

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

'Do This in Remembrance of Me'

STUDY FOR MARCH 18, 1951

By William Southern, Jr.

There is something about the Communion Service, as we Christians observe it at appropriate times, which touches the souls of men and women. No one can take part sincerely in such a service and not come away a better man or woman. Of recent years the Christians of the world have observed this memorial, instituted by Jesus himself, at the same hour, the series of services going around the world and reaching all Christian countries in that encirclement. It is splendid when a group of sincere Christians take the bread and wine together, but when we know that other Christians around the whole wide world are observing this memorial with us, for the same purpose and at the same time, it becomes a memorial which lifts the souls of the partakers.

When Jesus established the communion service He said "Do this in Remembrance of Me" and changed the Jewish Passover to a Christian Memorial which we observe and in which we again pledge ourselves to the memory of Him who gave His very life as a sacrificial pledge to us.

There are four accounts in our New Testament of the "Last Supper" and the establishing of this memorial for followers of Jesus. The three synoptic gospels each recite the incident, very much in the same language. The account in Mark was probably the first record to be made in the gospels. Paul's account, given in a letter to the Corinthians, was probably written before the accounts in the gospels, and in it Paul says it came to him from Jesus himself. Curiously enough, in the gospel according to John, there is no account of the breaking of the bread and the sipping of the wine as a memorial. In his account he emphasizes the "Foot Washing" and to this day there are groups of Christians who emphasize this instead of our usual method, as their Memorial.

We have an account which says that the "Foot Washing" in Rome was solemnly observed each year by calling in twelve citizens, dressing them in robes and performing the foot washing service for them as a Memorial. Then the twelve citizens were given the robes and the attire furnished them. They never forgot this grave ceremony.

We have no record of the life of Jesus until He was 12, when under the Jewish law He became a man. His parents were good Hebrews and no doubt He was taken with them every year to Jerusalem to the Passover. We have no record of His life then until He began His ministry but I think it is a fair conclusion to say that every year He went with His parents to every Passover. We know that during His ministry He never missed going to the great feast at Jerusalem.

The last night of His life He instituted the Communion Service and made it a Christian Memorial "Do this in Remembrance of Me" and we follow this in all of our Communion services. Not that it is necessary in order that we remember the life and death of the Savior, but to give us a richer, finer blessing of the faith that is in us.

John Oxenham, in his little volume entitled "Gentlemen — The King" writes under the title "The Spread Table,"—

Where'er I be, Lord, spread for me Thy table with its holy fare, Then, though my lot be slenderness,

And my tent but wilderness, Full amply plished I shall be, Since thou art there.

And wilt Thou break the bread for me?

For me pour out the sacred wine? And as we eat and drink wilt Thou Renew in me the holy vow,

And fill me with new love for Thee,

Since I am Thine?

Not the spread table, nor the wine, Nor the sweet breaking of the bread,

That makes the feast,—But that we meet,

Together here in commune sweet With Thee, and by Thy grace Divine,

We are all fed.

And when we leave Thy table, Lord,

And go into the world again, Help us to carry with us there The savour of that holy fare,

And prove the virtue of The Word To other men.

If you knew you were going to die tomorrow how would you plan to spend the last night of your life? I have often thought about that, and Jesus gave us the answer: He spent the evening at dinner with His best friends, ate and drank with them, and taught them in many ways. It was not an evening of sadness but probably of association and laughter.

In the account of this "Last Supper" the gospel of John relates that Jesus talked long with the eleven and then they followed Him to His favorite place of prayer, the Mount of Olives where He was arrested. Within twenty-four hours after the dinner He was dead.

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LESSON TEXT — Mk. 14:22-26, 32-36.

(22) And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take eat: this is my body. (23) And he took the cup and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them; and they all drank of it. (24) And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. (25) Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God. (26) And when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives. (32) And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. (33) And he taketh with him Peter and James and John and began to be sore amazed and to be very heavy; (34) And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. (35) And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. (36) And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee: take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

The Rev. H. K. King To Preach Sunday

The Rev. H. K. King, pastor of Centenary Methodist church, New Bern, will preach at the 11 o'clock service Sunday morning in Franklin Memorial Methodist church, Morehead City. The quarterly conference will take place following worship.

Sunday school will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the superintendent, D. B. Willis, in charge. At the evening service, which begins at 7:30, the Rev. A. L. Reynolds, pastor, will speak on "Our Possessions."

Sale By Weight Protested

Cairo.—(AP)—Egypt's fruit sellers went on strike when their government slapped on price controls. One order they protested was that citrus fruits—oranges, lemons, and tangerines—be sold by weight instead of number.

Isaiah

EDITOR'S NOTE: The text appearing below is condensed from selections by Houston Harrie for the book, "In Our Image." Illustration by Guy Rowe also from the book.

THE SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to comfort all that mourn; to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse; and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together and a little child shall lead them. For the earth shall be full of knowledge of the Lord, as the waters covers the sea. And that root of Jesse shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

STRENGTHEN YE the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them of fearful heart, Fear not: your God will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The voice of them that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough places shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the Lord hath spoken.

BEHOLD, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in bosom, and shall gently lead those that with young.

The everlasting God fainteth (Continued on page 5)



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

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

PRAYER O Lord God, we know and Thou knowest that we are compassed with many trials and tribulations. Give us the strength and courage to overcome them, as Thou hast overcome the world. In the name of Christ, who died to redeem us. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY Christ is my strength as I put forth the effort daily to overcome evil with good.

Extension Planned Montreal.—(AP)—Quebec's famed No. 11 Highway from Montreal to the Laurentian resort area will be broadened to four lanes all the way from Cartierville Bridge to Mont Laurier in the near future, says Ernest Gonier, chief engineer of the Quebec Roads Department.

When we realize that we are instruments in the hands of Christ, we keep our lives tuned in harmony with the Lord's will. Thus we may lead others to join in Christian service. We cannot play our parts in a lukewarm manner and expect to receive the blessings of the great Redeemer. We are commanded to "be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

In the days of our tribulations we may be accounted as sheep for the slaughter. As long as we are instruments working in harmony with God's laws, however, His care and guidance will be our help by which we can overcome evil will good.

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