

The Sunday School Lesson

by Bessie Wilbon

INTRODUCTION:

Many of God's people have possessed a great assurance of a specific life purpose to which God has appointed them. These have been able to face the harshest of difficulties without flinching, because they knew the use of living. Such a one was the prophet Jeremiah to whom God said, "Before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nation."

Centuries later came John the Baptist, whose single life mission, foretold in prophecy and by direct revelation, was to announce and bear witness to the coming Messiah. His life style was wholly opposite to that of the luxury-loving king described in Ecclesiastes, but it was much more satisfying. He did what God sent him to do.

THE LESSON:

John's Gospel opens with a prologue (1:1-18) introducing Jesus as the eternal Word, active in creation, but coming to earth in human form as Jesus. It is interrupted briefly by reference to John the Baptist, as the man sent from God to announce the Lords' coming.

"God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message, and believe. He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. This was the real light - the light that comes into the world and shines on all mankind. (John 1:6-9) The Jewish authorities in Jerusalem sent some priests and Levites to John to ask him "Who are you?" John did not refuse to answer, but spoke out openly and clearly, saying: "I am not the Messiah." Who are you then? "they asked." "Are you Elijah?" "No, I am not," John answered. "Are you the Prophet?" They asked. "No," he replied. "Then tell us who you are," they said. "We have to take an answer back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John answered by quoting the prophet Isaiah: "I am the voice of someone shouting in the desert: Make a straight path for the Lord to travel!" (John 1:19-23) The next day John saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "There is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me, but he is greater than I am, because he existed before I was born.' I did not know who he would be, but I came baptizing with water in order to make him known to the people of Israel. And John gave this testimony: 'I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and stay on him. I still did not know that he was the one, but God, who sent me to baptize with water, had said to me, 'You will see the Spirit come down and stay on a man; he is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. 'I have seen it," said John, "and I tell you that he is the Son of God." (John 1:29-34)

John had been sent as an emissary with a special mission. He was sent from God, who provided a special miracle that John should be born to aged and otherwise barren parents. His coming was announced by the angel Gabriel, who said that he would "be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb." So John was to introduce the Savior, not only by announcement but also by preparing the people to receive Him.

The Jewish people expected their Messiah to come in power as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. John introduced a different side of the Messiah's character. His reference to the Lamb of God was timely, since the Passover was soon to be observed. At the observance, each family would stay and eat a lamb, remembering their ancestors' deliverance from the plague of death in Egypt, followed by their escape from bondage.

Something more than the Passover was set forth in John's introduction of Jesus as the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. The blood of the Passover lamb protected from immediate physical death; God's lamb would remove sin entirely as Isaiah had prophesied.

Moreover, the Passover had been effective for none but the children of Israel in Egypt; God's Lamb would bear and remove sin from the whole world - Egypt as well as Israel, and all believers on all continents for as many centuries as the world shall stand. Let all mankind everywhere behold the Lamb - get well acquainted with Him who is Savior and Lord, and king of all kingdoms forever.

John was always aware of Jesus as a person. Their mothers were related, and had spent time together during their pregnancies talking about the sons who were to be born of them. John was six months older than Jesus and he had been preaching and baptizing for some time before Jesus came to him for baptism. Until that moment John did not know that Jesus was the Messiah, but he was well enough acquainted with Him to know that it was more fitting for him to be baptized by Jesus than the opposite. On that occasion, however, it was revealed to John that Jesus was indeed the one for whom he had come to prepare the way. That meant that Jesus was before John, both in His being with God and eternity and in His superior standing with God and men.

John, who was beheaded in prison, must be regarded as brilliantly successful, while the king who ordered his execution is remembered as a craven coward, wavering toward the wrong goal. Almost everyone can succeed if he knows what he wants and is willing to sacrifice everything else to attain it. The wrong success can become the ultimate failure.

"Blessed is he who can pray with his Lord in the final hour," I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do." (John 17:4)

'I Called And Ye Refused'

By J. M. Little

"Because I (God) have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; Buy ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh." (Prov. 1:24-26).

No man will stand at THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT and plead he was not called of God. Even though you receive just the "general call," you are still responsible and without excuse because even the heavens declare the glory of God (Rom. 1:20).

