

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

PETER AND JOHN

International Sunday School Lesson
for April 4, 1943

Golden Text: "And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men."—Mark 1:17.

Lesson Text: John 1:29-42;
Mark 1:16-20.

With this lesson, we begin a study of the life and letters of two of the leading disciples of Jesus, Peter and John. Opposites in temperament and disposition, these two men were nevertheless faithful and loyal disciples.

As John the Baptist and his disciples were walking along the road to Jerusalem, suddenly the Baptist stopped and, pointing to a man whom he had perceived quietly walking with the crowd, exclaimed, "Behold, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world! There is the One of whom I have been telling you, the One who shall be my successor, the One far mightier than I. To make him known to Israel am I come baptizing in water, yet I knew him not as the Messiah until I saw the Spirit descending upon him. He from whom I have my commission had made known to me that the One on whom the Spirit came and abode was the One who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. This I saw, and I bare record that he is the Son of God."

What a magnanimous spirit John the Baptist had, what unselfishness, to be willing to lead his followers to another leader, knowing that they would forsake him to follow this new one. This he did, however, and willingly, believing that it was what he had been sent into the world to do.

Seven times in this first chapter of his Gospel, the Evangelist speaks of the witness-bearing of the Baptist. As Jesus needed Peter and John and Paul and others to follow him and bear their witness to his life and teachings, so he needed John the Baptist to precede him and bear his witness to his coming. Each of us should also realize that God has put us here for a purpose and we should not be content until we have discovered that purpose and fulfilled it as best we can.

On the next day, John the Baptist pointed out Jesus to two of his disciples. One of the two who followed Jesus to his abode to talk with him uninterruptedly was Andrew and the other was probably John. So impressed was this man Andrew with Jesus that he immediately went out to find his brother and when he found him, he exclaimed: "We have

found the Messiah." This brother of Andrew was Simon. Peter. Together they went to Jesus.

When Simon came to Jesus, Jesus changed his name. He declared, "Thou art Simon son of John, thou shalt be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter). Lyman Abbott says: "What Christ says to Peter is this: 'Thou, Peter, son of Jonas, thou shifting man, thou wayward man, thou weakly man, thou impetuous man, thou man that rusheth into danger not counting the cost, thou audacious man, I will make a rock of you, even you.' And if he could make a rock of Peter, he could make a rock of anybody."

On the very next day, Jesus met Philip, and summoned him to follow him, and Philip at once sought out Nathaniel (probably Bartholomew) and told him that he had found him of whom Moses and the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth. Nathaniel was incredulous. "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" he asked. Philip didn't argue, he simply said, "Come and see." How much we learn through our own experience, how very little through arguing. Nathaniel followed Philip's suggestion. He came and saw, his prejudice disappeared, and he acknowledged Jesus as the Son of God.

Several months later, as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Peter and Andrew casting their nets into the sea and he called them and they immediately left their nets and followed him. Evidently the first call was a preliminary one or an acknowledgement of their belief in and acceptance of him as the promised Messiah. Nearby, were two other brothers, James and John, also fishermen. Jesus called unto them, and they, likewise, left their nets and followed him.

The greatest day in one's life should be the day on which he definitely commits himself to Christian discipleship, and it will be so if that commitment is the establishment of a definite personal relationship with Jesus. We take the inspiration and uplift out of the idea of discipleship when we leave out the thought of a personal relationship to him, and think of it merely as joining the church or accepting a creed. That relationship will make demands upon one—demands for devotion to high principles and sometimes to face opposition, ridicule and even persecution.

However, Jesus never tried to make the road of discipleship seem too easy. He often spoke of the crosses that would have to be borne by any who would be his true followers. It is the religion which makes big demands of its followers that is the only religion that will long hold their allegiance.

