

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

MAY 27, 1956

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SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH THE WORLD

MEMORY SELECTION: "We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." — 1 Corinthians 5:20.

LESSON TEXT: Acts 12:1-4; 14:19-20

From the early church at Antioch came the first foreign missionary movement. Adherents of the new faith had been scattered by persecution previously and had carried the new doctrine to various localities, but this missionary movement from Antioch was the direct result of prayer and communion with the Holy Spirit.

Two of the ablest men in the church at Antioch were selected for this important mission, namely, Barnabas and Saul, both of whom had taken a very prominent part in the development of the Christian church in that city. Going with them was John Mark, kinsman of Barnabas, whose mother knew Jesus in Jerusalem.

Blessed with the prayers and good wishes of the church at Antioch, the missionary party sets out on its epochal journey. Our Western world today owes its civilization and its progress to this movement launched by that early church. Proceeding through the port of Seleucia, the missionaries sailed to the island of Cyprus, 70 miles away, which was Barnabas' former home. At Salamis, they discoursed in the synagogue, but few details of this stop are given us. At Paphos, on the other end of the island, Sergius Paulus, Governor, apparently a seeker after truth, was converted, and the sorcerer, Elymas, attempted to block the work of the missionaries and received, through the hands of Paul, the curse of blindness.

Leaving this island, the missionary party journeyed to the coast of Asia, landing at Perga. Here, for some reason, John Mark withdrew from the party and returned home. No one knows whether John left the party because he anticipated the growing ascendancy of Paul, or because of an attack of malaria, or because he became homesick. At any rate, Paul did not regard his reason as sufficient and later refused to allow him to accompany them on another journey. John Mark, however, eventually turned out well, being associated in the further missionary labors of Barnabas, and assisting Peter, from whom he gained the name for his gospel. Later, he proved helpful to Paul himself, who became reconciled to him.

The next stop of importance was at Antioch, 90 miles north of Paphos — not Antioch in Syria. Here Paul and Barnabas visited the synagogue on the Sabbath day. The usual synagogue service, consisting of readings from the Law and the Prophets, followed. The Jews had a habit of reading in the first week of the Law, so that they could be current every three years. It was customary at the conclusion of such readings for the rulers of the synagogue to select speakers who would expound the scriptures read.

Probably having become acquainted with Paul and Barnabas during the few days prior to the Sabbath service, the ruler of the synagogue called upon these visitors for the word of exhortation they might have for the congregation. We are given the summary of Paul's address on this occasion, which seems to have been very effective and produced a remarkable effect upon his hearers. So impressed were they that they requested him to talk further the following week. Others in the city heard about it and came to hear his message.

When the following Sabbath service was held, however, the Orthodox Jews, jealous of the triumph of the new faith, gathered to combat the missionary preaching. Upon their refusal to accept the new faith, Paul boldly declared that he would turn from the Jews and preach to the Gentiles. The Jews, however, were able to stir up sufficient opposition and hostility to the missionaries that, at the next day, they were forced to leave the city and seek new fields of labor.

In the following weeks, we have the story of the preaching on which

the early church attempted to solve by sending out this missionary party. As Christians, we should inquire whether or not our religion is worth enough to us that we should try to give its advantages and blessings to others. A survey of the world's progress and development will show that the Christian people have been those most blessed. From an article we found, we recite some of the outstanding blessings which Christianity has brought us:

"In the economic field, the Christian world is where we find lamps, clocks, sewing machines, improved farming implements, printing presses, and all the blessings of modern civilization. In the social sphere,

Christianity has advanced the status of wives and women; it has insisted on the education of girls, and has fostered the care of the sick, the insane and helpless, and has attacked various vices which impeded against the happiness of mankind. From the intellectual standpoint, Christianity has gone hand in hand with schools and education, in waging a war against ignorance, prejudice and superstition. Morally, Christianity has been a force for good, has warred against intemperance, gambling, dishonesty and vice wherever found and has sought to instill the doctrine of love and service in the hearts of mankind."

