By Clara B. Lawrence

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON



Mrs. Willie Owens  
Greenville member

Rev. L.D. Parker  
St. Luke pastor

SUBJECT: God's Offer of Mercy To All  
October 4, 1981

Lesson  
An Open Invitation  
A Compassionate Plea  
A Helpful Reminder

Scripture  
Isaiah 55:1-3a  
Isaiah 55:3b-7  
Isaiah 55:8-9

Background Scripture..Isa. 55:1-13

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Jerusalem was captured by Nebuchadnezzar and his army in 598 B.C. Those who were left in the city revolted against him which resulted in the destruction of that city. Nearly 50 years later Cyrus and his Persian army conquered Babylon. He decreed that the Jews could return to their homeland. This is the historical setting of Isaiah 40-55, which sows the prophet urging the people to accept the opportunity and leave Babylon.

In Isaiah 53 the prophet sets forth the Messiah as the sin-bearer; Chapter 54 points a portrait of the radiant joy of restored Israel. He records the Lord's invitation to Israel in chapter 55; an invitation to whoever will take advantage of it. It predicts the coming of the Messiah to the nation of Israel, and then to the rest of the world. It offers pardon to sinners, making it clear that such pardon is justifiable only because God's thoughts are infinitely higher than men's thoughts.

We've completed Unit I, "The Greatness of God," and this lesson begins a study of Unit II, "The Grace of God."

### LESSON EXPLAINED

Today's Bible text describes a wonderful God and explains His gracious offer. God called the prophet Isaiah for this purpose, which was to call His spiritually thirsty people back to Him. Isaiah began his appeal for the Lord by the use of the term "ho" as a "attention-getting device." This approach would make them listen to his message concerning salvation. His references to water, wine and milk represent spiritual truths which teach the reality of salvation through faith in God. Peter's address to dispersed Christians made a similar statement: "The sincere milk of the Word." (1 Pet. 2:2). Verse 1 says in essence, "all things are ready; the guests are invited; nothing is required of them except to come." (Keil and Selitzsch).

The focus becomes more direct in verse 2. The prophet moves from "everyone" to the use of "ye" and "your." God's question here comes in response to the offer and the promises in verse 1. It is seen here that the people were using human means for hoping to gain spiritual satisfaction. They were told that their readiness to receive salvation would depend on obedience and faith. The Apostle Paul quoted from this verse which reads, "The sure mercies of David" would be given to those ready to receive them. (Acts 13:34).

The use of the pronoun "jim" in verse 4 seems to look both backward and forward (either looking backward to King David or forward to the Messiah).

God is speaking to His Son in verse 5. The change in tense indicates that verse 4 does look back to King David and verse 5 looks to the future; the promised Messiah who would not only redeem His people, but would also call sinners.

Note the evangelistic appeal in verse 6, however, it implies that God may not always be available to man. God is always near to hear the call of men, but because of continued sin and rejection of God, his heart has become hardened, and there is no desire to be helped. Genesis 6:3 states "The Lord said, my spirit shall not always strive with man."

Isaiah is saying to the people that they must repent: forsake their ways and their thoughts. That would be the acceptable way to seek God; and He would "abundantly pardon."

The prophet reminded them that God had said that their thoughts were not His thoughts.

Isaiah continued to speak for God in verse 9 when he called attention to the distance between man and the stars in order to illustrate the point mentioned in verse 8.

### TRUTHS TO LIVE BY

1. We should call upon the Lord before the invitation expires. (Ps. 32:6; Heb. 2:1-3).
2. God offers eternal satisfaction to sincere seekers.

### Aptitude Test Being Offered

Because of the success of its Scholastic Aptitude Test preparation course, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte will be offering another preparation course in time for the November and December S.A.T. examinations. The course will be held on three Saturdays, October 3, 17 and 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. It will be held on the UNCC campus. For registration and other information, contact UNCC's Office for Continuing Education and Extension at 597-2424 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays.

## Weeping Willow Will Hold

### Its Annual Fall Attic Sale

The Intermediate Missionary Society of Weeping Willow AME Zion Church will hold its Annual Fall Attic Sale at the church, 306 Billingsley Road.

The sale will begin at 8:30 a.m. and continue until 2 p.m.

The Annual Soul Stirring Revival will begin at Weeping Willow Sunday, October 4, and end Friday, October 9.

Service will begin each night at 7:30 with prayer services.

Rev. Derrick Anderson and the congregation of Bethel AME Zion Church will open the revival Sunday night.

Rev. Retoy Gaston and the congregation of Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church will deliver the message for the remainder of the revival, Monday, through Friday.

Come out and share in the glorifying of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### WEEPING WILLOW

"How Deep Is Your Love?" was the theme for Missions Day Observance at Weeping Willow AME Zion Church recently.

Activities were centered around this central theme in numerous ways. Joyce Reid of Charlotte was the speaker for the 11 a.m. service.

Mrs. Reid, an active member of Moore's Sanctuary AME Zion Church, is employed by the North Carolina National Bank. Her topic: "Missionaries Demonstrating God's Love" engrossed the audience.

