

By Bessie Wilbon

## Sunday School Lesson

### INTRODUCTION

As one looks at the teaching of Jesus, at least three emphases seem to stand out. These may be listed as "A stress on the Supernal," "An Emphasis on the Eternal," and "An Insistence on the Internal." Jesus directs our gaze upward from a preoccupation with material things to an awareness of spiritual reality. He wants us to raise our outlook above to an awareness of God. Jesus also wants us to look forward, beyond the flow of time to the life we shall forever have with God. He spoke of "treasures in Heaven" and His final judgment of men. The worth of earthly things is to be evaluated in terms of that place and life where moth and rust cannot corrupt our treasures there.

The point stressed in this lesson is another concern Jesus repeatedly expressed. He wants us to fix our attention on that which is inward. He pointed out the importance of inner attitudes, dispositions, and thoughts as compared with outer deeds. Of course, He was insistent on doing His Father's will, and He taught that all men should obey Him. But a mere formal profession of religious life or mechanical, unthinking acts were of no value. He also taught that bitterness, seething hatred, cold contempt, or burning desire within would have an effect on our conduct and attitudes in life. Since we are all tempted at times to confuse a formal piety with vital devotion, we may well give special attention to His teaching in this area.

### THE LESSON

"Then came together unto him the Pharisees and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen hands, they found fault. And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brazen vessels, and of tables. Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?" (Mark 7:1-5).

This confrontation took place in Galilee, most probably in the vicinity of Capernaum. Jesus' reputation had spread. Leaders from Jerusalem had come perhaps for the purpose of scrutinizing the conduct and teaching of this carpenter from Nazareth. Doubtless they had heard tales of unusual healings and startling teachings. No doubt they were also aware of His conflicts with the local rabbis and their inability to withstand Him in debate; so they brought their superior learning and status to bear on this One who was setting Himself up as a "teacher of the law."

These religious leaders observed that Jesus' disciples ate with defiled hands, which means ceremoniously unclean. No doubt the disciples washed their hands before eating, but they did not comply with the ceremonial washings that the Pharisees carefully observed. There were no regulations in the Old Testament that required ritual washings before the eating of every meal. These customs, taught and perpetrated by the rabbis, had been elevated to the status of law by the Pharisees themselves. Although the common people looked up to these men as their leaders and tried to follow their teaching, they were unable to both work for a living and faithfully observe all the meticulous and multiplied ceremonies the Pharisees required. Thus, the Pharisees felt themselves to be on a higher plain, superior to and holier than the common people.

"And when he was entered into the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable. And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him. Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the drought purging all meats? And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. Far from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders. Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile the man." (Mark 7:14-23).

One of the grounds for Jesus' struggle with the religious leaders was their confidence in externals, in their assurance of God's favor because they kept all the minute regulations they had drawn up about what was "legal" and "righteous" and what was not. Jesus brushed aside all these man-made ritualistic requirements. He taught that people are to worship God "in spirit and in truth." Not only did the Pharisees look with pride on their own keeping of the law, but they insisted that any man who failed to comply with even the most minute rule they had invented was a law breaker and deserving of censure. They seem to have paid scant attention to the possession of qualities of life that irradiate and warm the personality. They would tithe from a sense of compulsion, but seemingly not share from a spirit of compassion.

We sometimes act as if the proper lineup of the deacons on Sunday morning, or the question of how much grape juice is in the Communion cups, or of who takes up the offering, or of what color the choir robes should be, are matters of supreme importance. We find it easy to carry grudges and difficult to forgive. Our approval in the eyes of God lies not in the keeping of external matters of man's origin, but in the possession of the attitude of heart that He desires. The only way we can impress our great and glorious God is with a lowly and humble heart.

## Election Year '86 Gets Underway

By Audrey C. Lodato  
Post Staff Writer

Jim Richardson, Bob Walton, Pete Cunningham, and Fountain Odom were among the first candidates to file for elective office when filing opened earlier this week.

Filing closes at noon on February 3. Voters will get to cast their ballots at the May 6 primary for the following offices: U.S. Senate, U.S. Representative for the Ninth District, North Carolina Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals, Superior Court judges, District Court judges (26th district), District Attorney, Clerk of Court, sheriff, state Senate and House, Board of County Commissioners, Board of Education, and Soil Conservation District Supervisor (non-partisan).

Jim Richardson, currently N.C. Representative for District 59, filed for the Senate seat presently held by Mel Watt. Cunningham is making a bid for Richardson's seat.

County Commissioner Bob Walton filed for a fifth term, this time to represent District 2. The Commission has until now been made up of five at-large seats; this year marks a change to three at-large and four district members.

Mecklenburg County Commission member Fountain Odom was one of four Democrats to file for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Republican Sen. John East. The others were attorney Bill Belk, also of Charlotte; Marvin Blount of Greenville, a former Superior Court Judge; and Betty Wallace, deputy assistant secretary of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. Maggie Nicholson, 79, has once



Fountain Odom  
...Faces three in primary



Bob Walton  
...Chooses district over at-large



Rep. Jim Richardson  
...Runs For N.C. Senate

again cast her figurative hat into the ring for the school board race. Nicholson has been trying since 1974 to get on the board.

Some others to file earlier this week:

-Gretchen Shappert, for District Court. She challenges Chief Resident District Court Judge, James Lanning. Shappert is an Assistant Public Defender with the Mecklenburg County Public Defender Office, assigned to the felony unit.

