

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE FORERUNNER

International Sunday School Lesson for October 20, 1940

Golden Text: "Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance."—Luke 3:8. Lesson Text: Luke 3:8, 9-17; 21, 22

If an eccentric character were suddenly to appear in your community and begin denouncing you and your neighbors for wickedness and sin, what would be your reaction? If this stranger were convincing enough he could probably persuade you that there were things in your life that needed correction. He might be able to inspire you to better living.

John the Baptist, after a solitary life of preparation, during which time he had ample opportunity to meditate and think and develop his powers of communication with God, suddenly appeared to the Jewish people with startling effect. "Men were conscious that a new power had appeared among them," says Professor A. B. Davidson. "The soft livers in the cities wondered at the unkempt, shaggy figure, whose trumpet tones shook them."

Thus, about twenty-six A. D., as Luke says in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, John began his public career as a preacher and reformer. His activity lasted but two years. That of Jesus was only three. How much can be accomplished in a short time if great spiritual force is behind the man and the message.

During his hermit life John became acquainted with the cruelty and wickedness of society and witnessed the misery and affliction of the poor. Going farther in his consideration of these things, he realized that these things were the cause of sin and he was impelled by divine power to deliver a message of condemnation and warning to those who were heedlessly drifting through life.

Jesus, himself, paid high tribute to John the Baptist, saying that none had been born of woman greater than he, yet adding to this the declaration that the last Christian would be greater, meaning in faith, privilege and insight. However, John the Baptist is not to be neglected nor his life disregarded.

Before anyone can come to know the greater blessings of the Christian faith he must pursue the pathway followed by John and pass through penitential experiences. John the Baptist traveled the only spiritual road open to him at that time and went until the road ended; Jesus was the engineer who constructed a further highway for you and me to use in our progress towards the Kingdom of God.

John's methods as a preacher were not such as would recommend themselves to the modern church pastor today. He was no purveyor of soft and silken phrases but stern in his frankness and uncompromising in his denunciation. One group who approached, he addressed as "vipers," his harsh severity being justified by their hypocrisy and insincerity.

We can't imagine a congregation hearing John the Baptist preach and then smilingly walk out in conversation with their fellows: "Wasn't it a beautiful sermon?" Instead, his audiences were stirred to conviction of sin because he had the honesty and courage to frankly expose their souls to themselves. Hearing him, men and women wanted to know what they must do.

The line dividing the preacher from the social reformer hardly existed.

WHITESTON NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Winslow, of Belvidere, visited Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Winslow Sunday afternoon.

Rollo Lane, of Wilmington, Del., spent a few days last week here visiting his brothers and sister.

Guests in the home of Mrs. Mary J. White Sunday afternoon were Mr. and Mrs. E. L. White and family, of Sunbury, Mr. and Mrs. Paul White and family, of Elizabeth City.

George W. Baker, U. S. Coast Guard, Norfolk, Va., was the weekend guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Baker.

Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Riddick, their son, Archie, Gayle and Dolan Winslow spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Milton Cullipher, of near Merry Hill.

Mrs. Herman Outlaw and son, Clifford, of Drivery, Va., visited Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Lane Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Lane visited their daughter, Miss Miriam Lane, in Norfolk, Va., Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Wiggins, of Sunbury; Mr. and Mrs. A. U. Winslow, Mr. and Mrs. C. Craffon Winslow and Miss Clemma Winslow visited Mr. and Mrs. Vann Spivey, in Norfolk, Va., Sunday.

Visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Williams Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Williams and family and Mr. Harris, of Wecksville; Mr. and Mrs. Luther Tuttle, of Elizabeth City; Mrs. J. A. Morgan, of Okinako; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Riddick; Mr. and Mrs. Hallett Riddick; Mrs. Alice Hinton and Mrs. B. G. Bonestre, of Hobbville; Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Sutton and family, of Hertford.

ists if the preacher believes that religion concerns present-day life. Why preach on the generalities of Christian virtues when glaring examples of sin and passion sit in the congregation familiar and known to many?

John in his evangelism never hesitated to put his finger on the weak spot and prescribe the medicine necessary to effect a cure—divide your coats and food with the poor. He said; publicans were told to discontinue gouging the public for selfish gain; and soldiers were rebuked for their rowdiness, extortion and blackmailing of defenseless civilians.

