

Sunday School Lesson



By Bessie Wilben

INTRODUCTION

Pilate was a practical politician. He shared the Roman regard for justice, but it took second place to his concern for his career. Rather than endanger his position as governor, he gave in to pressure and ordered Jesus crucified. Pilate was troubled by the unusual events of that upsetting day when Jesus died. First, his wife's dream warned him, "Have thou nothing to do with that just man." Then he heard that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God and he was frightened. Pilate's fears were not ended when Jesus was nailed to the cross. At noon the sun was darkened, and night was over the land. For three hours it remained, and the terrifying climax of an earthquake. With all these fearsome events added to the accusation of his conscience, Pilate must have been a very unhappy ruler.

LESSON BACKGROUND

So the sun went down, the troubled day ended, and suddenly it was the Sabbath. But for the Jewish rulers there was still no rest. Jesus had said He would rise on the third day. What if His disciples would hide his body and announce that He had risen? The rulers said to Pilate, "Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day." Pilate gave them a detachment of his soldiers, saying, "Go your way, make it as sure as ye can." So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

THE LESSON

"The women who had followed Jesus from Galilee went with Joseph and saw the tomb and how Jesus' body was placed in it. Then they went back home and prepared the spices and perfumes for the body. On the Sabbath they rested, as the Law commanded. Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, so they went in; but they did not find the body of Jesus. They stood there puzzled about this, when suddenly two men in bright, shining clothes stood by them. Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground, as the men said to them, 'Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was in Galilee: The son of Man must be handed over to sinful men, be crucified, and three days later rise to life.'" Then the women remembered his words, returned from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven disciples and all the rest. The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; they and the other women with them told these things to the apostles. But the apostles thought that what the women said was nonsense, and they did not believe them." (Luke 25:55-56; 24:1-11).

Through most of Jesus' ministry the twelve apostles were His closest followers, but also devoted to Him were some faithful women. These women were grateful because they had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, and to express their gratitude they not only followed Jesus to hear His teaching, but also "ministered unto him of their substance." Some of them were probably wealthy and they may have provided food often for Jesus and the apostles.

The apostles were practical men. When excited women came running with a story of shining angels who said Jesus had risen, these men just shook their wise heads. True the body was not in the tomb but that did not mean that he was alive again. They knew Jesus had died and accepted no wild story that He was alive again. Fortunately, that did not end the matter. Evidence piled up until it could not be disbelieved.

Can you imagine how frustrating it was for Joanna and the two Marys to tell the joyous truth only to be disbelieved? Many people take pride in their "scientific" minds. Their disbelief is unshakable. Then there are many who prefer to think that the dead stay dead. All the greedy ones who lie, steal and defraud do not want to think of life beyond the grave, for such thoughts carry the fear of judgment. So the selfish mind is closed against any teaching of a resurrection.

Do we cherish some faulty beliefs--beliefs that are not wrong, but are one-sided? Are we so devoted to such beliefs that we close our minds to another side of truth? A once-ardent Christian has dropped out of the church. Why? He gave in to temptation and committed a serious sin. Almost immediately he regretted it, but he believes his sin has put him beyond forgiveness and redemption. The Bible says, "If we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins but a certain fearful looking for a judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries." (Hebrews 10:26, 27).

What the Bible says is true, and he is right to believe it. But his belief is faulty, incomplete, unless he also believes that "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9). The way of truth is not to choose one verse of Scripture and discard another; it is that we see how all the Scriptures fit together in the plan of God.

INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

Sincere Thanks

Mrs. Thereasa Elder & Family
Express heartfelt gratitude to each one comforting them during their bereavement in the loss of their beloved Willie Elder.
Whether a Flower, Word, Prayer, Smile, Dish, Hand, Hug, Visit, Card, Money or just a Thought it's meaningful and greatly appreciated.
Generous, loving, sincere acts of kindness and concern help to ease the pain of loss and create loving memories that make living a joy. Thanks So Much Mrs. Thereasa Elder

A.M.E. Zion Bishop Arthur Marshall Dies

Atlanta, Ga. - Arthur Marshall Jr., Bishop of the A.M.E. Zion Church, died April 3. Marshall was 73.

