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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.,
Of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.
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Lesson for April 6

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THE RISEN LORD AND HIS DISCIPLES

LESSON TEXT—John 20:19-23, 26-29; 21:15-17.
MEMORY SELECTION—But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.—I Corinthians 15:20.

Ever new and blessed in its touch upon our souls is the message of Easter. To be assured once more that the grave could not hold our blessed Lord and Saviour, and that he arose in victory over sin and death, is our delightful portion in today's lesson.

It is a very appropriate conclusion to our three month study of the Gospel of John and comes in the new quarter because of Easter Sunday.

Three helpful incidents make up our lesson.

I. A Risen Lord and Glad Disciples (20:19-23).

The appearance of our Lord to his disciples after he arose from the grave emphasizes the close relationship between the resurrection and the life and ministry of his followers.

Those who live for and serve the risen Christ have a triumphant faith, an inward peace, and an outward authority and power. Their convictions are based on the Lord's own words which came to assure the disciples as they secretly assembled for fear of the Jews.

He stood in their midst and spoke the words of peace (vv. 19-21) and authority (vv. 22, 23).

Peace of soul is absolutely essential to useful and satisfied living. Only as we are "steadfast, immovable," can we be "abounding in the work of the Lord" (I Cor. 15:58). Steady at the center, active at the circumference.

Commissioned and sent by the Son of God, clothed with Holy Spirit power, the Church of God has his authority. While some have read too much into verse 23, others have read out of it the real authority that God has given.

Little wonder that we read (v. 20), "Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord." They had reason for real joy!

II. A Convinced Doubter and Glad Testimony (20:26-29).

Thomas made the serious error of being absent from the gathering of the disciples when the Lord Jesus stood in their midst. Let those who commonly absent themselves from the place and hour of worship take heed lest they miss a blessing, and coming later add nothing to the spiritual life of the church, but rather become troublers and doubters.

But God graciously turns the doubt of Thomas into a means of blessing to all of us who since then have read of his experience. Thomas was an honest doubter. God is always ready to meet such with satisfactory proof. The trouble is that there are so many in the world who use professed doubts to cover a life of sin.

Doubt may come to any man. In itself it is no sin. But to cherish it and hold to it in unbelief—that is a different matter. One wise spiritual leader rightly counseled his people, "Believe your beliefs and doubt your doubts. Never make the mistake of doubting your beliefs or believing your doubts."

When doubting Thomas saw the Lord, his questions changed at once to strong convictions and assured personal testimony to his blessed Lord.

III. A Restored Disciple and Glad Service (21:15-17).

After meeting Jesus on the first Easter morning, Peter had been assured of forgiveness for his denial of the Lord and had been taken back into fellowship and service with him.

But then something seemed to have gone astray, for we find that Peter and the others had returned to their old life as fishermen. They seem to have lost their vision, or had become discouraged.

But the Lord had not forgotten them. He appeared and told them where to catch fish, and then we have the lovely scene around the fire as they breakfasted together.

There it was that the Lord met Peter, and as he had denied Christ thrice he is asked to thrice declare his devotion to him.

The man who thus declared his readiness to serve Christ to the end had many an opportunity to prove the sincerity of that profession. He met persecution and imprisonment, but to every effort of man to close his mouth or to change his witness he had the simple reply of absolute obedience to the Lord.

Tradition tells us that this faithfulness finally led Peter to a martyr's death. So we see a life made over, made powerful, made glorious for God through the matchless Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. He can do it for you, too. Will you let him?

There could be no better time to meet the risen Lord face to face than on this day when we remember his resurrection. Let him come into your heart, dissolve your doubts, forgive your sins—and make you glad

anything of value from a person by force or putting in fear; "burglary" means breaking or entering and attempts; "larceny" includes thefts (except automobiles) such as

Summary

Pertaining To Duplin County

SB - (Salary of judge and solicitor of county court) Introduced by Johnson, March 20. Reported favorably on by Senate committee on March 26; passed second and third readings in the Senate March 27; March 28, received in the House and sent to Calendar Committee.

SB 375 - Introduced by Johnson, March 24. "To authorize Duplin County to establish a war memorial fund and a war memorial fund commission; to acquire and hold property incidental to the construction of a war memorial." (Would establish 20-member Veteran Memorial Commission to be appointed for 5-year terms (to terminate within 90 days after completion of job) by county commissioners and who serve without compensation. Would authorize establishment of memorial or monument to memory of veterans of all wars. Commission would be authorized to make study of such near, designate location of memorial and determine plans therefor. Would authorize county and municipalities therein to appropriate from their general funds such sums as they desire for appropriate for such purpose. Memorial would be designated a necessary expense.) To Judiciary 1.

March 26, reported favorably by Senate committee. March 27, passed second reading in the house. March 28, passed third reading in the Senate. March 29, received in the House and sent to Calendar Committee.

SB 413 - Introduced by Whitaker, March 27. "To amend section 7-70 of the General Statutes of North Carolina relating to the terms of Superior Court in Lenoir and Duplin Counties in the sixth Judicial District." (Would set out schedule of court terms for Lenoir and Duplin, and provide that all criminal terms uncontested divorce cases may be tried and court may hear motions in civil matters not requiring jury trial and make orders or decrees respecting judicial sales. Would become effective July 1, 1947.) To Judiciary 2.

SB 429 - Introduced by Johnson, March 28. "To amend General Statutes 160-25 relating to qualification of municipal officers, as it applies to the town of Wallace in Duplin County." (Would add proviso to cited section exempting from section's provisions all officers and employees of town of Wallace except the mayor and members of board of aldermen.) To Judiciary 1.

SB 430 - Introduced by Johnson, March 28. "To repeal chapter 85 of the Public Laws of 1937 relating to the General County Court in Duplin County." (Would repeal Act of 1937 entitled "An Act to amend chapter 85 Public Laws Extra Session of 1924, and to dispense with jury trials for General County Court in

County, Cities and Towns.

March 27, reported favorably by House committee. Passed second reading in the House. March 28, received in the Senate and sent to Counties, Cities and Towns.

HB 993 - Introduced by Outlaw, March 27. "To prohibit the sale of beer, ale or wine within one-quarter of a mile of certain churches in the Bowden community of Duplin County." (Would prohibit the sale within 1-4 of a mile of the Bowden Presbyterian Church, the First Baptist Church of St. Thomas Church. Violation a misdemeanor punishable in discretion of court; effective date July 1, 1947.) To Finance.

HB 839 - (County officers fees) Introduced by Outlaw, March 20. March 27, reported favorably by House committee. Passed second and third readings in the House. March 28, received in the Senate and sent to Salaries and Fees.

HB 937 - Introduced by Outlaw, March 25. "To amend the charter of the

County, Cities and Towns.

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