

Sunday School Lesson In Brief

By REV. B. A. MEEKS

Subject: "Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind."

Bible Passage: John 9: 1-41.

Golden Text: "One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see"—John 9:25.

Many people of our day do not readily accept the fact of miracles recorded in the Scriptures. They either endeavor to explain away the miracle or show that it was brought about by natural causes. It is their conviction that the writers of the Scriptures were so emotionally overwrought that they thought they saw what in reality did not actually occur. But we have before us in this lesson a miracle of healing which even the enemies of Jesus could not gainsay after repeated efforts to disprove its genuineness.

As we approach the lesson for today we come face to face with the problem of suffering. "And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man who was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents; but that the works of God should be made manifest in him" (John 9:1-3). This question by the disciples brings to the front a view of suffering long held by a large number of Jews. This particular view dates back as far as the writer of the book of Job. They held that all suffering was due to some particular sin on the part of the individual. This often is true, but not always so. It is hard to see how

this individual was in any way responsible for his being born blind. This would involve pre-natal sin which is unthinkable. This goes beyond the doctrine of original sin and charges the yet unborn infant with some particular sin. This view has no justification anywhere in Scripture.

The other part of the question has some justification in general and might have been true in this particular case had not Jesus set us straight on the matter by saying, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents". Over and over again we see children suffering because of the sin of their parents. This is one of the tragedies of sin. Parents often bring life-long suffering on their children by their sinfulness or even by some one particular sin. The fact is no one suffers alone in their sin. Sin would not be quite so tragic if it only affected the sinner. But often times one person's sin brings suffering to a large number of innocent people.

It is the opinion of the writer that suffering is directly connected with sin. If there had never been any sin there would be no suffering. Sin is the root cause of all suffering. Having said this, let me hasten to say that the whole book of Job contradicts the easy assumption that a man's suffering is always the result of his own sins. However, if suffering overtakes us it is well for us to carefully examine ourselves to see whether or not we are being punished for some sin hidden away in our secret lives.

The age old problem of suffering has not been solved and probably will not be in this life. There are some helpful suggestions found in God's word concerning this perplexing problem. Some time suffering is permitted to come into our lives as chastisement as God's method in burning away the dross of our lives and bringing out the finer qualities and nobler virtues. It is also one of the ways God uses to show some one writing to a godly woman who had experienced great grief and trouble and physical pain said, "God must love you very much to trust you with so much suffering". This may be a startling statement, but it is in keeping with the Bible view of suffering. It will bring a feeling of security and will be a powerful, steady influence in the life of the true Christian.

ATTEND CHURCH SUNDAY

Men Taking Training In Dairy Work



Getting ready for essential war work on dairy farms of the State are Fred Hardin (center) of Ashe County and Herman Beece (right) of Avery County, two of 33 young farmers signed up by the U. S. Employment Service, and Farm Security Administration for the first of a series of dairy training courses at State College. Looking on is Edward G. Kerr, herdsman at N. C. State Dairy Farm. There are several from Alleghany taking this course.

Pleasant Grove News

(Grace Petty, Correspondent)

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Combs and daughter, of Helen, W. Va., spent the week end with Mrs. Combs' parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Richardson.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Petty spent the week end with their son, Raymond Petty at McGrady.

Miss Flora Anderson, who has been ill, is improving some.

Mrs. Will Hendrix visited Mr. and Mrs. Colonel Pruitt, Friday. Miss Iva Mae Petty spent the week end with Miss Flora Anderson.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Walker, of Absher, spent a few days with Mrs. Walker's brother, Mr. W. M. Osborne.

Mr. Otis Brinegar says March wind is here, as he was feeding his cows last Sunday morning the wind blew his hat in the creek and went about one hundred yards before he could get it. Ice froze all over his hat before he could get home.

Mr. Donley Anderson is spending a few days with his brother, Hurshel Anderson, at Bull Head.

Iron slugs, weighing 95 pounds each, shot into a mountain side near the Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, in testing munitions explosives, are being dug out for scrap.

Twin Oaks News

CARL IRWIN Staff Correspondent

Mrs. Fred Richardson and daughter, Mabelene, and father, Wiley P. Irwin, spent a while Sunday with Mrs. Brantley Fender, who has been sick for some time, and also stopped with friends here a short while.

Baine Doughton and Cole Parsons, who have positions in Washington, D. C., spent the week end with home folks and returned to their work, Sunday.

Don Shores and Glenn Shepard stopped with friends here, Sunday, returning to their work in Radford, after spending the week end with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Clennel Richardson, Radford, and Mr. and Mrs.