TOWN AND FARM IN WARTIME

No Restrictions On Food In Lockers

Food in frozen food lockers may be used by North Carolina farmers and other consumers without rationing restrictions, OPA has stated. The total amount of perishable food stored in lockers in private homes, on farms, and in commercial plants is considered too small to justify the inconvenience it would cause all consumers either to have this food declared, or to have any legal restrictions on its use.

Soldiers Back To Farms

The War Department has announced procedures by which North Carolina soldiers, as individuals, may obtain discharges from the army to return to their farms. Soldiers on active duty in the continental U. S., who are 38 years of age and over, may be discharged upon favorable consideration or written applications submitted prior to May 1, 1943. These requests must be accompanied by a letter or statement from local farm agents to the effect that the soldiers will be employed in essential agricultural activities if discharged from the Army. Such requests are made by the soldier to his immediate commanding officer. A soldier meeting these requirements will be discharged promptly unless his release will seriously affect the efficiency of his unit.

No Inspection, No Gas

The ODT reminds Tar Heel operators of commercial motor vehicles that the deadline for tire inspection was February 28. So far, less than 25 per cent of such operators have had their tires inspected, and now the State OPA is moving to correct this carelessness on the part of truck operators by ruling that no second-quarter allotments of gas will be given unless a tire inspection certificate is presented. The ODT urges North Carolina operators to save themselves unnecessary trouble by having their tires inspected immediately.

Any Time, Now!

State OCD headquarters was represented in Atlanta this week for a regional conference by State Director R. L. McMillan. Coming back to North Carolina Director McMillan brought one of the best statements to be issued in many a day—Major General U. S. Grant, III, said, "We keep in touch with the Army and if the time comes when we can let down we will tell the public, but that time has

not come yet. It is necessary that we continue on the alert."

From here on out air raid alarms might be called by the Army at any time in North Carolina. The training period is over and surprise tests might come at any time. General Grant's statement made clear that OCD is—and must stay—on the job.

Livestock Growers, Please Note

The Food Production Administration of the USDA has announced that under provisions of Food Distribution Order No. 27, North Carolina livestock owners taking their animals to custom slaughtering houses are now required to register with local USDA war boards. Under the terms of the order, the person who owns the livestock at the time of slaughter is considered the slaughterer regardless of whether it is done by someone else for him. Thus, a person who slaughters for hire or on a custom basis, is not affected by the order except as the order affects the person for whom he slaughters.

Farm Machinery

The government freeze on the last item of farm machinery needed for food crop production has now been lifted, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Distribution directives for all haying and harvesting machinery are expected to be issued to manufacturers before April 15. Approximately 75 per cent of all types of rationed farm machinery, which was frozen November 1, 1942, has now been freed for distribution and local rationing through county war boards.

Restrictions On Seed Potatoes

Seed potatoes cannot be sold by retail stores for any purpose other than planting, North Carolina State OPA has announced. OPA has also ruled that seed potatoes must be tagged as such in sacks at retail and cannot be sold by retailers in quantities of less than 50 pounds. Similar steps were taken by OPA March 18, 1943, at the country shipper and other distributor levels. The amendment became effective March 25 and is expected to help curb the potato black markets.

Stove Pipe Supply Limited

Stovepipe will be obtainable only in limited quantities next winter, according to the War Production Board in Raleigh. Some precautions for saving pipe for next season are: 1. Clean pipe and remove rust with a wire brush. 2. Apply asbestos furnace cement to all small holes. 3.

Carefully apply a good heat resisting paint. 4. Wrap in heavy paper and store over summer in a dry place.

Recapped Tractor Tires

Farm tractor and implement tires will be recapped hereafter only with a material made almost entirely of reclaimed rubber, and replacements will not be issued for tires that are responsible. Hereafter, recapping of rear wheel tractor tires was not required, and replacements were granted even though the tire to be replaced was suitable for recapping. Also, recapping of implement tires could be done with material which contained a large proportion of crude rubber.