Marshall is survived by his wife, the former Mary Ann Stotta of the home; one son, Arthur Clifford Marshall III of the home; one niece: Delores Reese of Hampton, Virginia; four nephews: Robert J. Brown and William R. Marshall of High Point, North Carolina, Herman Reese of Hampton, Virginia, and Jerome Reese of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 8, at St. Stephen A.M.E. Zion Church, 1012 Leonard Street, High Point, North Carolina. Burial followed at Carolina Biblical Gardens Cemetery in Jamestown, North Carolina.

Bishop Arthur Marshall Jr. was born in High Point, North Carolina. After attending William Penn High School in High Point, he obtained his B.A. at Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina, received his M.A. from Boston University Graduate School, his S.T.B. from Boston University School of Theology, his D.D. from Livingstone College, and his LL.D. from Clinton Junior College.



Bishop Arthur Marshall Jr.

As Presiding Bishop of the Sixth Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Zion Church, his pastoral assignments were comprised of West Central North Carolina; Pee Dee and Palmetto, South Carolina; Georgia and South Georgia Conferences.

Prior to being elected to the office of Bishop at the General Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church in Mobile, Alabama, in May 1972,

he was the Presiding Elder for Pine Bluff District; Arkansas Conference. His pastoral assignments were Greensboro District, West Central North Carolina Conference; Providence, Rhode Island; Ansonia, Connecticut; New England Conference; Syracuse, New York; Western New York Conference; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Allegheny Conference; Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri; and Missouri Conference.

While pastoring in St. Louis, Missouri, he served as president of the NAACP Executive Committee, and was a member of the Citizens Committee for Social Action, Board of Directors of the YMCA, National Advisory Council on Minority Business Enterprise, and the Small Business Enterprise Administration of the United States of America.

As a leader in the civil rights movement, his efforts led to the desegregation of lunch counters and restaurants in drug and department stores in the state of Missouri. His fight against de facto segregation in the St. Louis Public School System led to increased opportunities for teachers and ad-

ministrators of all races.

Marshall received many meritorious awards for outstanding community service. Both the states of Alabama and Louisiana made him an honorary member of their Legislative Assemblies. The Mayor of Tuskegee, Alabama, presented him an award for outstanding community service. Honorary citizenships were awarded to him along with Keys to the Cities from mayors across the nation. The President of the West African Nation of Liberia made him a Knight of the Order of African Liberation.

More recently, he was honored at a dinner in High Point, North Carolina, in November, 1986, commemorating his 50th anniversary with the A.M.E. Zion Church. More than 1,000 people participated in the celebration where High Point Mayor Judy Mendenhall proclaimed November 21, 1986 Bishop Arthur Marshall Jr. Day, and a representative for the Governor of North Carolina brought greetings and congratulations from the State. Letters came from President Reagan, Vice President Bush, governors, senators and congressmen.

Prophet's Column

By J.M. Little
Special To The Post

As we come down to the close of 2,000 years, time is running out on a rebellious and Christ-rejecting generation. Almost every 2,000 years, a great event has taken place that has changed the entire course of the whole world. In Genesis 6 and 7 we have God's record of the flood He sent upon all the earth which destroyed all human souls but eight. It was because of corruption and violence (Gen. 6:11-13) God brought this judgment upon man and the beasts of the earth.

Then at the end of another 2,000 years we have the record in the Word of God of the birth of Christ. These two events changed the entire course of mankind, worldwide. In the story of the good Samaritan the Lord Jesus Christ made clear He was coming back in two days. A 1,000 years is one day with the Lord. As we come down to the close of another 2,000 years, the two days will soon be ended, which will result in the Second coming of Christ. The whole world is in wreck and ruin, Satan has taken over the churches, governments, schools, homes, and every phase of society. The whole of mankind is looking for someone to lead them out of world chaos. That "someone" will soon be revealed to the world, he is the "Antichrist." As time runs out on this wicked generation, lawlessness abounds more and more. The Apostle Paul warned us of these days in II Tim 3. I invite you to read that chapter and weep. For every member of your family, and every member of my family, who is not saved is caught up in the world, they love the pleasures of this evil world more than they love the Lord.