The Judge will say to you, "I called and you refused." Yes, God called you and you refused His call. Every time you read a message, that's the general call going out to your heart. I am going to have to witness against every one of you who received a message but refused to heed the call. Time is running out for you. The heavens declare the glory of God, even so if you have never picked up the Bible to read it, you have received the general call. What are you going to do? You will either take your place here at the feet of Christ, as a lost, guilty sinner and be saved by Him, or you'll refuse and go the THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT to be judged and cast into the Lake of Fire. It'll be with great sadness to realize there that day that God called you and you refused His call. There will be no hope then. There are many who take joy in the Word at first, but by and by, when persecution cometh, they are offended and break off (Matt. 13).

How sad. I am speaking to you of the invisible realities of another world. And you will soon be ushered out of this world and have to face the judgment for all the deeds and all your works done in the body. How is it between you and Christ? When this generation of deluded church members stand at THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT, you'll see that it was your deluded pastors who helped deceive you. But you will not blame them for your lost condition because God called you and you refused. No man will stand at the judgment and say God didn't call him. Now what are you going to do? You are going out into eternity. You have a never-dying soul that will live as long as God lives. If you fail to come to know Christ, you'll have no foundation to stand on that day. The day of THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT will be the saddest day in all the world. How will you fare there? Consider these things we are setting before you. Consider the Lord Jesus Christ, whom you must come to know here in time or forever be lost. What you think of Christ will spell the difference between Heaven and Hell for your soul. Will you be in that group who shall hear these sad words, "I called and ye refused?"

The Prophet Column is a paid advertisement.

WINN DIXIE

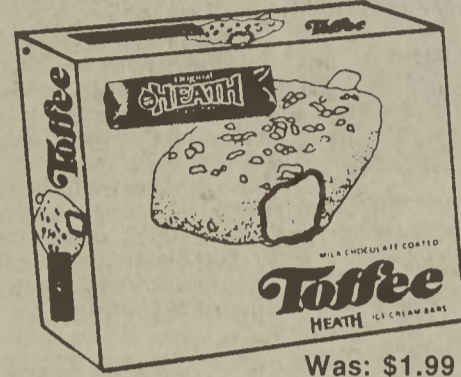
AMERICA'S SUPERMARKET® QUANTITY RIGHTS RESERVED

Question: What's Better Than a Buy One Get One Free Sale?

Answer: Only Winn-Dixie's...

Winn-Dixie Fall FINE Sale

Prices Good Thru Tuesday, December 5, 1989



6 ct. pkg.
Heath Ice Cream Toffee Bars
99¢
each

Was: \$1.99
Was: 57' Superbrand Texas Butter or Buttermilk
Biscuits 6 ct. **28¢**
pkg.
Was: 99' Minute Maid Orange or Grape Drink
Light & Juicy half gallon **49¢**

Was: \$2.99 Sea Pak Round or Fantail
Shrimp 'n Batter 13.5 oz. **\$1.49**
pkg.
Was: 79' Thrifty Maid with Cheese, Chives or Bacon
Stuffed Potatoes 12 oz. **39¢**
pkg.



All Varieties
Cozy Kitchen Cakes
\$1.69
24 oz. size

Was: \$3.39
Was: \$1.99 Taste-O-Sea Microwave
Fish Fillets 8 oz. **99¢**
pkg.
Was: \$1.99 Taste-O-Sea Microwave
Fish Sticks 8 oz. **99¢**
pkg.

Was: 89'
Dixiana Waffles 10 oz. **44¢**
pkg.
Was: \$1.59 Monterey Sno-White
Mushrooms 8 oz. **79¢**
pkg.



1 lb. pkg.
Hot or Mild
Jamestown Sausage
64¢
each

Was: \$2.39 Louis Rich Smoked
Turkey Sausage 1 lb. **\$1.19**
pkg.
Was: \$2.99 Circle W
Beef Patties 2 lb. **\$1.49**
box

Was: \$3.99: Gol-Pak Fully Cooked Beef
Steak Nuggets. 20 oz. **\$1.99**
pkg.
Was: \$3.99: Gol-Pak Fully Cooked Chicken
Breast Tenders 20 oz. **\$1.99**
pkg.