Jeffers Urges Reduced Speed

In a letter to Governor Broughton recently, rubber director William T. Jeffers stressed the importance of reduced speed in connection with the unrationed tire recapping program, pointing out that reclaimed rubber is now being used exclusively for this purpose. This material is more apt to fail and cause accidents if driven at higher speeds than 35 miles per hour. The Governor says the State Highway Patrol has been ordered to intensify their campaign against speeders on State roads.

RACC Loans Aiding Farmers Of County In Food Production

Loans to farmers in Perquimans County who plan to do their part producing food, feed, fibre and oil for America and her Allies are being made by the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation, according to Dr. E. S. White, Chairman of the Perquimans County USDA War Board.

These applications are being approved by the Chairman and A. Houston Edwards, RAAC Loan Representative of the County, Dr. White stated.

"The purpose of these loans," Dr. White explained, "is to provide a financing to assure top wartime production of essential commodities, but is not a substitute for other sources of credit."

"We have a big food production job to do this year," he continued. "Many of our farmers already have available credit through their production credit associations, national farm loan associations, emergency crop and feed loan offices, Farm Security Administration and local banks. But there are some who need to supplement their source and still others who need to find a source of credit, in order to get the maximum wartime production of needed commodities. It is these farmers the RAAC wants to help."

Dr. White also said that collateral will be first lien on commodities, livestock or other items being financed. Interest will be at the rate of 5 percent annually for the time the money is used, he concluded.

Neglect Shortens Life Of Spraying Equipment

Neglect in cleaning, lubricating, adjusting and storing sprayers shortens the life of a machine more than the actual work done, says H. R. Garriss, Extension plant pathologist of N. C. State College. He urges every grower to take such good care of his sprayer that it will last for the duration of the war.

He pointed out that sprayers are attacked by corrosive materials in the spray when they are idle, and, for this reason, they should be thoroughly cleaned after using. Since this corrosion goes on each hour the machine stands neglected, Garriss suggested that during the active season growers wash out the sprayer each night with clear water.

When not in actual use, the sprayer should be kept under a good shelter. If stored for any length of time, it should have those parts subject to rust covered with a coat of ordinary motor oil.

Garriss said that if simple adjustments are made as soon as the need develops, many breakdowns can be avoided. Growers, already handicapped by a lack of help, cannot afford to have sprayers stand idle with so much work to be done. Although the implement dealers and manufacturers are doing everything possible to keep all machines in operation, repair parts will be hard to get when breakdowns occur.

Less Dinner—Thinner

Some men would look more spick if they didn't have so much span.

Farmers And Workers Loyal

North Carolina farmers may plant, cultivate and harvest their 1943 crops with a minimum of inconvenience from war-time restrictions, the North Carolina ODT and OPA officials announced today in citing new streamlined rationing procedures.

First of all, farmers were assured of sufficient gasoline for necessary operations.

They may request adjustments of their certificates of war necessity whenever changing conditions warrant, the ODT explained. These requests for gasoline, load or mileage adjustments should be made to the farm transportation committees of county USDA War Boards.

Farmers' applications for rations for tractors and other off-the-highway farm machinery may be mailed to local war price and rationing

boards, the OPA said, or they may be turned over to county war boards to certify and forward to the rationing boards which will mail back the ration coupon books to the applicants. Farmers may also get ration coupons for a six months supply of gasoline, eliminating the necessity of applying for renewal of rations every three months as was formerly the case.

At the same time, the OPA announced that farm tractor and implement tires will be recapped hereafter only with a material made almost entirely of reclaimed rubber,

and replacements will not be issued for tires that are responsible. Hereafter, recapping of rear wheel tractor tires was not required, and replacements were granted even though the tire to be replaced was suitable for recapping. Also, recapping of implement tires could be done with material which contained a large proportion of crude rubber.

It will not be necessary in future, the OPA announced, to get a rationing certificate in order to have a farm tractor or implement tire recapped with the reclaimed rubber material—Grade F camelback.

