



Sunday School Lesson

Introduction: Several years ago a man was being considered for promotion to a prominent position in the Anglican church. The man was qualified by virtue of his education and experience for the post, and his dedication and piety were well known. Yet there was some unwillingness on the part of his humble origins. 'After all,' said one bishop, 'the man's father was nothing but a carpenter.'

Another bishop then asked for the floor. 'Gentlemen,' he said, 'this morning in my devotions, I just happened to be reading about another man who was nothing but the son of a carpenter.' Then, saying nothing more he sat down. For a moment, there was an embarrassing silence in the meeting, and then unanimously and without further discussion, the candidate was approved.

The 'respect of persons' that James talks about in this chapter appears in our midst, in a hundred different forms. Sometimes it is reflected in racial prejudice. In other situations it arises along economic class lines or even where we got our education. At other times, it reflects nothing but childish snobbery. But whatever the form or whatever the cause, James brands such 'respect of persons' as sinful.

Lesson Background: The first section of today's Scripture deals with showing partiality toward the rich. In this text James makes it clear that snobbery stifles the Spirit and prejudice perpetuates problems. Be sure that you (we) don't study these verses in a haughty attitude of self-righteousness. We can profit from our study only when we allow the searchlight of God's word to reveal the dark shadows of our inner being and reveal whatever flaws there may be.

(James 2:1) My brothers, as believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, you must never treat people in different ways according to their outward appearance. Here James without a doubt condemns such partiality as contrary to Christian faith.

'Suppose a rich man wearing a gold ring and fine clothes comes to your meeting, and a poor man in ragged clothes also comes. If you show more respect to the well-dressed man and say to him, 'Have the best seat here,' but say to the poor man, 'Stand over here or there, or sit here on the floor by my feet,' then you are guilty of creating distinctions among yourselves and of making judgements based on evil motives. Listen, my dear brothers! God chose the poor people of this world to be rich in faith and to possess the kingdom which he promised to those who love him. But you dishonor the poor! Who are the ones who oppress you and drag you before the judges? The rich! They are the ones who speak evil of that good name which has been given to you. (James 2:2-7)

We could wish that James' example were an exaggeration, yet similar situations have been described in the early church. For that matter, we might find similar situations existing in our churches today. After all, it was not long ago when many churches charged their members pew rent. The choice pews, commanding a higher rent, were claimed by the wealthier members, with the poorer members getting the less desirable seats or having to stand.

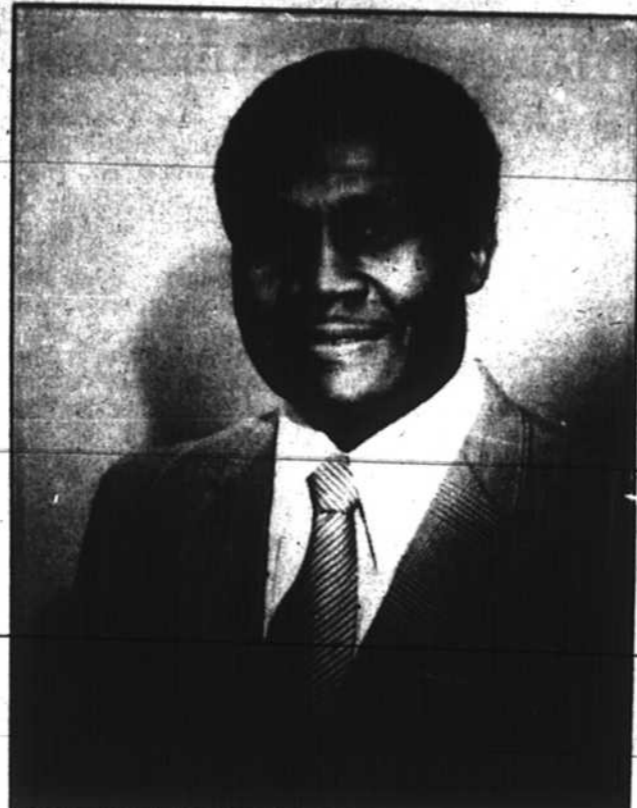
By showing partiality based on outward appearance, these Christians were behaving in a manner that was manifestly wicked. It should be obvious to all that a person's soul is not more precious in God's sight simply because he happens to possess greater wealth than someone else for the few short years he lives on earth.

Read for yourselves, James 2:5-7. Here James shows how the rich have no special claim on the esteem of the church. Indeed, if there is a privileged group in the church, it is the very poor whom the church was treating so shamefully. God often has selected the poor to be the recipients of His special favors. The size of a man's bank account is not an accurate measure of his faith. On occasion, God has deliberately chosen the weak or poor in order to confound the mighty (I Corinthians 1:26-29).

(James 2:14) What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? For years theologians have argued the relative importance of faith and works in God's plan of salvation.

From the position that James takes here, we are led to believe that this problem had already arisen in the early church. Apparently, some were arguing that since man is saved by faith, then works were unnecessary. James is asking, "Can the sort of faith that does not exhibit itself in productivity save a soul and make a person a new creature?" James' answer is a resounding no.