The morning service was followed by a fellowship dinner sponsored by the women of the church.

The afternoon program began at 2:30 p.m. with the women dressed in white with red stoles.

Julia Phillips presided over the afternoon service. Six speakers from the congregation of Weeping Willow were featured - Janet Cureton, Josephine Wade, Gloria McCorkle, Bleeka Massey, Janice Vaughns and Myrtle Henderson - all spoke on the theme "How Deep Is Your Love?"

The climax of the program was the crowning of the "Woman of the Year." This year's title was presented to Louise Vaughns who raised \$350. First runner-up was Betty Eady who raised \$250 and the second runner-up was Myrtle Henderson who raised \$200. The total finances raised during this program were \$2,650.75.

The captain for the Woman of the Year rally was Betty Eady. The co-captain was Jennifer Phillips.

Visual aids demonstrating ways to show love towards mankind was shown as the final phase of the program.

Rev. J. W. Henderson is the pastor of Weeping Willow, located at 306 Billingsley Road.

### SECOND CALVARY BAPTIST

Make plans now to attend Second Calvary Baptist Church Senior Musical Choir's Annual Gospel-A-Rama Sunday, October 18. The time will be announced at a later date.

Mrs. T. T. Drummond, first lady of St. Paul Baptist Church, will be the guest speaker at the Missionary Society's Annual Day Sunday, October 18, at 11 a.m.

All ladies of the church are asked to wear white. The Greater Charlotte Community Chorale will be presented in concert Sunday, October 25, at 5 p.m. by the Board of Deaconess. This program will be in observance of the Deaconess' Annual Day. You are invited to attend.

A luau will be held at Second Calvary Baptist Church October 16. Tickets are \$3 and will permit one to eat all they can. More

details later.

The church is located at 114 Nelson Avenue. Rev. Dr. Lemar Foster is pastor.

**GRIER HEIGHTS**  
3000 donor day at Grier Heights United Presbyterian Church will be held Sunday, October 4, at 2 p.m.

The church needs at least 15 donors. Dinner will be served at the church for those giving blood. For more information, contact Genora Fant.

World-wide Communion Sunday at Grier Heights will be held Sunday, October 4, at the 11 a.m. service. The church hopes that a miracle will take place in the form of every member (except those confined in hospitals or nursing homes, etc.) be in service to break bread in the name of Jesus.

Please pray for the miracle and encourage fellow members to be present to witness the same.

Rev. Lloyd B. Morris is pastor. The church is located at 325 Skyland Ave.

**FAITH MEMORIAL**  
Faith Memorial Baptist Church, 211 Lakewood Ave., will provide a Soul Stirring Revival...all you have to do is be present to receive the blessing of hearing the Lord's messages.

Beginning October 5, and lasting until the 9th, Rev. Dr. M. V. Ingram, pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church, Durham, will speak each night of the revival.

The public is cordially invited to attend. Rev. W. H. Caldwell Sr. is pastor.

**NEW ZION BAPTIST**  
The New Zion Hymn Choir of New Zion Baptist Church, 217 W. Todd Lane will celebrate their 33rd Anniversary Sunday, October 4, at 2:30 p.m.

There will be a host of local choirs presenting songs of praises to God.

The public is cordially invited to attend. Rev. B. R. Robinson is pastor. J. C. Buford is president of the choir.

### CLINTON CHAPEL AME ZION

The Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church of the Charlotte District received 50 African Methodist Episcopal Zion Hymnals donated by Mr. and Mrs. James Jones in memory of their son.

### Youth Council

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council, Inc., does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, religion or national origin in any of its employment practices or services to children or adults as it administers the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Child Care Food Program.

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## DISCOUNT CENTER

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PRICES EFFECTIVE THRU SAT. OCT. 3, AT A&P 2400 FREEDOM DRIVE. ITEMS OFFERED FOR SALE NOT AVAILABLE TO OTHER RETAIL DEALERS OR WHOLESALERS

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## Young Hen Turkeys

59¢

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2 LARGE HEADS 1.00

TROPICANA

## Orange Juice

1/2 gallon carton

88¢

## JFG Coffee

All Grinds 13 oz. bag

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JANE PARKER

## White Bread

3 16 oz. loaves

1.00

A&P QUALITY WESTERN

## Sirloin Steaks

T-Bone Steaks

2.98 Lb.

2.78 Lb.

A&P QUALITY HEAVY WESTERN BEEF

## Ground Beef

In 3 Lb. or 5Lb. Roll Lb.

1.28

U.S.D.A. INSPECTED FRESH FRYER

## Box-O-Chicken

Lb. 49¢

## JFG

## Mayonnaise

quart jar

78¢

## Hi Dri Towels

2 big rolls

88¢

DIET PEPSI, MOUNTAIN DEW,

## Pepsi Cola

2 Liter Plastic Bottle

89¢

## Have A Weekend "Get Together"

Ctn of Busch Beer 6 12 oz. cans

1.79

Blue Ribbon

## Pabst Beer

12 12 oz. cans

3.78

BIANCO, ROSTA, 1.5 Liter Bottle 4.19

## Cella Lambrusca

2.29 750 ML