

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON



Mrs. Lawrence

SUBJECT: God So Love The World
October 25, 1981

Lesson	Scripture
Born Of The Spirit	John 3:5-8
The New Birth Explained	John 3:9-15
God's Good News	John 3:16, 17
Light And Darkness	John 3:18-21

Background Scripture...Jn. 1 & 3:1-36

LESSON BACKGROUND

John, the beloved disciple of Jesus, son of Zebedee, sets the tone for his entire treatment of the life of Christ in his opening chapters. He begins his Gospel, not with Jesus' family tree as do Matthew and Luke, or with an account of Jesus' public ministry, as does Mark; but by emphasizing in detail the significance of His incarnation. John's main purpose his Gospel is to inspire faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

During Christ's ministry, the situation in Israel was so bad that the people including religious leaders were hostile to this divine truth. But there were some who were searching for the truth about God. Among these was a man named Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a religious leader of the Jews. Nicodemus was perplexed: John the Baptist had taught that fulfillment of the works of the law was not sufficient for obtaining salvation. A baptism of repentance, a signification that one was awaiting the Messiah was added to the faith. So Nicodemus became convinced that Jesus had something he did not have. What was it? Our lesson today gives us this answer as Nicodemus visited the Master at night, in search for the truth.

LESSON EXPLAINED

Nicodemus, a devout worshipper of God, visited Jesus at night to seek spiritual guidance. He began his conversation by acknowledging Jesus as a teacher, and a man sent from God. (He had seen the miracles of Jesus and could not deny this fact.) Jesus seemed to have known why Nicodemus came to Him because he was told that a man would have to be born again in order to see God's kingdom, even before he stated his purpose of his visit. Nicodemus misunderstood the idea of a man being born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb and be born? Jesus meant that "born again" was a need (and still is) for a radical spiritual change which only God can bring to pass in the human heart.

Jesus had insisted on the necessity of the new birth in the third verse, now here in verses 5-9 He describes the nature of the "new birth." Wescott said that "the water and the spirit suggest the original shaping of the great Order out of chaos when the Spirit of God brooded on the face of the waters." He also said that "water" symbolizes purification...and spirit quickening." A man must be born of water in the ordinary course of nature, but also of the Spirit."

Verse 6 speaks of two realms of human life; to enter the physical world by a physical birth; likewise, the only way to enter the spiritual realm is through a spiritual birth. "Wind" and "spirit" is a play on words in the Hebrew and Greek, for they are the same word...pneuma, which first meant "breath" or "wind."

"The wind blows where it listeth" (wishes). You hear it but you cannot tell its origin or destination. The new birth is just that mysterious because it is spiritual." (3:8) We might add that one cannot see the wind, but can observe its effects. In the same way, we cannot see the Holy Spirit, but can sense His presence and see results of His work in lives.

Nicodemus' questions surprised Jesus for they showed a lack of understanding of Jesus' teaching of such a basic doctrine, even though he had been taught by Old Testament prophets on the coming of the Messiah and His ministry on earth. Jesus spoke with authority in verse 11. The word "we" may refer to the Godhead, but most likely it refers to the family of true believers, for it contrasts with the word "ye," those who spiritually callous.

As Jesus continued to explain the new birth He reached the conclusion that it would be useless to teach Nicodemus heavenly things since he lacked understand-

ing of earthly things. Then looking to the future, Jesus hinted of the cross. The story of Num. 21:9 is told here when Moses made a brass serpent, put it on a pole, raised it up for victims to see for the purpose of their healing. This act was symbolic of Jesus' resurrection and a sign of salvation. The point here is "there is life now for a look at the 'Crucified One.'"

"God so loved the world" is a declaration of a love that knows no limits. And the results of acceptance of God's love is life rather than death.

Stroud Answers Call To "Preach The Gospel"

At the early age of 21 Rev. John Stroud had received the call to preach the gospel, but ignored it. As a matter of fact he has probably served in every capacity in the church, except for that of minister.

Now in his golden years of life, Stroud has attained his Theology degree from Teamer's College and is eagerly awaiting to accept the calling from a church. For two years Stroud attended Friendship College.

Concerning Stroud's decision to preach, he stated, "It was something that I had been avoiding and I just decided to go ahead. When God wants you for something, He won't let go of you until you do His will."

Lately, Stroud has been preaching at various churches as guest speaker. He is a member of University Park Baptist



Rev. John Stroud

Church and has served on the Deacon Board and has been a Sunday School teacher.

Stroud and his wife, Maggie Lee Stroud, are the parents of one son, John Arthur and have been foster parents for eighteen years.

Stroud is available to any church who needs a good Christian minister. He can be reached at 2632 Columbus Circle, phone 332-2532.

First Mayfield Spiritual Choir Will Celebrate

The Spiritual Choir of First Mayfield Baptist Church will celebrate its first anniversary on Sunday, October 25, at 3 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Rev. James Palmer along with the choirs and congregation of University Park Baptist Church.

Everyone is invited to attend and support the spiritual choir in its effort to make this a great success. The church is located at 901 Oaklawn Avenue. Rev. Jeremy Robinson is the pastor.

EAST STONEWALL. In memory of Marvin and Wesley Chapel AME Zion Church, the Rev. Denizer Johnson and the concert choirs will be presented in an ensemble at East Stonewall AME Zion Church on November 1 at 4 p.m. This program is being sponsored by Mrs. Bessie Sims.

On October 25 at 5 p.m. the Young Adult Usher Board will present Mr. John Kee and members of various combination choirs in concert.

A cordial invitation is extended to everyone. East Stonewall is located at 1729 Griers Grove Road. Rev. James E. McCoy is pastor.

GALILEE BAPTIST Galilee Baptist Church Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. with morning worship celebrating the Annual Homecoming of the church beginning at 11 a.m. Sunday, October 25.