-Harry Grimmer, N.C. House, District 57. Grimmer, a Republican, is seeking the seat currently held by Rep. Roy Spoon. He bills himself as "a small businessman concerned about the future of Mecklenburg County and good government in Raleigh."

-Peggy Culbertson, for an at-large seat on the County Commission. Culbertson formerly chaired the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission.

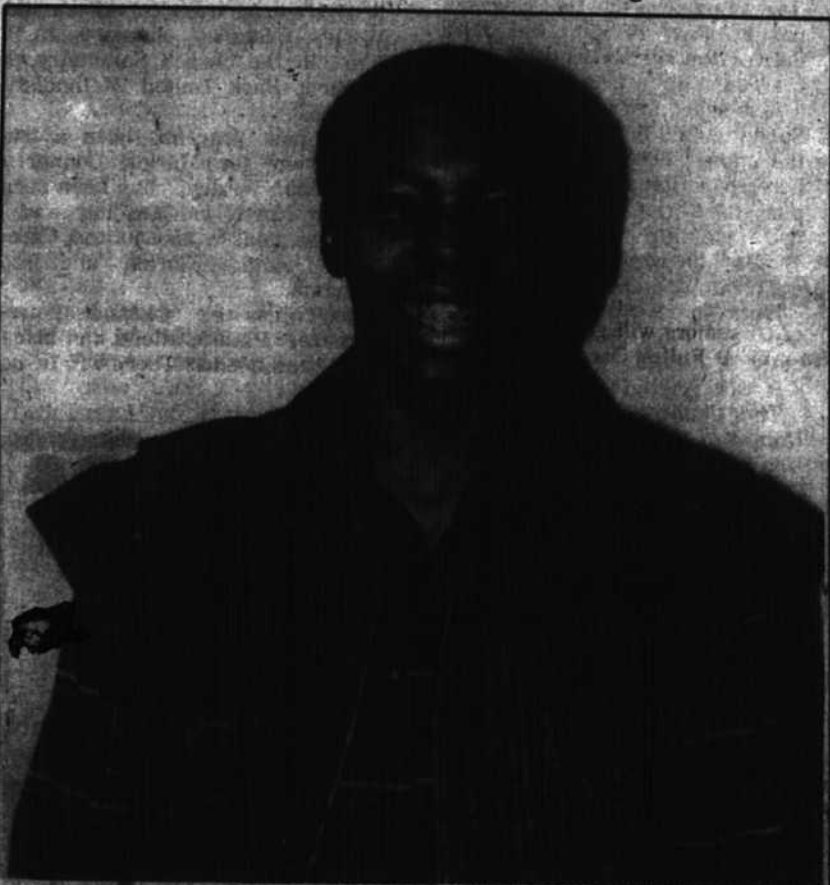
-Jack Black, a Democrat, for N.C. House District 36. Black served two terms in the House before his 1984 defeat to Republican challenger Ray Warren.

-Gus Economos, for N.C. House District 54. Economos, a Democrat, has eight years experience in the House. He was defeated by one-term incumbent Rep. John McLaughlin, also a Democrat, in the 1984 primary.

-Sen. Jim McDuffie, Republican, District 34.  
-Superior Court Clerk Max Blackburn.



Pete Cunningham  
...Files for district 59



Either a career in medicine or a career in nuclear physics, that's what's ahead for Alan Beamer, the son of James and Susan Beamer. To help him decide which field he'll pursue, Alan will be attending in Wake Forest's Bowman Gray School of Medicine's "Medicine As A Career Project," this summer. Alan states, "Although I haven't decided what I want to do, I have narrowed it down to those two areas. I feel that the Wake Forest program and an internship in the nuclear physics field will help me make my decision." At Independence High School, Alan is a member of the National Forensics League, the Drama Club, INROADS, and the National Jr. Honor Society. He participated in an Engineering seminar at UNCC while in the eighth grade and was bestowed with the service award at his junior high graduation. A well-rounded person, Alan enjoys reading, writing, acting, and playing the piano.

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**Beauty Talk**  
by Jean Ford

**WINTER SKIN BEAUTY**

For facial beauty, maintain a four-step regimen twice daily. Gently cleanse, tone, energize, and use a moisturizer with broad spectrum sunscreen. Select products for your specific skin type.

If skin is uncomfortably dry, try a creamy tissue-off cleanser and apply double helpings of moisturizer on chapped areas. The delicate skin around eyes needs the extra protection of eye cream. Lips can be kept soft with the constant protection of moisturizing lipstick or lip balm.

Thirsty winter body skin replenishes lost moisture with a 15 minute tepid bath enriched with softening bath oil. When showering, a mild body cleanser is usually less drying than soap.

While skin is still damp, apply moisturizer generously all over, to seal in natural moisture.

Hands, having fewer oil glands, need moisturizing throughout the day, and before sleep.

Avon's Moisture Therapy body care line for extremely dry and fragrance-sensitive skin offers four products the entire family can use during and after the bath. Hospital tests prove its formulas, enriched with an exclusive blend of moisture-retentive emollients, relieve extremely dry skin conditions in just seven days. Ask your Avon Representative for Moisture Therapy. If you don't have one, call 800-858-8000.

Ms. Ford is Beauty & Public Relations Manager, Special Markets for Avon Products, Inc.

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