Faith and works are paired in the Christian's life and character.



L.C. Coleman
.....Political pioneer

To Join NCSC Coleman Is Recruiting Local Senior Citizens

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer
L.C. Coleman, longtime political pioneer in the Charlotte community, is recruiting Charlotte's senior citizens to join the National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSC). The NCSC is a Washington based national organization which aids senior citizens in their knowledge of national and local politics.

Progress has already begun on the establishment of a Charlotte chapter of the NCSC. The second formal meeting will be held 3 p.m., May 3, at the Carolina Community Project, 2300 E. 7th St. The meeting will consist of the election of officers and formation of committees," Coleman divulged.

"I am seeking out every senior citizen group I know of, to encourage them to join the NCSC," states Coleman, coordinator of one such group, Senior Citizens United. "We need a coalition of senior citizens in North Carolina that will address the political needs and issues which are of special concern to the elderly."

The NCSC assists the elderly through the dissemination of political information to its members. It provides the records of elected officials, recording their stand on certain issues. A quick study of a political official's record enlightens one to whether this politician is a help or hindrance in getting certain acts passed.

"The purpose of the NCSC is to come in and help the elderly help themselves. These political records are available to the public, but no one takes the time to look. We've never had the resources before," Coleman points out.

"It is of important consequences that senior citizens become involved voter participants and are conscious of their voter rights," he added.

With substantial political information in their possession senior citizens can become a viable group that politicians must reckon with. The elderly will have the knowledge to give or

Mint Sponsors

Cardmaking

Workshop

You can design your own Mother's Day card at the Mint Museum's family workshop, Saturday, May 12, 12-2 p.m. on the lawn of the History Museum (inside if raining), 3500 Shamrock Drive.

The special workshop is free - all materials will be provided - and the public is cordially invited.

The special cardmaking workshop, scheduled to coincide with Mother's Day, May 13, is being held in conjunction with the exhibition "The Seasonal Trade: Holiday Gift And Greeting Cards" currently on view at the History Museum through May 27.

Bring the entire family - everyone will have fun making a card for someone special.

For additional information, contact June Bliss, 334-9777, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

withdraw their support from a politician who is not concerned with the needs of senior citizens.

For example, Coleman has obtained the records on Jesse Helms. Records show that the North Carolina Senator has voted against pertinent issues which directly affect the elderly such as the Older American Act, Home Energy Assistance and Disability Insurance.

Congressman Jim Martin's records reflect a similar unwillingness to provide government assistance to society's elderly.

"With the aid of the NCSC," relates Coleman, "senior citizens of this area can form a 'watchdog' coalition to monitor politicians' acts. Senior citizens have the time to see if the government is providing the services they are supposed to."

Coleman has a long history of political involvement in the Charlotte community. He's brought benefits to the community through his work with the Westside Improvement Association. Coleman was also instrumental in the reduction of bus fares and ambulance service for the elderly.

JCSU Choir

Schedules

Spring Concert

The Johnson C. Smith University Choir, under the direction of Christopher W. Kemp, will present its annual spring concert at 5 p.m. Sunday, May 6, at the University Church. The selections of sacred and secular music will be open free to the public.

Secular selections will include "What Will the World Be Like Tomorrow?" by Loonis McGlohon; "Gossip, Gossip," Betty Jones and Jester Hairston (calypso) and selections from "Porgy and Bess" by George Gershwin.

Sacred selections include "Daniel, Daniel, Servant of the Lord," Undine Moore; "Gloria," from the 12th Mass by Mozart; "Walk Together Children," William Henry Smith and "Allelui" by Randall Thompson.

The choir has recently toured Danville, Va., Durham, N.C., Columbia and Charleston, S.C.

Forum Cancelled

The May 3 9th Congressional District Candidates Forum which was to have been held at Owens Auditorium, has been cancelled.

Co-sponsors Central Piedmont Employers Association and the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce decided to cancel the May 3 forum after evaluating participation in the gubernatorial forum on April 12.



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.

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ITEMS OFFERED FOR SALE NOT AVAILABLE TO OTHER RETAIL DEALERS OR WHOLESALERS.

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Boneless With Eye of Round 20-26 lb. avg. lb
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Bone In **2.68** lb.
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Fresh With Quality
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Ripe Cantaloupes
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99¢

SAVE 11¢ LB. **Ripe Bananas**
GOLDEN
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SAVE 30¢ EA. **Tomatoes**
RED RIPE
Family Pack 28 oz. pkg.
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SAVE 10¢ **Green Beans**
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Regular Cut French Style
16 oz. cans
2.88¢
SAVE 1.00 **Dairy Charm** Ice Cream
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SAVE 20¢ **Eight O'Clock Coffee**
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59¢

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DEL MONTE
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78¢ #669
A&P COUPON
SAVE 41¢ **Charmin Bath Tissue**
WHITE OR ASSORTED
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78¢ #670

A&P COUPON
SAVE 30¢ **Chunk Light Tuna**
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