

Sunday School Lesson



By Bessie Wilbon

INTRODUCTION

There was danger in Jerusalem. The power of Jesus' enemies was centered there. Only weeks ago they had hurled at Him their choicest insults, saying He was a demon-possessed Samaritan. They had been ready to hurl stones after the insults, but He had slipped away into the crowd that filled the temple court. Jesus' bitterest enemies - the chief priests and Pharisees - had sent the police to arrest Jesus, but the police, awed by the Master's teaching, had let Him go free (John 27:32, 45, 46). After Jesus left town, they announced that they would arrest Him and in their secret meetings they resolved to kill Him. The disciples knew the danger, but still they followed. Jesus Himself knew for sure that not only danger but also death was waiting in Jerusalem. Still He walked resolutely up the road under the springtime sun.

LESSON BACKGROUND

For several weeks Jesus had been teaching in the area east of Jordan, but now He crossed the river to Jericho. From there He went on up the mountain road toward Jerusalem.

THE LESSON

"Jesus said this and then went on to Jerusalem ahead of them. As he came near Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead with these instructions: 'Go to the village there ahead of you; as you go in, you will find a colt tied up that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If someone asks you why you are untying it, tell him that the Master needs it.' They went on their way. As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, 'Why are you untying the colt, its owners said to them. Why are you untying it?' 'The Master needs it,' they answered, and took the colt to Jesus. Then they threw their cloaks over the animal and helped Jesus get on. As he rode on, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near Jerusalem, at the place where the road went down the Mount of Olives, the large crowd of his disciples began to thank God and praise him in loud voices for all the great things that they had seen. 'God bless the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory to God!' Then some of the Pharisees in the crowd spoke to Jesus. 'Teacher,' they said, 'Command your disciples to be quiet!' Jesus answered, 'I tell you that if they keep quiet, the stones themselves will start shouting.' He came closer to the city, and when he saw it, he wept over it, saying, 'If you only knew today what is needed for peace! But now you cannot see it! The time will come when your enemies will surround you with barricades, blockade you, and close in on you from every side. They will completely destroy you and the people within your walls; not a single stone will they leave in its place, because you did not recognize the time when God came to save you!' (Luke 19:28-44).

This records Jesus' departure from Jericho after giving the parable of the pounds that can be found in Luke 11.

The coming of Jesus to Jerusalem is often called the triumphal entry because in a way it was like a Roman triumph in which a victorious general would ride into Rome, leading captives and displaying the spoils of war, while the people lined the streets to cheer and shout his praises. Jesus came unarmed, dragging no captives and displaying no spoils; yet He came amid the shouts of an admiring multitude.

All the way from Bethany, Jesus and the others had been climbing a gradual slope. Now they came to the top of the Mount of Olives. Before them the descent was steep into the ravine called Kidron. They would walk some distance down the deep slope to the bridge that led across the lower part of the ravine to the gate of the temple area. By this time a multitude was going along with Jesus. There were pilgrims just arriving on the road from Jericho. There were people who lived in the area and were glad to drop whatever they were doing and to join the hundreds who trooped along with Jesus. As they came to the top of the hill, the people began their spontaneous shouts of joy and praise. They were thinking of all the mighty works that they had seen. Of course, in such a crowd, different people and different groups were shouting different phrases. All of the Gospels but Luke record the shout of Hosanna. Perhaps this was originally a prayer, Save now; but it seems to have become a shout of praise and exultation. Still it suggests that the people regarded Jesus as the Savior of Israel, the promised Messiah. All the Gospels report that people were shouting blessings on Jesus because He was coming in the name of the Lord.

The unbelieving world faces destruction, as Jerusalem did. There are the shouters, the uncounted multitudes who praise Jesus but do not understand His kingdom and have not dedicated themselves to His will. There are the enemies, atheists and humanists as well as thieves and atheist and adulterers. Like the priests of old, they exalt their own ways and want to silence the praise of Jesus. Then there are the disciples, Christians sincerely devoted to Jesus but feeble in their understanding and fumbling in their activity.

Jerusalem was doomed because it rejected the Savior. Even He could not save it, though He cried over it and gave His life for the sins of the world. But He could save His people. He warned them to get out of the city before its destruction.

So it is with the destruction of the world. The fire will not touch Jesus' people. All of them, living and dead, will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and to be with Him forever.

Let's bring more people into that triumphant band of survivors!

Perry's Gamble In Automobile Business Has Paid Off

11 years ago Clayton Perry took a job as a car salesman. Back then he was working for Royston Chrysler-Plymouth. Not too many people were sure how he would do as a salesman. His father, advised him to find a job that provided a steady income, even his employers didn't know how their only black employee would do. Clayton, himself had moments of doubt.

"But I knew I rather take a chance of controlling my own destiny, than accepting a 9-to-5 job, making minimum wages."

He took a gamble. But it was a gamble that paid off.

Today, Clayton Perry is general manager of South Blvd. Chrysler-Plymouth, a promotion he received recently.

South Blvd. Chrysler-Plymouth is not just another car dealership. The company itself, ranks in the top 100 black businesses in the country and last year, alone it grossed \$20 million.

"It's nice to be one of the leading managers in the country," affirmed Perry.

He also has a good feeling about his recent promotion.

"I'm really happy about the circumstances. I feel I deserve and have earned the promotion. My hope is that the future will be as

Amnesty International

Meets Tuesday

The local chapter of Amnesty International, the Nobel Prize winning human rights organization, is holding its monthly meeting at McDonald's Cafeteria, 1-85 and Beatties Ford Rd., on Tuesday, March 3. Anyone interested in human rights issues and in learning more about the work Amnesty International is doing is invited to attend. We will gather for dinner at 6:30 p.m. A business meeting will follow at 7:30.

For more information, call Doub Rieb at 366-8945, or 553-7610.

Women's Political

Caucus To Meet

The Charlotte Women's Political Caucus will hold a meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 p.m., at the YWCA on Park Road to discuss women's issues that are important for today and in the future.

The program is entitled, "Post-Feminist Issues - Are They Structure or Ornamentation?"

The meeting is free and open to the public.



Clayton Perry

bright as the past. Formerly, Perry was the assistant general sales manager at South Blvd. Chrysler-Plymouth.

Before coming to South Blvd. Chrysler-Plymouth, Perry worked at LaPointe Chevrolet for four years. He has received training at the University of General Motors, has taken the Automotive Management Course and has taken an advanced course in finance at the Heritage Life Insurance Company. Perry also attended the Trucking Marketing Institute in California.

As general manager, Perry's main responsibilities are to oversee the department sales managers and other sales manager and their selling of new and used cars on a profitable basis. Perry also manages the day-to-day operation of the business.

Reflecting on his career in the

automotive business, Perry exclaimed, "During the time I was out there looking for a job, the thing to do was to land a job with a corporation. Honestly, I'm glad I was able to escape the corporate incubators of work and make the free enterprise system work for me. I've survived the oil embargo, the influx of foreign cars and the downfall of General Motors. I'm still here because I've been lucky and I've had some good breaks, but I also feel that I have the tools needed to get the job done

and that has helped in my longevity in this business.

Perry who confessed he has never been a real "9-to-5er" revealed that his workload only stops after a seventy hour week.

"It's taken a toll on my personal and social life, but I like to be in control of my own destiny."



Rev. Glover

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If you enjoy kids and feel that you can contribute to the development of these young people, contact

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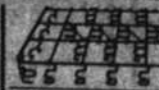
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