Carolina Pride
Sliced Bologna or Hot Dogs
74¢
12 oz. pkg.

Was: \$3.99: Gol-Pak Fully Cooked
Hot & Spicy Wings 20 oz. **\$1.99**
pkg.
Was: \$3.99: Gol-Pak Fully Cooked Chicken
Breast Nuggets 20 oz. **\$1.99**
pkg.

Was: \$1.99 La Famous All Flavors
Tortilla Chips 16 oz. **99¢**
bag
Was: \$2.59 Family Size Decaffeinated
Tetley Tea Bags 24 ct. **\$1.29**
pkg.



All Varieties Swift
Brown 'N Serve Sausage
74¢
8 oz. pkg.



24 oz. size
Thrifty Maid Steak Fries
49¢

Was: \$1.59 Anti-Bacterial
Soft Soap 8 oz. **79¢**
size
Was: \$1.49 Sunbelt 30 Gallon Size
Trash Bags 10 ct. **74¢**
pkg.

Was: \$2.19 Welch's Squeezable
Strawberry Jam 22 oz. **\$1.09**
size
Was: \$1.09 Northwoods Light or Regular
Maple Syrup 24 oz. **54¢**
bottle

POST OBITUARIES

LONG & SON MORTUARY

Rev. Raymond R. Stacey, of 1915 Northbrook Dr. died Nov. 10, 1989, at Mercy Hospital. Funeral service was held Nov. 14 at Seigle Avenue Church of God. Burial was in Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

Mr. Walter Tensley Brandon, of 2020 Bantry Lane died Nov. 15, 1989, at Presbyterian Hospital. Funeral service was held Nov. 18 at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. Burial was in Oaklawn Cemetery.

Mrs. Magnolia Smith Simpson, of 1608 Beatties Ford Road died Nov. 22, 1989, at Brittheaven Nursing Home. Funeral service was held Nov. 24 at Long and Son Mortuary Chapel. Burial was in Pleasant Hill AMEZ Church, Heath Spring, NC.

Ahbai Supports African-Americans

Continued From Page 6A

beauty industry with education and resources to strengthen careers.

For more information, contact: AHBAI Headquarters, 111 East Wacker Drive, Suite 600, Chicago, Illinois 60601; 312-644-6610.

24 HOUR INSPIRATIONAL MUSIC

WGSP

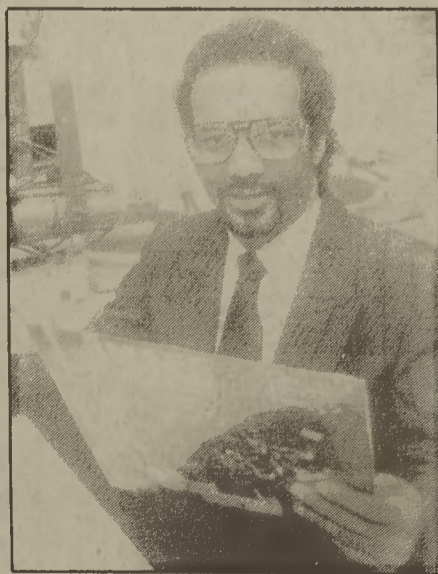
Rev. Darryl L. Shelton is the Program Director and The (Morning Inspirational) announcer on WGSP. He is married, and has two children.

Darryl has 5 years of experience in Broadcasting. He got his start at WNAA of N.C. A&T State University in Greensboro, NC

He is the pastor of The Church of God of Prophecy, at 2900 Clyde Drive in Charlotte.

"As Program Director, I believe it is very important that WGSP remains the people's choice for inspiration. Our music crosses over to all ages; we play the best Gospel, Traditional, or Contemporary, Choir or Quartet; we have such a wide listening audience, young, old, teen's black and white, that's why its so important for us to keep our music mix balanced, that's why we are your No. 1 inspirational leader.

At WGSP we don't want to just entertain you, but Minister to your spirit, with the best inspiration from across the nation, please worship the Lord and enjoy"



WGSP 4209 - F Stuart Andrew Blvd
527-9477

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS