

By Bessie Wilbon

Sunday School Lesson



LESSON BACKGROUND

The book of Leviticus is a kind of manual for the priesthood of the Israelites rather than a narrative about the Israelites' travel in the wilderness. Many people therefore consider this book to be a dull book with little practical value for today.

Yet, Leviticus prefigures the central teachings of the New Testament. The sacrifice set forth look forward to the perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ. One cannot really understand the book of Hebrews unless he also understands the book of Leviticus.

Leviticus, from which our lesson is taken, will give us an opportunity to study some of its teachings relevant to our world today.

THE LESSON

"Count seven times seven years, a total of 49 years. Then on the tenth day of the seventh month, the Day of Atonement, send a man to blow a trumpet throughout the whole land. In this way you shall set the 50th year apart and proclaim freedom to all the inhabitants of the land. During this year all property that has been sold shall be restored to the original owner or his descendants, and anyone who has been sold as a slave shall return to his family. You shall not plant your fields or harvest the grain that grows by itself or gather the grapes in your unpruned vineyards. The whole year shall be sacred for you; you shall eat only what the fields produce of themselves," (Leviticus 25:8-12).

In this passage the jubilee is the first mentioned. It was apparently something entirely new to the people. Every seventh year the land was to rest. The people were not to sow their fields nor prune their vineyards. During the sabbatical year they were to gather from the grain that came up voluntarily from the previous year's harvest. The owner of the land was not to enjoy the exclusive right to the sabbatical year crop; but everyone - servants, maids, and strangers - were allowed to glean the fields. The beasts of the field were also to be allowed to eat of the yield.

The sabbatical year served several purposes: It allowed the land to rest and be renewed. It freed the people from the arduous labor of plowing and planting, leaving them free to spend more time in meditation and worship. It helped remind them that the land and its yield belonged to God. It also taught them to trust in God for their sustenance rather than in their own efforts.

Our modern urban society does not provide us a situation in which we can duplicate the conditions depicted in ancient Israel. Yet we may very well apply the lesson to parallel situations in our own time. We need to step aside occasionally from the busy rush of life and spend more time with God. We also need reminders that all things ultimately come from Him, that we really do not sustain ourselves with the labor of our hands and minds.

At the conclusion of seven sabbatical years the Israelites were to sound a trumpet to signal the beginning of the year of jubilee.

The first purpose of the jubilee was to proclaim liberty throughout all the land. This meant the freeing of all who were slaves, and served as a reminder that they were all brothers under God, the Father. It also reminded them that their freedom was grounded in their obedience to God. When they forgot this, they often ended up in bondage to a hostile neighboring nation.

The second purpose of the jubilee was to return every man to his land and his possessions. What this means is that the land was never actually sold. Instead, it was in effect only leased until the year of jubilee. The land really belonged to God and the people were but strangers and sojourners in it.

For more than 200 years our nation has enjoyed the blessings of political and religious freedom, blessings that most people in most eras have not known. Even when we have felt that some of our freedoms have been curtailed, we know that our democratic government allows us to work for the redress of our grievances.

But there are other freedoms. For example, the freedom from fear and the freedom from want. God has blessed us so richly that in comparison with the rest of the world very few of our people have known real want. Yet, in much of the world, people live so close to starvation that the freedom from want is the only freedom that concerns them. Political freedom is but a hazy dream that they would readily wish for just a little food.

Across the centuries Christians have stood and defied all forms of tyranny because neither the prison nor the scaffold has been able to take away the freedom they enjoyed in their hearts.

Let us, then, use our political freedom, our religious freedom, our freedom from fear and want to insure that we will know and preserve this most important freedom of all, the freedom in Christ. Just as the trumpet in ancient Israel called the people to the freedom of the jubilee year, so let churches call us to the freedom of an even greater jubilee.

"The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time." - Thomas Jefferson.

After 15 Years Scott Still Finds Job Rewarding

A man dying from a shot gun blast, a baby being kept alive by a hospital incubator, southern farmers unloading hay from a military airplane, tornados whirling through local towns.