The Lord Jesus Christ is at the door, His hand is turning the knob, He could come any second. The coming of the Lord is not way off in the future as so, we would have you believe. But on the contrary, He could come any second. You don't have time to play the fool as some of you are doing. With the eternal destiny of your soul hanging in the balance, seeking the Lord should be the all important thing in your life. What if you should die this very moment? Where would you spend eternity? Would you go with the Lord? If you should die this moment, you would either go to Heaven or Hell. There is no middle ground! I'd give anything to be with Him. All because there is eternity. He elected me, and came and died and rose again just for me. Not because of anything I did or did not do, but it is all of grace. Salvation is of the Lord. Not only is salvation of the Lord, Salvation is the Lord, Himself, plus

Church News

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MAYFIELD MEMORIAL
Easter Sunday, April 19, at Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church will be filled with activities as the day will begin with Easter Sunrise Corporate Worship at 6 a.m. Following the worship service, the congregation will share in a Fellowship Breakfast at 7:15 a.m. Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. and Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

The Baptist Training Union will meet at 5 p.m. and the annual Sunday School Easter program will begin at 6 p.m.

The Charlotte community is invited to share in these and all services at Mayfield.

The church is located at 700 Sugar Creek Rd. Rev. H.S. Diggs is pastor.

BAHAYS

The Baha'is religion of Charlotte will celebrate the 144th anniversary of their prophet-founder's public declaration of his mission as God's messenger for this age at their annual Festival of Ridvan to be held April 21 - May 2.

Ridvan, a 12-day celebration, mean "Paradise." The prophet-founder's name, Baha'u'llah means "The Glory of God."

The Baha' community of Charlotte invites anyone interested in the Festival of Ridvan to call 365-0651 after 6:30 p.m.

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL EASTER SERVICE

The annual inter-denominational community Easter Sunrise Service will be held Sunday, April 19, at the Freedom Park Bandshell, 8:30 a.m.

In case of rain, the service will be held in St. Patrick's School gymnasium, 1125 Buchanan St.

nothing and minus nothing. He is my hope. Is He yours? Time is running out on every soul on this earth, whether you are saved or not. Unbeliever, as your time runs out, you are nearer Hell and unspeakable misery. If you believers knew the unspeakable destruction you are headed for, it would set your soul to crying for mercy. But, it is mercy that God does not let you know that you are going to Hell. If every soul who is going to Hell here in Mecklenburg County knew they were, and that there is absolutely no hope of being saved, there would be such destruction that every soul would have to flee for their very life.

See, if you knew you were destined for Hell forever with no hope of ever getting out of Hell, you'd cause all the destruction you could. Have you ever thought about it like that? My friend, you are going to live as long as God lives. Your fleshy body may be laid in the grave, but your soul will live forever in eternity. Where will you spend eternity? I plead with you to think seriously on your way. At this very moment, souls are being

driven out into eternity, one day that will be you.

Then time is running out for every born-again believer. I only have a limited time to warn you to flee to Christ. When my time is up, you'll receive no more warnings from my lips or pen. God's on the throne, He controls everything. There is a day marked on His calendar for His last message to go out, and then there'll be no more in this age of grace. There is a day marked on His calendar for the last soul to be saved before He comes. When that lost soul is saved, the Lord's bride will be complete, then He'll come to rapture us. Will you be in that number raptured when He comes? I will. When Christ comes, the Holy Spirit will go up and every blood-bought soul will be delivered up. Then there will be no more restraint on the earth. You think we are living in a lawless and violent time now, but when Christ comes and takes His own out, you'll see a string of violence go around the world that will make today's violence look like baby talk.



By J.M. Little
The Prophet's Column Is A Paid Advertisement.

The Charlotte Post's Mother's Day Greeting page

TO: Thomesina Johnson

Have a special day for someone very special

love Gerald, Sharon & the Kids

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

When : May 7th edition
Where : The Charlotte Post
How : Fill out the entry form below and mail it in with your check or money order
Why : Give your mother or loved one a greeting like no other! Hurry, entries will be accepted up to noon on May 4, 1987.

Cost: \$5.00

To:

Message:

From: