

INTERNATIONAL
SUNDAY
SCHOOL
LESSON
—for—
MARCH 25, 1956

MEMORY SELECTION: "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and by his stripes we are healed." — Isaiah 53:5.

LESSON TEXT: Luke 23:4-6, 18, 33, 34, 39-43.

Events moved rapidly after Jesus and the eleven disciples came down from the Upper Room after the Lord's Supper. There was the trip to Mount Olivet for prayer. The agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane was followed by his betrayal by Judas, and his arrest by the soldiers, who bound him and took him into the city for trial.

Upon the arrest of Jesus, his disciples abandoned him, and only Peter followed him at a distance, as they carried him off. John soon came back and, knowing the High Priest, was admitted into the house. Then he secured admittance for Peter, who, in his anxiety to be near Jesus, gave way to weakness and denied three times his acquaintance with him. As Jesus looked reproachfully at him, Peter broke down and fled weeping. He was later forgiven by Jesus and restored to favor and leadership, becoming the great leader of the Apostles.

Jesus had three trials by the Jewish authorities. He was first carried before Annas, recognized by the Jews as the lawful High Priest, although he had been removed by the Romans. Later in the night, Jesus was carried before Caiaphas, and a few members of the Sanhedrin, who had been hastily summoned. Soon after sunrise, on the following morning, he was again placed before a larger gathering of the Sanhedrin, constituting a quorum. By these authorities, he was condemned to death for blasphemy, notwithstanding the fact that Jewish law provided that no trial could be held at night, nor could one be condemned to death on the same day as his

Since the Jews were not allowed to execute criminals, it was necessary that charges be preferred against Jesus before the Roman authorities, who alone could have him executed. Early Friday morning, Jesus was carried before Pilate, the Roman Governor of Judea, a man pictured to us by those who knew him as cruel, selfish and corrupt. As Pilate would not be interested in any ecclesiastical accusation, the Jews changed their charges against Jesus. They told Pilate that Jesus had pretended to be king, and had advised against the payment of taxes to Rome. Even Pilate realized that this was a subterfuge, because such a position would have provoked the approval of the Jews. Pilate had no desire to dispose of such a problem, so quite conveniently he recalled that Herod Antipas, the Governor of Galilee, was, like himself, a visitor to Jerusalem for the Passover.

Therefore, Pilate told the Jews to carry Jesus before Herod. Thus, Jesus came face to face with the murderer of John the Baptist, who himself was curious to see this prophet of whom so many had spoken. Jesus refused to answer no question put to him by Herod, and also performed no miracle, to Herod's chagrin. Herod thereupon had him arrayed in a fine robe and mocked.

Jesus was then carried back to Pilate, who knew the dispute was over spiritual matters and felt that Jesus was innocent of wrongdoing. He had been warned by his wife's dream to have nothing to do with sentencing this innocent man, and he wished to set Jesus free, but was without the courage to do so. He tried various expedients to accomplish his purpose. He had Jesus scourged and presented to his accusers a suffering and bleeding spectacle, but it brought no pity. Remembering a custom to free a prisoner during the Passover festival, Pilate hoped that this would afford him a loophole, but the enemies of Jesus insisted that an insurrectionist, named Barrabas, be freed and Jesus condemned.

Symbolically washing his hands, Pilate allowed the Jews to proceed with their plans. No one knows for certain the exact location of the scene of the Crucifixion, Calvary, or Golgotha, meaning "The Skull," was either northwest of Jerusalem, in the present Christian quarter where stands the church of the Holy Sepulchre, or north, outside the Damascus Gate, beyond the present

Miss Carter McElroy Miss Reeves Miss Houston



Miss Blalock Miss Randall Lackey Miss Tomberlin

MADISON SUB-DISTRICT OFFICERS — A new Methodist sub-district has been formed in the Madison County Methodist District with the Rev. R. N. Barefoot, pastor of the Marshall Methodist Church, as adviser. Officers of the newly organized group were installed at the Marshall church at 7:30 p. m., Monday. They are: Pender McElroy, president; Miss Margaret Reeves, vice president; Miss Carol Houston, secretary; Miss Grace Carter, treasurer; Miss Ruth Blalock, Christian fellowship commission; Miss Ruth Randall, Christian faith; John Lackey, Christian outreach; and Miss Sharon Tomberlin, Christian witness. Johnny Lawson was not present when the picture was made.

Mrs. Hattie Hall, 81, Passes On Tuesday; Funeral Wednesday

Mrs. Hattie Edge Hall, 81, died Tuesday, March 20, 1956 in an Asheville hospital. She had been in declining health for several months.

A lifelong resident of Mars Hill, she was the widow of J. M. Hall.

Surviving are one daughter, Mrs. Walter Faulkner of Greenville, Tenn.; two sons, Horace of Mars Hill and Dan of Bryan, Texas; two sisters, Mrs. D. A. Rice of Mars Hill and Mrs. Gaither Hensley of West Asheville; one brother, W. L. Edge of Mars Hill; eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at

Mohammedan quarter. The former is the traditional site, and five religious sects are rivals in conducting services there and caring for it.

Two thieves were crucified along with Jesus. One reviled him for not rescuing them from their fate, but the other recognized the goodness of Jesus and rebuked his companion, calling attention to the fact that they deserved their fate, while Jesus was innocent. This thief asked Jesus to remember him in his kingdom and Jesus promised him that he would be with him in Paradise. No one reading the gospel account of this solemn scene can fail to be moved by a conviction of its sincerity.

Jesus spoke seven times while hanging on the cross. First, it was a plea for forgiveness for his murderers. Then, his promise to the supplicant robber. Third, he commended his mother to John. Fourth, he asked God why he had been forsaken. Fifth was an expression of agony and thirst. Sixth, a word of success that his mission had been accomplished, and last, a solemn commitment of his spirit into the hands of his Father. His body was removed from the cross by two friends, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, and placed in the newly-hewn tomb, where it remained until his resurrection on the first day of the week.

MARS HILL

Miss Gail Fulbright, student at Meredith College, visited her mother here last week-end.

Miss Patsy Webster, student at UT, Knoxville, is spending spring holidays here with her aunt, Mrs. L. L. Vann.

Miss Barbara Gail Anderson was home during the "between terms" vacation period of W.A.C. University week before last.

Pvt. Hal Buckner, of Fort Knox, Ky., had a week-end leave at home recently.

Mr. Joe Stines of Camden, S. C., visited his mother here Tuesday.

Dr. S. W. Vance underwent an appendectomy in an Asheville hospital last Friday.

Mrs. Jerry Dunnivan, who underwent major surgery in St. Joseph's Hospital week before last, was able to return home Sunday.

Mrs. Guy [Name] was able to go from the hospital to her sisters in West Asheville the middle of last week and expects to return to her home here in a few days.

Mr. J. G. Briggs entered Memorial Mission Hospital Tuesday to undergo surgery Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Wood visited his brother, Mr. Kenneth Wood, and family at Clemson College last Saturday p. m., Wednesday in Mars Hill Baptist Church. The Rev. Robert Seymour, the Rev. J. A. McLeod and the Rev. H. G. Barnes officiated and burial was in Mars Hill Cemetery.

The Tragedy Of The Cross To Be Presented At Hot Springs Church

Sunday night at the Hot Springs Methodist Church a worship program will be given centered around the Crucifixion of Christ. The program will be featured with readings, special music and colored slides.

The public is cordially invited to attend this Lenten service. The service will begin at 7:30 p. m. The Rev. Jack Alber is pastor of the Hot Springs Methodist Church.

POETRY CORNER

Contributed by EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE

SUNRISE SERVICE

I'm having to "lie down in green pastures" And rest for awhile on my bed. I must miss the service this Easter— But I'll have Sunrise Service instead.

Right here I can see from my window Silver clouds in rose-tipped array Enhancing the dawn of the morning As they did on that first Easter Day. When conquering sin, death and dying Jesus rose from the tomb

The angel said, "He is risen," Banishing death with its gloom. There must have been little birds singing And flowers with lovely perfume: When the Marys met with the angel At the door of the empty tomb. I've just read the wonderful story— I think Jesus knows that I care, That MY misdeeds and transgressions Made HIS load heavier to bear. I bow my head in my sorrow When I think of my sins that He bore

But His voice gives me hope for tomorrow, "Child, bear on and trust me more."

PAULINE W. MASON
Nebo, N. C.

HERE COMES THE BOOKMOBILE

My subject this week is—STOPS. MY object is—TO ASK YOU TO PLEASE, PRETTY PLEASE, HELP ME. After tomorrow, Tuesday, when I go over to the Beech Glen, Paint Fork, Buckner area, I can say that all of the original Monday and Friday runs have been properly changed to another day. Now that I plan to travel three days every week, and stay in the library in Marshall every Monday and Friday, I have two more days to fill with new stops.

It seems to me that I have sort of neglected the following areas not intentionally, you understand not because I lacked time and knowledge when I went around and set up my bookmobile route in August Rector's Corner, Panhandle, Walnut Creek and Ivy. Now, with some added time and a little more knowledge of what's what and where's where I hope to make up for my early lacks.

Little Pine, Big Pine, Barnard and Walnut are all such good sections, in order to do them justice, I am going to have to put them on different days. There will be no change next time, but when I come around on Wednesday, March 28, I'll tell you all about it.

My young friend, Ray Davis has just dropped into the library, and he promises to help me out with the Rector's Corner route. Haven't seen another friend of mine, David Conner, lately, but I think he will help me with the Panhandle trip. That leaves Walnut Creek and Ivy sections.

Without help it is a hard job to pick the right places. The bookmobile and I talk it over something like this: "Bookie," sez I, "Do you think that house looks as if it likes to read? The folks that live in it, I mean." "Peggy," sez the bookmobile (we call each other by our first names—the bookmobile and I), "use your head. That may suit you, but not me. I am sensitive. I have to have a good place to get well off the road. I just can't stand it when folks come along and toot at me, and scowl and look put out." So you see my problem to be solved is this —

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urday and then visited in Greenwood, S. C., Saturday night and Sunday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Seymour, parents of Dr. Robert Seymour.

College spring holidays will begin the latter part of this week and the students and a large part of the faculty will be leaving for visits to their homes or vacation trips.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hollowell, of Gastonia, were guests of Miss Clea Edwards and Mrs. Lippard last week-end.

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