

Sunday School Lesson



By Bessie Wilbon

INTRODUCTION

One morning Jerusalem awoke to a dismal procession going to Calvary. While word was spreading and crowds gathered, Jesus was nailed to a cross and lifted up to die. Scarcely was the sun up on the first day of the week when Mary Magdalene raced grief-stricken to tell Peter and John that Jesus' body was gone. They checked and found it was true. Meanwhile other women were telling other disciples about angels who said Jesus had risen. Then came Mary Magdalene again, her grief transformed to joy. She had seen Jesus! He was alive! Not much later the other women were reporting that they had seen Him, too. The disciples listened patiently, or perhaps impatiently; but they did not believe. No, these tales were simply beyond belief.

LESSON BACKGROUND

No doubt the women were still spreading their news and meeting disbelief everywhere, when two disciples, known to us only from their brief record, left Jerusalem to go to Emmaus.

THE LESSON

"On that same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking to each other about all the things that had happened. As they talked and discussed, Jesus himself drew near and walked along with them; they saw him, but somehow did not recognize him. Jesus said to them 'What are you talking about to each other, as you walk along?' They stood still, with sad faces. One of them named Cleopas, asked him, 'Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have been happening there these last few days?' 'What things?' he asked. 'This man was a prophet and was considered by God and by all the people to be powerful in everything he said and did.' And Jesus explained to them what was said about him in all the Scriptures, beginning with the books of Moses and the writings of all the prophets. As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther; but they held him back, saying, 'Stay with us; the day is almost over and it is getting dark.' So he went in to stay with them. He sat down to eat with them, took the bread, and said the blessings; then he broke the bread and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him but he disappeared from their sight. They said, 'Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?' They got up at once and went back to Jerusalem, where they found the eleven disciples gathered together with the others and saying, 'The Lord is risen indeed! He has appeared to Simon!' The two then explained to them what had happened on the road, and how they had recognized the Lord when he broke the bread."

There is no doubt that the two on the road to Emmaus were filled with despondency. The recent events concerning Jesus had left them in a state of depression; but when Jesus met them on the way and talked with them, the experience turned them around. It turned them from the despondency they had known to a burning excitement for the Word of God and finally to the joy of knowing that Jesus was alive. Each of us has opportunities to talk to those who are lonely, discouraged, confused, and lost. We can pass them by or we can turn to the living Christ and the life He offers.

Suddenly Jesus was standing in the midst of the group speaking the familiar greeting, "Peace to you." But at first His appearance brought no peace. Though they had begun to believe He was alive, sheer terror gripped them. They thought they were seeing a ghost. But Jesus was not a ghost. He encouraged the frightened disciples to touch Him and be assured that they were looking at a body of solid flesh and bone. This was the very body that had died on the cross. The prints of the nails were in His hands and feet. He took a bite of food and ate it as they watched. Ghosts do not eat solid food. There was no longer room for doubt. Jesus was alive. He was there.

How breathlessly the group must have listened as Jesus repeated the long lecture He had given on the road to Emmaus! One by one He explained the prophecies that had not been understood. "Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day." What had happened was not only what Jesus had foretold; it was what the prophets had been foretelling since the days of Moses!

Now the apostles knew; and with knowledge came a task, a duty. "Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things," (Luke 24:47, 48).

So Jesus finished His personal mission in the world, and His people began theirs. Read about it in the second chapter of Acts. Nobly they carried their testimony to Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria and out toward the uttermost part of the earth. They knew it would not be easy to convince the world, for they themselves had disbelieved. But at the risk of their lives they gave their testimony and they lost their lives before all the world was won.

We have from them the truth, and so we also have the task, the duty. What shall we do about it this week?

In Memory Of Rev. Ellis, U.S. Chaplain

Special To The Post
Rev. Leon Allen Ellis, son of the late John W. Ellis and Lula J. Ellis, departed this life Sunday, April 12, 1987 at the Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina.

In 1933 he received the A.B. degree from Johnson C. Smith University. In the fall of 1933 he entered the Theological Seminary from which he received the B.Th. degree in 1936. He did graduate work in Religious Education at Union Theological Seminary. He served as College Pastor of Mary-Allen Junior College, Crockett, Texas, from 1936-1942. He served



Rev. Ellis

as Director of Boys and as School

Pastor of Harbison A&I Institute, Irmo, South Carolina, from 1942-1943.