Given these images that a television news photographer sees through the lens of a camera, one might get the wrong impression of his profession.

After nearly 15 years as a TV news cameraman, Frederick Scott still finds his work rewarding. "I look forward to my job everyday," acknowledged the energetic WSOC-TV photographer. "I get a kick out of feeling the adrenalin pumping through my body when I'm called out on a spot news assignment," he enlightened.

Frequently called "Ready Freddy" or just "Scotty" by his co-workers, Scott has seen a lot in the news business. "I've taken pictures of President Ronald Reagan while on political trips to the Carolinas. I also covered the 1986 Southern Governors' Convention, and the Bobby Jones Appreciation program where I saw Dean Smith, Billy Cunningham, and other big name coaches," he reflected.

A native of Troutman, Scott has been with Channel 9 for nearly all of his career. "I started at WSOC in 1971," he remembered. I was 18 at the time, but after a few years, I landed a job in Wisconsin. Everything was going well for me until winter rolled around. The sub-degree temperatures and the constant snow fall was a little bit too much for me so I returned to Channel 9 about a year later," noted the 33-year-old Gemini.

The 6'2" newsman has been recognized nationally for his photography. "I won a first place UPI award in 1981 for a piece that I shot concerning the SCA chemical investigation in 1981. A couple of years later I won an award for a spot news story at Myrtle Beach," recalls Scott, a member of the National Press Photographers Association (NPPA).

If your primary interest is TV news, a journalism degree is advisable. "I would advise anyone who wants to break into the business to get a four year degree. When I started out it wasn't required, but now, you almost have to have the four year education," he noted. After spending five months in the



Armed with a \$40,000 camera, Frederick Scott gears up for another day of news photographing.

Army, Scott explained his options. The next step he made was to enroll in Central Piedmont Community College. "I took a nine month technical course at CPCC which was the stepping stone to my career in TV news. When I came to Channel 9, I was trained by George Williams. He resigned about one year after I got there, so I moved into his former position," he explained.

Although many people aspire to be on-air personalities, Scott feels at home behind the camera. "I like using my creativity when covering news stories, especially those that represent disadvantaged people. I

reporters look their best, because if they look good, it reflects on me."

The veteran photographer has noted several changes since his early days at Channel 9. "When I started out, we were using CP1600 film cameras which cost about half the amount of money that the ones we use today cost. The old cameras weighed about eight pounds, whereas the newer ones weigh 20 pounds and so does the recorder. The main advantage is that we are now capable of using video cassette tapes repeatedly, but we could only use film once," he reflected.

On the other hand, the job is more physically demanding because of the heavier equipment, and live reports which require planning and fast work for everyone involved. As often as three times a day, seven days a week, TV stations produce live newscasts. At Channel 9, Frederick has been working on the Live Eye truck for two years. Sharing the duties on the truck with him is technician Jeff Childers of Kannapolis.

"Scotty is a very dependable photographer," commented Channel 9's Chief Photographer Bill Williamson. "Prior to his work on the Live Eye trucks, we were not producing as many live reports. Since he's been assigned to the live units, we've produced more. We can always depend on him to get the job done."

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A Moment for Black Pride

Robert Smalls (1839-1915), Black Congressman, was born in Beaufort, S.C., son of Robert and Lydia Smalls, slaves of the McKee family. Smalls was allowed to acquire a limited education. He moved with his master to Charleston, where he became a waiter. Confederate authorities in 1861 pressed him into service of the Confederate Navy. He became a member of the crew of the Planter. In 1862, in the absence of White officers, Smalls navigated the Planter into the line of the blockading Federal squadron outside Charleston harbor. The Federal Forces upon receiving the Planter, made Smalls a pilot in the U.S. Navy, commissioned him a Captain, and then promoted him to Commander. At a meeting of Blacks and northerners in 1864 at Port Royal, he was elected to the National Union Convention. Smalls became a delegate in 1868 to the State Constitutional convention, and served in the State House of Representatives. He then served as a State Senator between 1870 and 1874. In 1875 he was elected to Congress and served until 1887.