

Sunday School Lesson

Lesson for January 12, 1947
THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS
 John 2:1-16

GOLDEN TEXT—Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name when they saw the miracle which he did—John 2:23.

John's purpose in writing his Gospel is clearly stated by the loved disciple thus—But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.—John 20:31. In carrying out his purpose John tells us in the first chapter that the word was in the beginning with God and was God and that all things were made by him. In order to prove this assertion John gave us certain evidence which was taken up in the passage for last Sunday's lesson. In the second chapter he gives farther evidence which we are to consider today.

Christ Has Authority Over Natural Laws
 This is the first conclusion the divine writer would have us reach, which brings the additional conclusion that since Jesus was able to control or set aside natural law, as in the case of the miracle under consideration, of the changing of water into wine, then Jesus must be God or he could not have possessed such power. The story is one of the most familiar of all the miracles performed by the Savior. This was his first miracle. It was performed with no fanfare, but quietly and almost unnoticed. The wedding feast had been going on for sometime. It was not unusual for a wedding celebration to continue for a week or more in the Orient in the time of Jesus. The wine gave out, and the mother of Jesus sensing the situation, endeavored to save the host from great embarrassment, going to her son, Jesus, Mary told him of her discovery. The reply of Jesus is not one of disrespect, but was given as a declaration of his spiritual independence from his mother. She must not assume now to dictate his spiritual progress. Woman, what have I to do with thee? My hour is not yet come," was his declaration of self responsibility. It may have been that he did not desire to launch out publicly just yet, however he was willing to be of service to the embarrassed host and quietly ordered the servants to fill the water pats full of water and then pass out their contents and bear to the governor of the feast. The miracle was performed so quietly that the principles of the feast were unaware of it. The wine was described as the best saved until the last of the feast. John goes in to detail so that there could be no other interpretation of the event other than a miracle. The God who had made the universe and had established the laws by which it is run certainly must have power to speed up—change or control these processes. To take away the supernatural from the book of John is to take away the divinity of Christ and to take them away is to take away eternal light and life and would put the world back into darkness and despair and death. John states This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him. How else could Jesus show his power and glory but by the supernatural route.

Jesus Shows His Authority In His Temple—John 2:14-16

During the passover Jesus went to Jerusalem. He found that the merchants who sold oxen and sheep and doves to be offered in sacrifices had brought their animals into the outer court of the Temple, that they might more easily sell to the worshippers. Along with them were the money changers (bankers) sitting prepared to change the many kinds of money used in Palestine for the one used solely in the temple. Of course these bankers charged a good size fee of exchange. In bringing this business into the temple they had not only polluted the house of God with the filth of the animals but had robbed the Gentiles of their place of worship which was the outer court. Jesus indignantly made a scourge of cards and drove them out, commanding, Make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. So commanding was Jesus' person that they were unable to resist, but asked him as to his authority after the

cleansing. The object of worship certainly had the authority to cleanse his own temple. Today the Christ is ever cleansing the temples of men's hearts.
 —Discussed by Ben Favell.

Member Radio Engineers Dies

Samuel J. Bayne, Jr., recording secretary of the Radio Engineers Charlotte I. B. E. W. Local No. 1229, passed away in December and the body was taken to Birmingham, his former home, for burial. Mr. Bayne joined Birmingham International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 253 in October, 1933, and served in various official capacities in the Alabama local before coming to Charlotte in 1940 to accept a position with the Engineering Department of Radio Station WBT. He was instrumental in forming the first independent Radio Operators local here under the I. B. E. W. and made many friends while he lived in Charlotte, all of whom extend sympathy to the bereaved family of deceased.

Brother Bayne is survived by his wife and two children, Grace Luanne and Samuel Jefferson, III, who will return to Birmingham to make their home.

Members of organized labor as a whole, especially members of his local union, will greatly miss his friendship and wise counsel.

STATE OF NATION SPEECH MADE BY PRESIDENT TRUMAN

(Continued From Page 1)
 instances where labor or management resorts to economic force without exhausting the possibilities for agreement through the bargaining process. Neither the parties nor the government have a definite yardstick for determining when and how government

AND HERE'S WHAT HAPPENS

VICTORY-BOND TIMETABLE			
WEEKLY SAVINGS	SAVINGS AND INTEREST ACCUMULATED		
	IN 1 YR.	IN 5 YRS.	IN 10 YRS.
\$3.75	\$195.00	\$1,004.20	\$2,163.45
6.25	325.00	1,674.16	3,607.54
7.50	390.00	2,009.02	4,329.02
9.38	487.78	2,513.82	5,416.97
12.50	650.00	3,348.95	7,217.20
15.00	780.00	4,018.67	8,690.42
18.75	975.00	5,024.24	10,828.74

assistance should be invoked. There is need for integrated governmental machinery to provide the successive steps of mediation, voluntary arbitration, and—ultimately in appropriate cases—a certification of the facts of the dispute and the reporting of them to the public. Such machinery would facilitate and expediate the settlement of disputes.

Point Number Three is the broadening of our program of social legislation to alleviate the causes of workers' insecurity.

On June 11, 1946, in my message vetoing the Case bill, I made a comprehensive statement of my views concerning labor-management relations. I said then, and I repeat now, that the solution of labor-management difficulties is to be found not only in legislation dealing directly with labor relations, but also in a program designed to remove the causes of

insecurity felt by many workers in our industrial society. In this connection, for example, the Congress should consider the extension and broadening of our social security system, better housing, a comprehensive national health program, and provisions for a fair minimum wage.

Point Number Four is the appointment of a temporary joint commission to inquire into the entire field of labor-management relations.

I recommend that the Congress provide for the appointment of a temporary joint commission to undertake this broad study.

The President, the Congress, and management and labor have a continuing responsibility to cooperate in seeking and finding the solution of these problems. I therefore recommend that the commission be composed as follows: Twelve to be chosen by

the Congress from the members of both parties in the House and the Senate, and eight representing the public, management and labor, to be appointed by the President.

The commission should be charged with investigating and making recommendations upon certain major subjects, among others:

First, the special and unique problem of nation-wide strikes in vital industries affecting the public interest. In particular, the commission should examine into the question of how to settle or prevent such strikes without endangering our democratic freedoms.

Upon a proper solution of this problem may depend the whole industrial future of the United States. The paralyzing effects of a nation-wide strike in such industries as transportation, coal, oil, steel, or communications can result in national disaster. We have been able to avoid such disaster, in recent years, only by the use of extra-ordinary war powers. All those powers will soon be gone. In their place there must be created an adequate system and effective machinery in these vital fields. This problem will require careful study and a bold approach, but an approach consistent with the preservation of the rights of our people. The need is pressing. The commission should give this its earliest attention.

Second, the best methods and procedures for carrying out the collective bargaining process. This should include the responsibilities of labor and management to negotiate freely and fairly with each other, and to refrain from strikes or lockouts until all possibilities of negotiation have been exhausted.

Third, the underlying causes of labor-management disputes.

Some of the subjects presented here for investigation involve long-range study. Others can be considered immediately by the commission and its recommendations can be submitted to the Congress in the near future.

I recommend that this commission make its first report, including specific legislative recommendations, not later than March 15, 1947.



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