



Sunday School Lesson

INTRODUCTION

"Thy speech maketh thee known," (Matthew 26:73). Jesus Himself said, "By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy works thou shalt be condemned," (Matthew 12:37).

Today's lesson provides a clear example of that truth. God's mightiest events are set before us in the sacrifice of His Son at Calvary and in Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Along with those facts we are given commentaries by various observers - Jewish leaders and others who witnessed Jesus' suffering and His death, then followers of Jesus approaching the resurrection. We hear even from Christ Himself, from God, and from an angel. In every instance, the observer identifies and judges himself by his relation to the event and by what he said about it.

Now we, too, enter into that judgement. Through Scriptures we observe the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we make our own responses. Probably not many would join the company of those who scoff at the resurrection. More tempting is membership in the multitude of the uninvolved. They find Christ a disturbance that they choose to avoid. Some, on the other hand, still weigh the evidence and conclude that Jesus is indeed the sacrificial Son of God, and are willing to say so. Among these are those glad believers who respond with total love to Jesus' sacrifice and with total commitment to His way of life eternal.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Last week's lesson ended with Jesus in agonized prayer (if you read your Scripture) while His disciples slept in Gethsemane. There Judas came with the temple guards who arrested Jesus and led Him bound to the palace of the high priest in Jerusalem. There, He was tied by Annas and finally condemned by Caiaphas and the Council on charges of blasphemy.

Jesus carried His cross out of the city on the way to Golgotha, the place of the skull. Roman soldiers fastened Him to the cross and lifted Him up to exposure and slow death between two crucified thieves. It was about nine o'clock in the morning, after a night of agony and torture. Passersby jeered and made fun of their once-hailed Messiah. Yet, from the cross He prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do," (Luke 23:34).

(Mark 16:1-7) As the Sabbath approached on that Friday afternoon, Jewish authorities asked Pilate to hasten the deaths of the crucified ones. They didn't want the Sabbath desecrated by men slowly dying on crosses. The victims' legs were to be broken so they could no longer relieve the constriction of heart and lungs by occasionally lifting the body's weight from the arms. Finding that Jesus was already dead, the soldiers did not break His legs, but pierced His side with a spear.

Two previously secret disciples, Joseph and Arimathea and Nicodemus, secured permission to take Jesus' body and bury it in Joseph's tomb newly hewn from rock. On the way from the cross, the women of the party paused to buy spices to use later in preparing Jesus' body for permanent burial. Then they retired to observe the Sabbath rest. The temple authorities, remembering that Jesus had said He would rise again, persuaded Pilate to secure the tomb with the Roman seal upon its rock closure and with soldiers guarding the area.

After the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices to go and anoint the body of Jesus. Very early on Sunday morning at sunrise, they went to the tomb. On the way, they said to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" (It was a very large stone.) Then they looked up and saw that the stone had already been rolled back. So they entered the tomb, where they saw a young man sitting at the right wearing a white robe - and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was here in the place where He was placed. Now go and give this message to His disciples including Peter. He is going to Galilee ahead of you; there, you will see Him, just as He told you."

The empty tomb did not of itself prove the resurrection but it did verify that the most unusual kind of removal had taken place. It demanded, and still demands, an explanation. The only explanation that fits all the facts is that which the angel first gave: "He is risen."

The Lord is alive! He was (and is) active, and He had (and has) a message for His followers. That message the angel proceeded to deliver. The women were not to linger in contemplation of the empty tomb. They were to tell what they had learned, and the telling required that they go to those who must be told.



Marcia Caldwell
.....Medical technology major

At National Science Conference Charlottean Represents Barber-Scotia College

Barber-Scotia College sophomore Marcia Caldwell, the daughter of Mrs. Mary Poe of 5901 Craftsberry Drive, was one of 10 BSC students to represent the institution at the recent conference of the National Institute of Science that was held in Atlanta, GA.

The students were involved in seminars and sessions where research projects were presented by other students in the field of science.

"This was a good experience for us to see what other students are doing and to gain general information in the area of science," says Marcia Caldwell, a medical technology major. "We had an opportunity to talk with recruiters from graduate schools and medical schools."

"I am extremely excited about information I received on a summer science program," adds Ms. Caldwell.

According to Dr. James Haviland, BSC interim

coordinator of arts, science and business, the funding for this trip was sponsored by the National Institute of Science.

Other students representing Barber-Scotia College included: Rachel Burns, Ricky Carpenter, Larry Richardson, Michael Durrant, Barnard Martin, Danny Phillips, Anthony Andrews, Andrea Dixon, and Ian Fleary.

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