Notwithstanding the vigor of his denunciation of wickedness and the perfect assurance which he had for righteous principles, John realized his own position in regard to the expected Messiah. He had no pride nor false conceit when he spoke of the One who would follow him. The Sanhedrin could ask if he was the Messiah, the crowds could throng around him to hear his message, but John made no pretense to be anything except one who made ready the way for the King to come.

While he baptized with water, John said one would soon come who would baptize with the spirit and with fire. While John brought about conviction in the souls of men and awakened an admission of personal sin he could not give the satisfaction and the answer to the cravings of mankind that would only be provided through faith in Jesus Christ.

Market Is Offered For Black Walnut Products

Americans consume fifty million dollars worth of nuts each year, and about one-fifth of these are from wild trees in the forests. In other words, ten million dollars picked from the ground, not including the nuts consumed by thousands of farm families who have their own.

With this in view, R. W. Graeber, Extension forester at N. C. State College, suggests that North Carolina farm families, especially 4-H Club boys and girls, add the growing of black walnut trees as a sideline to their agricultural enterprises.

"No less than \$150,000 worth of nuts are sold in North Carolina each year," he declared, "and the possibilities for growing black walnut, both for nuts and lumber, are good. The market is far from saturated."

This is only one of the angles of "tree farming" stressed by Graeber in his forestry educational program. Continuing, he says "Each year eight hundred million dollars are brought into the American bank account through the sale of forest products, making this one of the chief sources of our income. Six million people are directly or indirectly employed in our forests; and if it was not for wood, another 122 million or more would have a hard time making a satisfactory living."

"The house we live in is usually made of wood, as well as the bed we

sleep in, the chair we relax in, the table we eat at; and the stove we cook with consumes a lot of wood. Even when the newspaper arrives, it is printed on paper made of wood. Our shoes would be so stiff we couldn't bend them if they were not treated with tannic acid, which is extracted from chestnut, hemlock or oak bark.

"There are more than 4,500 different uses of wood. This counts plastic as one use and paper as one use, but there are thousands for each of these."

CARD OF THANKS

CHAPPELL—We wish to express our sincere thanks to the many friends for flowers and for words of sympathy during the recent death of our sister, Rubelle Chappell.

Brothers and Sister.

P. T. A. Reception

A reception was given by the Hertford Grammar School Parent-Teacher Association on Friday evening, October 4th, in honor of high school and grammar school teachers and the Board of Education.

Mrs. W. H. Pitt, acting as hostess, met each guest in a charming manner. Mrs. J. R. Futrell was introduced as president of the P. T. A.

The receiving line was composed of all High and Grammar School teachers, the Board of Education with their wives.

After a musical program with solos by Miss Nell Riddick and Miss Katherine Jessup, refreshments were served by Mrs. T. B. Sumner and Mrs. W. H. Elliott. A very enjoyable evening was spent and everyone left hoping to come again.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR NON-PAYMENT 1939 TAXES

(Continued from Page Two)

Table listing property owners and amounts, including Eason, W. M., 40 acres S. Eason land; 70 acres Swamp land; 38 acres Home land; 59 acres Whitehead land.

Table listing property owners and amounts, including Stallings, Mrs. Marina, 181 acres Stallings land; Trueblood, Charlie, 2 acres J. P. Cartwright land.

NEW HOPE TOWNSHIP—WHITE

Table listing property owners and amounts in New Hope Township—White, including Banks, B. S., Heirs, 1 Town lot; Barcliff, H. C., 20 acres Home land.

PARKVILLE TOWNSHIP—COLORED

Table listing property owners and amounts in Parkville Township—Colored, including Armstrong, G. W., Heirs, 27 1/2 acres Morgan land; Armstrong, J. T., 3 acres Jackson land.

Announcement for Quinn Furniture Co. featuring Mr. Franklin W. Granger as representative, with contact information for Hertford, N.C.

Advertisement for Westinghouse Victor with 'LOOK-IN' DOOR, highlighting features like 'YOU CAN SEE FOODS BROWNING WITHOUT OPENING THE OVEN DOOR!' and 'NEW SPEED NEW ECONOMY!'.