Also on Sunday at 1:30 p.m., dinner will be served. Revival at the church begins at 7 p.m. with guest speaker Rev. A. G. Cooley and the congregation from St. Mark Baptist Church. Evangelism for the week of October 26-30 will be Rev. A. E. Johnson, pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Harrisburg.

The public is cordially invited to attend Galilee's Revival. Rev. F. A. Griffin is pastor.

SECOND CALVARY The Greater Charlotte Community Chorale will be presented in concert at Second Calvary Baptist Church Sunday, October 25, at 5 p.m.

This program is being sponsored by the Board of Deacons in recognition of their annual day.

The Young Adult Choir of Second Calvary will sponsor an annual Halloween Carnival with Haunted House, games, prizes and refreshments. This event will occur Saturday, October 31, from 6-9:30 p.m. You are invited to attend.

Ordination services for the deacon designate at Second Calvary will be held Sunday, November 15.

Second Calvary is located at 114 Nelson Avenue. Rev. Dr. Lemar Foster is pastor.

FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST Revival services at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church are still underway and are scheduled to end Friday, October 23.

Guest speaker for the week has been Rev. A. Louis Patterson Jr., pastor of Mt. Corinth Missionary Baptist Church, Houston.

You are invited to attend. The church is pastored by Rev. Coleman W. Kerry. SHILOH INSTITUTIONAL

Annual Homecoming at Shiloh Institutional Baptist Church, 208 South Bruns Avenue, will be held Sunday, October 25, beginning at 11 a.m.

A fellowship dinner will be served immediately following morning worship service in the Education Building.

Rev. L. D. Mayes, pastor of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Gastonia, will be the guest speaker. His congregation will accompany him.

Rev. Mayes is a graduate of the Johnson C. Smith Seminary. He is presently employed as a teacher in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System.

Revival at Shiloh will begin Sunday, October 25. Rev. James S. Hall Jr., pastor of Triumph Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pa., will be the guest speaker for the week.

Rev. Dr. Hall is a native of Marion, S.C., and received an honorary doctorate from Morris College-Fuller Industrial School.

He has served as president of the Philadelphia Baptist Pastors' Conference and Baptist Ministers' Conference. He received the "Man of the Year" distinction from Morris College, the first annual "Martin Luther King Freedom Award," and other prestigious awards.

Rev. Dr. Hall will deliver his first message during the 11 a.m. worship service Sunday, October 25.

Rev. Tommy G. Davis is pastor of Shiloh Institutional Baptist Church.

Versatility Is Part Of Outerwear Picture

Outerwear was born the day prehistoric man donned an animal pelt for warmth.

He didn't care how he looked. He just wanted to be warm.

Today warmth and appearance both count in outerwear. And this season's selections from Sears handsomely weave warmth and fashion together for a variety of looks from city sophisticate to rugged outdoors. Pile and down provide the warmth, wool-blends, corduroys, poplin, fleece and twills -- the fashion.

Versatility is part of the outerwear picture, too. A four-in-one parka with zip-off sleeves can be worn as a vest, and the park's down lining and outer poplin shell can either be worn separately or together.

Neutrals and earth tones are the predominant outerwear colors for adults, while the brights with bold color-slicing are popular for kids.

OutReach Minister

The Outreach Ministry at Heritage Village Church will be sponsoring a contemporary version of Noah's Ark, "It's Gonna Rain," in Studio A at Heritage Village, 7224 Park Rd. at 7:30 p.m. on October 24. Admission is free.

You are sure to find this presentation dramatic, entertaining, and inspirational! Make group reservations now by calling 542-6000, ext. 2208.



DISCOUNT CENTER

ADVERTISED ITEM POLICY Each of these advertised items is required to be readily available for sale at or below the advertised price in each A&P Store, except as specifically noted in this ad.

PRICES EFFECTIVE THRU SAT. Oct. 24 AT A&P 2400 FREEDOM DRIVE ITEMS OFFERED FOR SALE NOT AVAILABLE TO OTHER RETAIL DEALERS OR WHOLESALERS

2400 Freedom Dr.

A&P QUALITY FRESHLY

Ground Beef
3 lbs. Or More
98¢
lb.

A&P QUALITY HEAVY WESTERN BOTTOM

Boneless Round Roast
lb.
1 88

FROZEN

Totino's Pizza
12 oz. pkg.
89¢

- Pepperoni
- Cheese
- Sausage
- Hamburger

U.S.D.A. INSPECTED FRYER

Box-O-Chicken
lb.
45¢

A&P QUALITY

Beef Franks
Meat Franks
12 oz. pkg. **98¢** 12 oz. pkg. **1 08**

LAGO-FROZEN

Sliced Strawberries
10 oz. pkgs.
89¢

Cool Whip
12 oz. bowl **89¢**

Pie Shells
2 2 ct. pkgs. **99¢**

Cottage Cheese
12 oz. bowl **59¢**

Red Band Flour
5 lb. bag **79¢**

- Self-Rising
- Unbleached
- Plain

SILVERBROOK GRADE 'A'

Homogenized Milk
gallon jug **1 89**

U.S. NO. 1 EASTERN

White Potatoes
15 lb. bag **1 49**

FLORIDA GROWN WHITE

Grapefruit
Sweet and Tasty
5 lb. bag **99¢**

LAUNDRY DETERGENT

Wisk Liquid
32 oz. btl. **1 39**
FABRIC SOFTNER - 15 cents off label **Final Touch** 32 oz. btl. **99¢**

Have A Weekend "Get Together"

Stroh's Beer
Ctn. Of
12 12 oz. cans **3 99**

Natural Light Beer
Ctn. of
12 12 oz. cans **3 89**