

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON



Mrs. Lawrence

SUBJECT: Jesus Affirms (Declares) His Own

Lesson  
John Announces the Coming One  
God Affirms Jesus as the Christ  
John Becomes Disappointed in Jesus  
Jesus Affirms John

Scripture

Luke 3:15-20      Luke 7:19,20  
Luke 3:21,22      Luke 7:21,23

Background Scripture Lk. 4:14-44

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Beyond being as Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus had no special identity, except that of a young rabbi from Jerusalem without professional credentials, but with unusual teaching skills. He was attracted by many followers because of His ability to heal body and mind.

John the Baptist, the last of the Old Testament prophets, appeared on the scene just prior to the beginning of Jesus' ministry. People of the Jewish country were expected to be liberated from the Roman government by a Messiah who would establish a kingdom of peace for His chosen people. Some believed that John was a prime candidate for the task. We find John attempting to set the record straight, that he is not the One, in the opening portion of the lesson.

### LESSON EXPLAINED

The time of Christ's coming was near at hand. Expectation reached into all countries where He had gone. A growing supposition continued, that John the Baptist was the Messiah. John refuted this idea by telling the people of the One to come, and of the greater spiritual works He would do. (Vss. 15, 16).

John describe the process by which the Messiah will use in separating believers from unbelievers. The phrase "with fire unquenchable," probably refers both to the everlastingness of the punishment and the certainty of it for those who disobey the gospel. We can assume here that John continued to preach the meaning of true repentance, but Herod Antipas, ruler of Galilee and Perea, became alarmed that John's movement would lead to rebellion among his people. The ruler's fears increased when John denounced his illicit marriage to the wife of his half-brother.

Prior to John's arrest and imprisonment, verse 21 takes us to the Jordan Valley where he baptized Jesus. Luke says that Jesus was praying during this occasion. The splendor of the moment was increased when God's Spirit appeared as a dove and settled about His head, as well as a vocal expression of approval by the Trinity that He was the Son of God. (vs. 22).

In chapters 4 through 6 we read of Christ's temptation and fasting; and His victory over temptation. These passages of Scripture also tell us of how He preached in the synagogue on the Sabbath, proclaiming "the time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." It was in the synagogue when Jesus declared His mission by reading from the Book of Isaiah, chapter 61. He apparently volunteered to read where it was written "the Spirit of the Lord is upon me to preach the gospel to the poor..." When he had completed His reading, He sat down to explain. He said "this day is the Scripture fulfilled in your ears." People began to wonder if He was the Messiah.

Jesus' ministry consisted of healing the sick and urging the repentance of sins. At this time John the Baptist was in prison for the reasons previously stated, but he had been kept informed of Jesus' teaching and miracles that He performed, by his disciples. John became discouraged because of his unfair imprisonment as well as an apparent inconsistency in Jesus' teaching. He, therefore, began to question whether Jesus was the Messiah. He sent two of his disciples to Him with the question: "Art thou He that should come? or look we for another?"

While the disciples were talking to Jesus, He was dealing with the sick, lame and the demon-possessed. Jesus' answer was neither a "yes" nor "no," instead, He told them to tell John what they had seen and heard. His answer echoed Luke 4 just described.

### CLOSING SUMMARY

John the Baptist announced repentance because a mighty One was about to bring in the righteous rule of God. Jesus was revealed to be that One. Later, John became discouraged and questioned whether Jesus was the promised One. Jesus' answer was "tell John that my works of healing and compassion are signs of My Messiahship."



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Bradley  
...She was Miss Francetta Farrer

## Miss Francetta Farrer

### Weds Thomas Bradley

Francetta Farrer and Thomas A. Bradley Jr. exchanged their wedding vows recently at Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist Parsonage.

Reverend H. McDowell officiated the ceremony. The bride was given in marriage by Robert L. Johnson.

She wore an elegant two-piece white ensemble, which she made, accented by a beautiful high collared lace blouse.

Dannette Gaither was

the maid of honor and the best man was Freddie H. Dial.

The bride is employed by the Charlotte Post as Director of Advertising. The groom is employed by IBM.

Following the ceremony a reception was held at the King and Queen Lounge in uptown Charlotte. Hors d'oeuvres were served by a relaxing atmosphere of jazz music.

The couple honeymooned at the Radisson Plaza Hotel.

## Elderly People

### Deliberately Limit

### Their Activities

By Gayle Hinson  
Post Staff Writer

Because of fear elderly people deliberately limit their activities, according to a National Institute of Justice study.

Nearly two-thirds of the people interviewed felt "at least somewhat likely" that they would be robbed while outside their homes. More than half thought it somewhat likely that they would be physically assaulted on the streets.

The report said this fear sometimes becomes emotionally crippling, restricted the elderly's social life, and contributed to already existing feelings of loneliness and depression.

One fact that should be pointed out, however, is that the fears are not always warranted. The elderly are actually less frequently victims of crime than are younger persons. It has been discovered that the older a person becomes the less chances that he or she will be victimized.

Harrassment on the street by teenagers was the most frequently reported type of victimization.

In a study carried out by the University City Science Center of Philadelphia, it was found that there may not be a great need to set up special police services for the elderly has been perceived.

Said the study: "The elderly have quite positive attitudes toward the police, and they appear to be reasonably well satisfied with the quality of police services provided to them. From their perspective, the need to tailor police services to fit the particular needs and requirements of the elderly does not appear to be as pressing as it is sometimes depicted."

It said that the elderly might be better served by efforts aimed at improving overall police effectiveness and the community as a whole.

One problem identified by the study is that police officers responding to calls for service from the elderly very seldom recommend any social agency or community organization for follow-up aid.

The report found that the elderly regard this as an important dimension of the police role. In the survey, more than 90 percent said that it was important that police officers "know where people can turn for assistance with all kinds of problems." But the study said that less than three

percent of elderly victims were referred by police to social service agencies.

The typical elderly citizen who calls the police seldom does so for trivial reasons. Very few felt that it was appropriate to request assistance for non-crime or non-medical problems.

The only exception to this was the loss of a pet. This is an especially serious event for the person who relies on the pet for protection and or companionship.

Results of the survey of police officers found that the officers had a "generally positive image of the elderly." More than 73 percent said older persons are very respectful of authority, while only 25 percent gave this evaluation to the average citizen. Elderly also were rated as being substantially more cooperative than the non-elderly, more pleasant, more respectful, more law abiding and more concerned about crime.

Overall the police appear to view the elderly as "better" citizens than the non-elderly. Other findings were that the police do not seem to stereotype older persons and that they consider the elderly to be less of a police problem than their younger counterparts.

### Las Amigas, Inc.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Chapter of Las Amigas, Inc. will hold an Oratorical Seminar January 30 at the Greenville Center from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. The purpose of this seminar is to acquaint the participants on the criteria of the Oratorical Contest to be held February 28. The contest will coincide with Black History Month.

Las Amigas, Inc. invites all youth of the city to participate. Awards will be given to the winners of each grade level.

Levels will include: Level I - Grades 6-7; Level II, grades 8-9; and Level III, grades 10-12.

For additional information, contact Johnnie Young at 568-1514.



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