

International Sunday School Lesson
for
MAY 24, 1964

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DEMANDS OF CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP

Memory Selection: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" — Luke 20:25.

Lesson Text: Judges 9:7-15; Luke 20: 19-26; Romans 13: 1-7; 1 Peter 4:12-16.

In the passages in Luke 20: 19-26, the religious authorities of that day were trying to put Jesus in a position whereby he would have either to show disloyalty to his religious heritage or, alternatively, to the Roman authorities. Jesus' handling of this situation pro-

vides us with a basis upon which to go for resolving the conflict between these two loyalties, for while Jesus freely acknowledged the claims of both, he left no doubt as to religious loyalty taking precedence above any other.

It is good to remember the story of the dying man who called all his sons together, and, on his deathbed, gave a bundle of sticks to each one in turn, urging them to break it. One after another, they tried, but could not. The wise old man then untied the bundle, giving one stick to each son. Each one, of course, was then able to break his stick without difficulty. The patriarch then pointed out to his children that together they stood, but divided they could fall. Each son was made to realize that he owed a duty to his brother, and in the honoring of that obligation lay their strength. It is doubtful if the richest man on earth, in the realm of worldly possessions, could equal in value the inheritance that the dying father of our story left to his sons!

The Romans were a mighty race. They instituted a form of government in their day which has served as the basis of government for countries for many centuries since. They conquered, it is true, but

they often left local government in the hands of the conquered country when it came to local affairs; they merely asked that Rome would be recognized as the ruling power, and that her edicts would be honored. It was Roman ships that cleared the seas of pirates, and the famous Roman roads that spanned the empire made travel easy and served to unite the various nations under Roman authority. All these benefits were enjoyed by the populace, and Jesus and his disciples availed themselves of these benefits many times in their journeys to spread the word to the people. Therefore they were constrained to support the collecting of taxes by authorities vested with that responsibility.

Today the Christian has the same responsibility that any other citizen has, because he reaps certain benefits from it. Therefore we must heed the admonishment—"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's." For the benefits derived from our form of government, we must do our share in supporting that Government. But we must never forget the other side of the coin . . . for a Christian's first responsibility is to God. Government is God's instrument

of law and order. There have always been leaders. God saw fit to appoint Moses as a leader of his people, but Moses, fundamentally, was guided by God's wishes. We, today, appoint our own leaders, using our votes as the instrument to do so. We must use our intelligence and appoint good leaders, and then give our unwavering loyalty to the limits of the dictates of our conscience.

"Conscience" . . . that intangible, God-given attribute—must always be our guide. If the time were to come (as, indeed, it has in the past) when Christians must choose between government and God, the decision would have to be made in the favor of God. We must make it in humility, because there is always the chance that, being human, we might make mistakes in judgement; but we must always make it in joy, for as Christians we fully realize that to share in the sufferings of Christ and for Christ is a privilege.

As we arise in the morning, our prayer should be: "Our Father, help us this day to aid in fulfilling thy will and in bringing thy Kingdom through the witness we bear in our citizenship—Amen."

Robert W. Willis, Native Of County, Passes Sunday

Robert William Willis, 50, of 40 Watauga St., died at 9:50 a. m. Sunday, May 17, 1964 in an Asheville hospital following a long illness.

Mr. Willis was a native of Madison County, a Buncombe County resident 45 years, was a retired driver for Pilot Freight Carriers. He was a member of the Oak Grove Baptist Church.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Mary Jo Brown Willis; a daughter, Miss Karen Marie Willis of the home; a son, Jerry Edward Willis of the U. S. Army in Germany; the parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Willis of Fletcher; a brother, Coy Willis of Spartanburg, S. C.; and several nieces and nephews.

Groce Funeral Home were in charge of arrangements.

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Pilot Conservation Program Approved For Clay County

A special conservation program has been approved for Clay County farmers for 1964, according to M. B. Braswell, chairman of the North Carolina State ASC Committee. Under the program, cost-sharing will be made available to farmers for carrying out needed conservation practices.

In announcing the pilot program, Chairman Braswell said that the basic purpose was to test the effect of an accelerated conservation program on the economy of the county. Clay County has been among the lowest in per capita income in North Carolina. Both the percentage of cost-sharing and the approvals per farm will be stepped up in this program.

Chairman Braswell said that farms will get enough cost-sharing to carry out all needed conservation practices. Many other farms will receive enough cost-sharing to establish or improve pastures on the farm. It is felt that an increase in income will come about from livestock and dairy receipts on these pilot farms.

NEWS FROM THE SERVICES

Amy Pvt. Ronald P. Buckner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer B. Buckner, Rt. 1, Marshall, completed an eight-week field communication crewman course at Fort York, La., May 15.

During the course Buckner received training in the operation of light Army vehicles, communications wiring and wire laying and in message center and switchboard operations.

Buckner received basic training at Fort Gordon, Ga. The 23-year-old soldier was graduated from Marshall High School and was engaged in farming before entering the Army.

Pvt. Carolyn J. Buckner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mert Buckner, Rt. 5, Marshall, completed eight weeks of basic military training at the Women's Army Corps Center, Fort McClellan, Ala., May 8.

Private Buckner received instruction in such subjects as Army history and traditions, administrative procedures and first aid. She was graduated from Marshall High School in 1963.

Flea Beetles Working Tomato Transplants

Transplanting tomatoes can be set back several days by flea beetle injury. During the past few days flea beetles have been very active on tomato transplants.

Alert farmers have been spraying their plantbeds with 50% DDT W.P. As soon as the transplants have straightened out they are sprayed again with DDT for flea beetles and with maneb, Manzate or M-22 Special, for early blight prevention.

Mr. Burrell Riddle of Little Pine has done an excellent job of keeping flea beetles off his tomato transplants.

Treat Tobacco Plants With DDT Before Transplanting

Many farmers in Madison County will be transplanting tobacco in the next few days, at this time of the year when flea beetles do a tremendous amount of damage to plants newly set in the field. Apply DDT before they are pulled from the bed. This will give approximately one week of protection and give the plants a chance to start growing off. One and one-half pounds of ten per cent dust per 100 square yards or five level tablespoonful in five gallons of water per 100 square yards should be used.

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AUCTION

Sat., May 23
10:30 A.M. RAIN OR SHINE

PAUL MERRILL FARM

Location: Don Felmet Road, Turkey Creek section of Buncombe Co., Leicester Township. This farm consists of 114 acres and has been subdivided into several tracts. This is a good combination farm, well fenced, with plenty of water. Tobacco allotment. One good five-room house in excellent condition. Good barn and out-buildings. Inspection of this property invited before day of sale.

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