

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Priests Sold Temple Concessions

STUDY FOR MARCH 11, 1951

By Wm. Southern, Jr. A political concession is nothing new. Sometimes we protest at political concessions, where someone in authority authorizes a friend to set up a shop in a public place, never intended to be used for profit, but we simply smile and call it honest graft.

Nearly two thousand years ago when Jesus was living on earth and teaching us by His own life and living, how to live, the center of all religion in Palestine was the great temple. The High Priest was the chief officer and somewhere I have read that the concession in one of the outer courts was given to the sons of this high priest.

This concession was very valuable especially during passover time. Jews from everywhere centered at Jerusalem. They came from every country and of course the money they carried was strange money. There was a rule that only the money of Palestine could be used to buy sacrifices, which every visitor came to Jerusalem to make at such a time.

In the account given in Mark, Jesus arrived at Jerusalem several days before the Friday of the crucifixion and every day visited the temple. According to Mark the first day He simply looked around and He saw the busy concessionaries selling animals and birds for the sacrifices and changing the money of the strangers for money which was good in Jerusalem.

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations but ye have made it a den of robbers."

One who read this story asked me how could a single man do this. There were many merchants and money changers who would have ganged up against him. Jesus was not alone, there were twelve husky, bearded fighting men with Him. I can see Peter, a great big man with flashing eyes and prob-

ably a club in his hand, raging up and down by the side of Jesus and followed by eleven other rugged individuals.

The merchants were not fighters and this array of strength was amply sufficient.

For the days before the betrayal Jesus went to the temple every day and gathering about Him great crowds of people He taught them, and many of the parables with which we are familiar, were given on those days. He had made His "Triumphal Entry" into Jerusalem and had received such a joyful welcome from the great passover crowds that the authorities in charge of the temple were afraid they would start a revolution and tear up things. So they tried Him out in many ways. They tried to pay taxes to Caesar and thus leave Him at the mercy of the Roman officers. It was then that He held up a coin and asked whose image and superscription was on the coin and said those immortal words which answer this question for us today:

"Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's." We are talking about taxes today and in this sentence we have our answer.

The home of Jesus in Capernaum was that of Andrew and Peter, but He had another place which might be called a home. Bethany was a small suburb of Jerusalem and here lived three of His closest friends, Mary and Martha and their brother Lazarus. During the last week of His work He retired to this home each night. It was there also that "Simon the Leper" lived and a most interesting event of this week was at a dinner at his home. From here Jesus went into the temple each day and taught.

About the first thing the authorities asked of Jesus when He drove the money changers from the temple was "Where is your authority?" "Who gave you the right to preach and teach and to say what shall go on in this temple?"

That touches the very center of (Continued on page 7)

To Conduct Meeting



Antoine T. Ivins, above, accompanied by Mrs. Ivins and Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Price of the Central Atlantic States mission, will conduct a meeting in the Latter Day Saints chapel, Harkers Island at 7:30 p.m. Monday night. The public is invited.

Today's meditation The Upper Room THE WORLD'S MOST WIDELY USED DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

FRIDAY, MARCH 9 "... when they had prayed, ... they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 4:31. R.S.V.) Read Acts 4:31 to 5:5.

I think I had not realized until this letter came," wrote Dr. W. E. Sangster, of England, to a minister in the United States, "that yours is a small church. The only way we were able to judge its size was by its generosity, and its generosity has been so large that the church had cathedral proportions in our minds."

church is big when God is at the center of its life. It is big when its members are dominated by a spirit of Christlikeness; when on its altar there burns the holy flame of concern and compassion for all who need its redemptive ministry, irrespective of color or class or clime. That church is big when people pass in through its open doors for prayer and dedication and to get divine instructions and a touch of divine power, and pass out through its doors to make dominant in the life of society what

Tuttle's Grove Congregation Prepares Cemetery Near Church

To prepare new ground for a cemetery, members of the Tuttle's Grove Methodist congregation this week hired a bull dozer to clear off land next to the church.

The land will be divided into lots and numbered and a driveway will lead into the cemetery. There are plans to landscape the church grounds after cemetery work has been completed. Changes have also been made inside the church. A new ceiling has been put in, light fixtures rearranged and Venetian blinds placed at the windows.

Much of the money for the work has been raised by the Friendship Circle, the women's organization of the church. Recently they made \$50 in the sale of chicken salad plates.

It is hoped that in the near future a steeple and vestibule will be added to the building.

The Tuttle's Grove church, of which Rev. Louie Lewis, Morehead

City, is pastor, is located on highway 101 near Beaufort. It is known as one of Carteret county's oldest historic sites. In the rear of the church building is the Quaker cemetery which dates back to the 18th century.

Samuel Osgood was the first Postmaster General under the Constitution. He was appointed Sept. 26, 1789.

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Board of Equalization WILL MEET IN COURT HOUSE (County Commissioners Room) Monday, March 19 10 A.M.

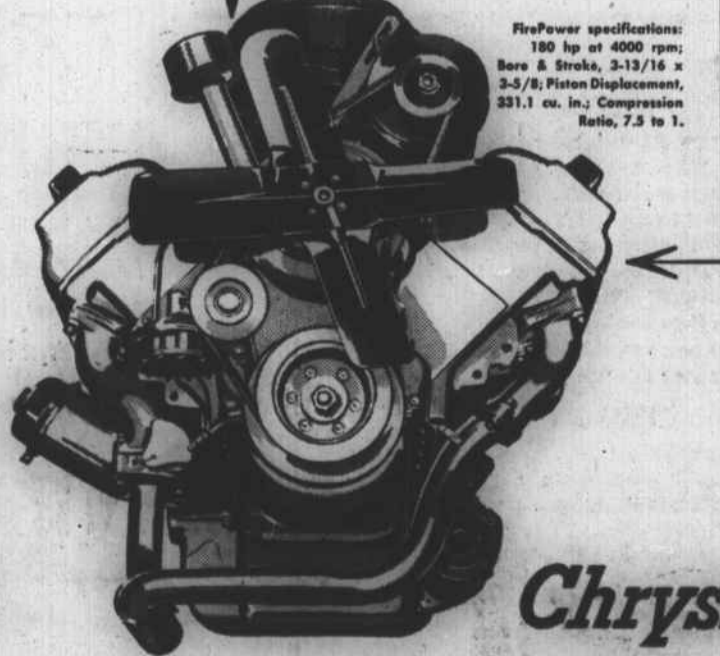
THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AT THIS TIME WILL HEAR ANY COMPLAINTS REGARDING TAX VALUATIONS. ANY ADJUSTMENTS IN TAX VALUATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1951 MUST BE MADE AT THIS TIME.

Board of Equalization OF CARTERET COUNTY

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