In 1944, Rev. Ellis enlisted in the United States Army as a Chaplain. He served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. He received the Bronze star for Northern Solomons Campaigns; Asiatic-Pacific Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Army Occupation Medal (Japan); National Defense Service Medal and Armed Forces Reserved Medal and was discharged June 16, 1960 with the Rank of Major.

In 1966 Rev. Ellis was called as pastor of Davidson Presbyterian

Church. He served this church 19 years. During his stay, he endeared himself to the people of the entire town and community. Rev.

Ellis was affectionately called the minister of the town. His retirement celebration in 1985 was a most memorable occasion.

He leaves to cherish his memory three sisters: Mrs. Eloise Anderson, Mrs. Johnny Ruth Pruitt, both

of Due West, S.C., and Mrs. Ver-mell L. Chase of Maryland; one brother, Robert E. Ellis of Asheville, N.C. He is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Prophet's Column

"Time Running Out" Part II

By J.M. Little

If the Lord should come today, next Sunday the average church and its leaders and officers would meet as usual. That is a staggering truth, but it is true. Why? "So Christ was once offered to bear the sin of many; AND UNTO THEM THAT LOOK FOR HIM SMALL HE APPEAR THE SECOND TIME without sin unto salvation," (Heb. 9:28). The Lord Jesus Christ is only coming the second time for those who are looking for Him. The great majority of our religious leaders are not looking for Him. That is why you will meet the next Sunday as usual. Now you can make fun of these messages all you want to. That shows you are not saved. The sermonettes coming out of the pulpits today can be rightly described as drugs to lull a sinner deeper and deeper in his death sleep.

Did you know that every sinner apart from the awakening of the Holy Spirit is in the death sleep? It doesn't matter whether you are in the world or the pulpit, apart from Holy Spirit conviction (Jn. 7:11) you are asleep in the lap of Satan! (1 Jn. 5:13). If you have never been awakened to your lost condition (Eph. 2:1) you are still asleep in the lap of Satan and on the road to Hell and don't know it. Our preachers have gone through the Bible schools and seminaries without every having been awakened to their lost condition, therefore they don't know how God saves a poor, lost sinner. You don't understand an awakened sinner because you have never been there! You let an awakened sinner go in the average church and tell the pastor he is awakened to his lost condition, and that pastor will try to get him out on a profession in ten minutes. But when the sinner refuses your suggestions you are



J.M. Little

frustrated and end up getting mad with the sinner. You are embarrassed, you don't know what to do with the awakened sinner. Now, that is the sad condition in the ministry today; our preachers don't understand awakened sinners. Before any sinner can be saved, he must first be awakened to his lost condition. You preachers have missed that great truth. But after a sinner is awakened to his lost condition, he can't bring himself to Christ, and either can you, preacher. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. Only the blessed Holy Spirit can bring a sinner to Christ. And when God saves that sinner, it is the Holy Spirit who REVEALS Christ to his heart through the Word of God. The written Word of God isn't salvation, a promise isn't

salvation, quitting your sins isn't salvation, living the best you can isn't salvation, repentance isn't salvation! Now someone in desperation will ask, "Bro. Little, then tell us what is salvation?" All right, listen as for eternity: "CHRIST, REVEALED TO YOUR HEART IS SALVATION." You are not saved until Christ is revealed to your heart.

You cannot know Him until He is revealed to your heart. And in that revelation comes faith to believe on Him to the salvation of your poor, lost soul. I'll stake my hope of Heaven on this one truth. Christ and Christ alone is my salvation. Is He yours? Do you know Him? Did you get to Christ or just a dream?

Awakened sinner, time is running out on you. Are you turning to Christ? Are you?

Some of you who claim to be awakened are trifling with your soul. If you are truly awakened, you realize you are under judgment, and you must flee to Christ or perish. I know it was so in my case. Once I was truly awakened to my lost condition, there was no turning back! My soul was hanging in the balance, what did it matter about the religious world making fun? But there are some of you who are afraid to come out and take your place as a lost sinner because of the ridicule that follows. What about your sins following you to Hell? If you don't turn to Christ, your sins will follow you and torment you in Hell forever and forever.

The Prophet's Column Is A Paid Advertisement.

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Rev. David E. Glover, Pastor

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Home: (704) 535-4926
Counseling By Appointment

New Life School 1:00
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