Ramsay Cemetery To Be Cleaned Off On Friday June 1

The Ramsay Cemetery near Marshall on RFD 1 (Old Turnpike), will be cleaned off next Friday June 1, in preparation for the annual decoration and memorial service there, with the date for the decoration to be announced later. All who have friends or loved ones buried there, are asked to come and bring working tools and help clean the cemetery.

Mrs. Nelson Harris, 70, Passes On Thursday

Mrs. Nelson Harris, 70, died at her home at Mars Hill about 10 p. m., Thursday, May 17, 1956 following a long illness.

Surviving are the husband; a daughter, Mrs. Chester Tipton of Flag Pond, Tenn.; six sons, Guy of Flag Pond, Gus of Unicoi, Tenn., Douglas and Decatur of Dante, Va., and Hilliard and Alvin of Mars Hill; three sisters, Mrs. Cordelia Higgins of Mars Hill, Mrs. Dora Stockton of Pamplin, Va., and Mrs. Byrd Stockton of Flag Pond; and two brothers,

AGE NO BARRIER TO CUPID

Oakland, Cal. — George Woodruff, 88, and his neighbor, Bertha May Holcomb, 71, both of Oakland, recently obtained marriage licenses and were married the next day. Woodruff, twice a widower, has 5 daughters, and 2 sons. His bride, a widow, has five daughters and three sons.

Melvin Mashburn of Greenville, Tenn., and Merritt Mashburn of Orlando, Fla. Holcombe Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



SURE,

Ralph Webb Gardner Has Spent One Third Of His Time In Washington Since He Became A Lawyer 18 Years Ago -- And He's Going To Spend Some More Time There When Congress Meets Next January

It is an old political trick that when your opponents get desperate and have nothing really against you they begin to create rumors, half-truths and insinuations. Ralph Webb Gardner, contrary to his opponents' insinuations, was, is and always expects to be a resident of North Carolina. He has voted in most all elections in the city, county and state since he was eligible to vote. He pays North Carolina state income and intangible taxes; he files his Federal income tax in Greensboro, N. C. A resident of Washington, D. C., has to file his Federal income tax returns in Baltimore, Md., and does not pay North Carolina income or intangible taxes or vote in North Carolina.

Let's Elect An Experienced Man Who Knows How To Effectively Represent The People Of The 11th Congressional District

Sure, Ralph Webb Gardner lives in a home in Washington, D. C., at 2828 Albe-Marie Street. As most everyone knows, each Congressman and Senator must provide his own shelter, either renting or purchasing a home or apartment, when he goes to Washington. IS IT BAD THAT RALPH AND HIS WIFE, CARRIE, WILL HAVE SHELTER ALREADY PROVIDED AND A PLACE FOR THEIR CONSTITUENTS TO COME TO? The latch key will always be on the outside at the Gardner home for his friends from the 11th District.

He and his wife are also proud to be able to own a home in Cleveland County as well as in Washington, D. C. Ralph Webb Gardner owns and operates two farms in Cleveland County, one of which he has owned for over 21 years. He has one of the largest pure-bred Aberdeen Angus herds in the State of North Carolina. In Shelby he has maintained law offices, law library and employed a secretary during the 18 years he has been practicing law.

Ralph Webb Gardner has belonged to the First Baptist Church of Shelby since he was 8 years old, plus numerous civic and social organizations in Cleveland County. He does not belong to any club, organization or church in Washington, D. C.

YOU KNOW AND I KNOW THAT RALPH WEBB GARDNER IS AN UNWAVERING NORTH CAROLINIAN AND NO POLITICAL OPPONENT IS GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A YANKEE OUT OF HIM.

GO WITH GARDNER TO VICTORY AT THE POLLS NEXT YEAR

VIRGIL "Cricket" WEATHERS — Cleveland County Manager — GARDNER FOR GOV.