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Improved Uniform International **SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D. Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for May 19

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A FRIEND WHO LEARNED TO BELIEVE

LESSON TEXT—John 11: 7, 8, 16, 20: 24-29.
MEMORY SELECTION—Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.—John 20:29.

Doubt and faith—both seem to come to the hearts and minds of men. Yet they are directly contradictory to one another and cannot exist together. To believe is to drive out doubt, and when doubt comes in, faith loses its grip.

Thomas, and his experience following the resurrection of our Lord, presents a lesson on what a man can do to meet honest doubt and how such a man can come out into the sunshine of faith.

We find in Thomas, first, an expression of

I. Fearless Loyalty (John 11:7, 8, 16).

Unafraid of the threats of men, Jesus was about to go once more into Judea. On his last two visits there, the Jews had sought to kill him, namely, at the feast of tabernacles (John 8:59) and at the feast of dedication (John 10:31).

He was not one to draw back for the fear of men when the Father's will led him forward in his service to humanity. Lazarus was dead, and Mary and Martha needed him and he was going to them.

Then came a fine expression of the loyalty of Thomas. If his Lord was going to face death, he was willing to go along and die with him. Let us recognize that here was a man of real courage, willing to show his loyalty even by giving his life.

There is something fine about that attitude, and something which shows us that when this man later expressed doubt, it was not the silly and shallow unbelief of a trifler. This man loved the Lord and served him, and yet he failed him.

When we think we are strong, we had better watch out lest we fail. Let us be clear and triumphant in our declaration of loyalty to Christ, both by word and by life. And then let us set a double guard against the enemy of our souls.

Thomas next appears in

II. Faithless Failure (John 16:24, 25).

He had been willing to die for his Lord, or with him, but now the Lord had been taken by wicked hands and crucified. He and the disciples were alone to face a hostile world; at least so it seemed to them.

The awful day of crucifixion preyed heavily upon the mind of Thomas. That is evident from verse 25. He had been thinking of those awful bleeding wounds, and had forgotten about the promises of resurrection.

Jesus died, and that is a precious truth; but one must not stop there, for a dead Saviour is no Saviour at all. Thomas got sidetracked in his thinking. Let us not make the same mistake.

Another reason for his failure was that he did not go to the meeting of his brethren. Perhaps he did not feel like going, and did not think it was any use to go. Ah, but that's just the time one needs the fellowship of other believers. Go, and you will meet the Lord!

The Lord was there and Thomas missed him. We, too, will miss the Lord and his blessing if we stay away from his house and the meeting of his people.

Having gone thus far in discouraged unbelief, it was easy for Thomas to take the next step and demand physical proof of the resurrection. His despondency had now reached the place of making unreasonable demands and of discrediting the witness of others.

We are glad that we can close our study on the note of renewed faith and of

III. Full Confession (John 16:26-29).

Note that the Lord was ready fully to meet the demands of Thomas, even though they were on the unreasonable side. That was undoubtedly because he knew the essential fineness and truthness of Thomas.

His doubts were unfortunate and entirely unnecessary, but they were genuine. No real doubter will ever remain one long, for if he brings a genuine doubt to the Lord, he will find it fully met. It is the triflers, those who use their doubts to hide their sins, and those who are unwilling to bring their dark thoughts into the light of the presence of Jesus, who go on doubting year after year.

Notice the comment of Jesus following the glad and complete confession of faith by Thomas. It is a good thing to believe because one has seen and been convinced. That is proper and blessed.

But the real fullness of blessing comes to the one who can rise to faith in Christ because of his word, quite apart from the visible or tangible evidence. This is real Christian faith which declares Christ to be our Lord and our God, the one whom having not seen, we love (I Pet. 1:8).

Special Concert Held At Black Mountain College

The special program held last Sunday night at Black Mountain College, presented Eva Heinritz, cellist, and Grete Sultan, pianist, includes the following.

Bach, "Adagio (from the Toccata in C Major for Organ)" for Cello and piano; Beethoven, "Six Bagatelles for piano op.126"; Debussy, "Sonata in D minor for cello and piano". Chopin, "Fantasy in F minor for piano". and Brahms Sonata in F major op. 99 for cello and piano.

Miss Heinritz is the assistant first cellist of the Pittsburg symphony; Miss Sultan is a well known concert pianist. Both have been in North Carolina for the past week or ten days playing concerts at various colleges. They came to Black Mountain college following a Saturday concert at Guilford College.

The public was invited to attend the concert; It began at 8:30 P.M. Admission was a minimum contribution of one dollar toward the purchase of a new grand piano which the music department plans to add to its equipment.

Miss Heinritz will spend several days at the college as the guest of Mrs. Johanna Jalowetz; Miss Sultan will return to New York Monday.

Pleasant Gardens FFA Youths Head at Meet

The Future Farmers of America chapter of Pleasant Gardens high school entertained members of Pleasant Gardens grange with a program Tuesday evening.

Jimmy Gibbs, Donald Morgan and Bill Conley, members of an FFA string band, discussed the agricultural projects which they conduct under the direction of FFA. The three speakers together with Max Woody and James Setzer presented a program of string music.

Others taking part on the program included Bobby Fletcher, Jimmy Fletcher, and Jack Laws.

Mrs. Essie Kincaid directed a program of recreation.

Cleverness gets you places, but only wisdom tells you what to do once you are there.

Tuttle To Give Finals Address At Swannanoa

Joint commencement exercises for Swannanoa high school seniors and members of the eighth grades of the school will be held Wednesday night at eight o'clock when the Rev. Lee F. Tuttle, pastor of Central Methodist Church in Asheville will be the principle speaker.

High school seniors who received diplomas were Alger Rainwater, Pauline Robertson, and Eugene Reed, William Hugh Penley, Samuel Thomas, Don Van Hook, Marion Morgan, Flora Nell Ramsey, Marie Mull, Janie May Rhodes, and Wilma Holcombe received unsigned diplomas until they complete courses in the summer.

Best citizens chosen from the eighth grades this year are Peggy Ann Bryant, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Bryant of Swannanoa, R.F.D. No.1 and J. B. Robinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Z. Robinson.

Pleasant Garden Grange Welcomes New Members

The Pleasant Garden Grange held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday night, May 7, in the Pleasant Garden Community building.

Two new members were welcomed into the Grange. Those were Mrs. John L. Johnson and Miss Mary Lou Haire.

John Ray Jameson, during the course of the meeting, was elected overseer of the association for the remainder of 1946.

For the main part of the meeting, a literary program under the supervision of Mr. R. G. Roberts was presented. Jimmy Gibbs read a paper on "My Project" for the first reading of the evening, and was followed by a description of "Projects in General" by Bill Conley. Donald Morgan went into various phases of "Community Work" with a reading well received by all present. Howard Wilson took up the interesting topic of "Future Farmers of America Activities" in his part of the program.

Music for the entire occasion was furnished by the Future Farmers band.

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