Levi Richardson, Roanoke, Va., attended the funeral of Sam Richardson, Saturday, and returned home, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Farmer spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Estel Andrews.

Maynard and Ted Reed went to Hanes, Tuesday, to put in applications for employment.

Mr. and Mrs. George Reynolds and children, Peggy, Ralph and Grace, of Winston-Salem, and Mrs. Zeb Cash, Elkin, stopped with friends a short while Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. J. L. Bare returned to Dublin, Monday, after spending the week end with her family here.

Mrs. Laura Anders, who has been ill for sometime, does not improve.

Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Shores spent Friday night with Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Shores.

Mrs. R. M. Perry, Galax, Va., spent Saturday with her sister, Mrs. Len Farmer.

Miss Janell Shores spent Sunday with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Shores.

Mr. and Mrs. Philo Caudill, of Abshers, spent the week end with relatives at Stratford and Sparta.

Bobby Crouse, Rudolph Edwards and Mrs. Paul Raymond, Baltimore, and Mrs. Malissie Waddell Crouse, Paterson, N. J., spent Saturday night with friends here. Bobby and Rudolph returned to Baltimore, Sunday, the others mentioned are spending a few days with friends and relatives, here.

Miss Rose Irwin, Washington, D. C., spent Saturday night with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Carl Irwin. She has been in Washington for the past two months, and has a position as Junior Clerk in the Criminal Division of District of Columbia Police Court. She returned to Washington, Sunday.

Mrs. Don Kellon returned to her home in Delaware, Sunday, after having been called here on account of the accidental death of her brother, Sgt. R. C. Wagoner, who was killed in an automobile accident here last Wednesday night.

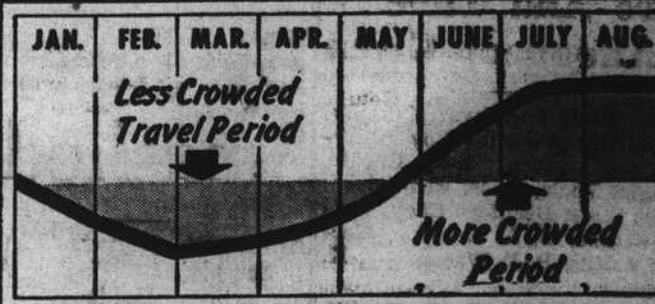
Mrs. Vera Edwards, Mrs. Bert Edwards and Frank Wagoner spent Sunday night with their sister, Mrs. Kemp Estep, in Hickory, and who has been very ill

tal, Washington, D. C., January 30. Howard Carpenter, student at Emory-Henry College, is spending a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Carpenter, and is being called for military training with the college reserves.



You can aid wartime bus service by planning essential trips for February or March — instead of Mid-Summer

Never in history has it been so important to choose with care the time and occasion for travel. Through the years bus travel has always been very heavy in some months, less heavy in others — and this has held true even in wartime when the demands on transportation are naturally increased. That's why Greyhound has long urged everyone to travel during less crowded periods — and February and March are just such times. Essential trips taken in mid-winter will greatly relieve overcrowding in the mid-summer months ahead.



You can aid wartime transportation still further by choosing the right day — in mid-week — and the right schedule — the least crowded one. It's wise to take along as little baggage as possible — and to get information on any trip well in advance.

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Under the recent amendment to the FEDERAL SABOTAGE ACT "to punish willful injury to or destruction of war material,

Dogwood Is Now A War Material

and as such it is intended for, adapted to or suitable for the use of the United States or Associate Nations in connection with the conduct of the War.

The United States Forest Service Refuses To Sell Government Dogwood Except For Making Shuttles

The UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE in its broadcasts of September, 1942,

"Here's Another Tree That's Going To War"
"Dogwood To Make Uniforms"

AND ITS CIRCULAR
"Mr. Farmer - Help Win The War"

appealed to all farmers to bring their Dogwood to SHUTTLE BLOCK mills because the Textile Industry needs Shuttles which must be made from Dogwood, and shortage of Shuttles decreases vital war production.

The WAR PRODUCTION BOARD wrote us in November, 1942, to stress the fact that Shuttle Blocks are a critical item without which our Government would be unable to clothe our Army and Navy.

No patriotic farmer will therefore want to help the Axis by reducing the dwindling supply of Dogwood through sales for non-essential use. Be sure YOUR dogwood goes to war by selling it to Medgentra, to make shuttles.

Write us to ASHEVILLE, N. C. or call at our mill-unit in WEST JEFFERSON, N. C., for specification.

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