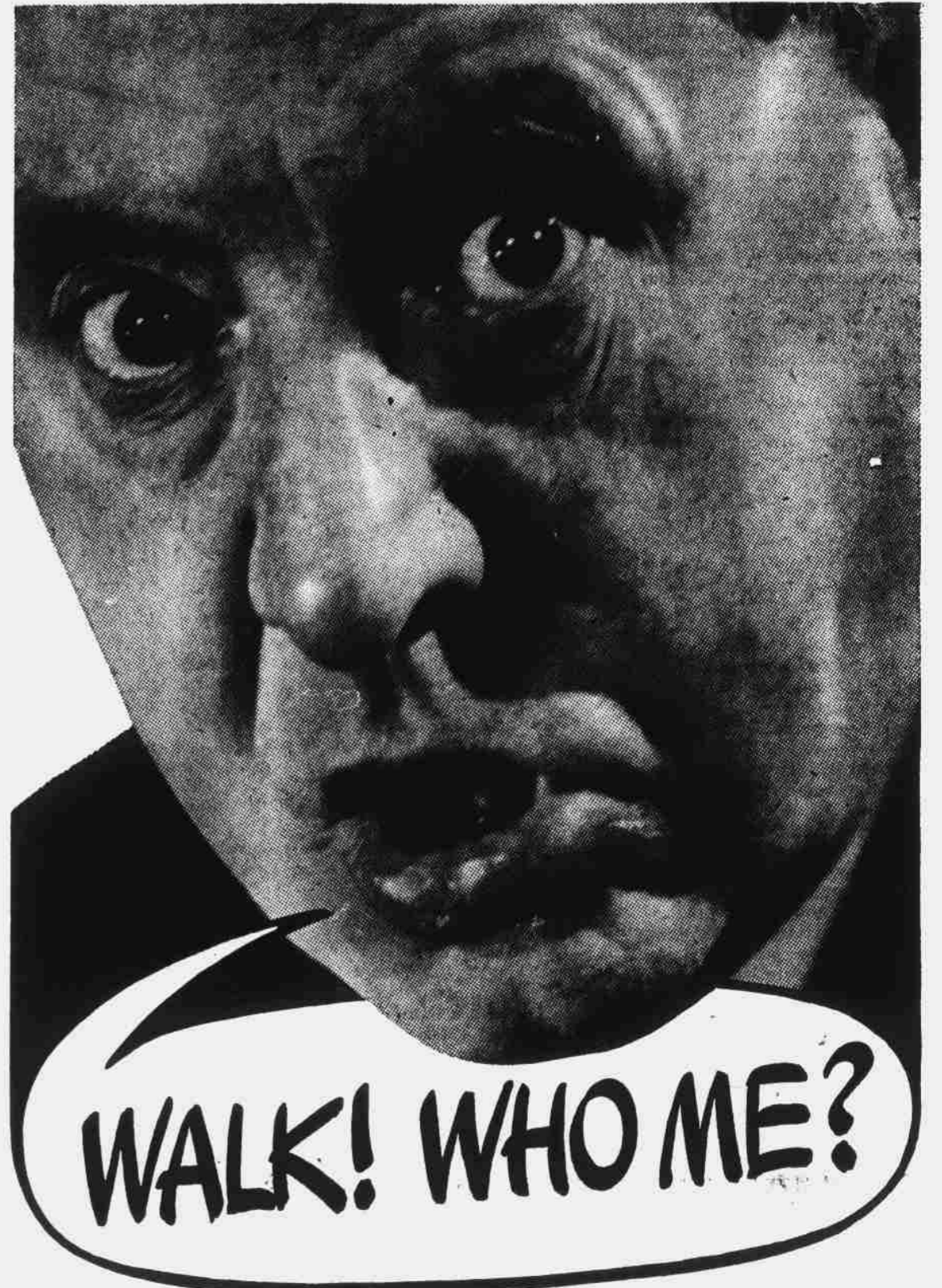
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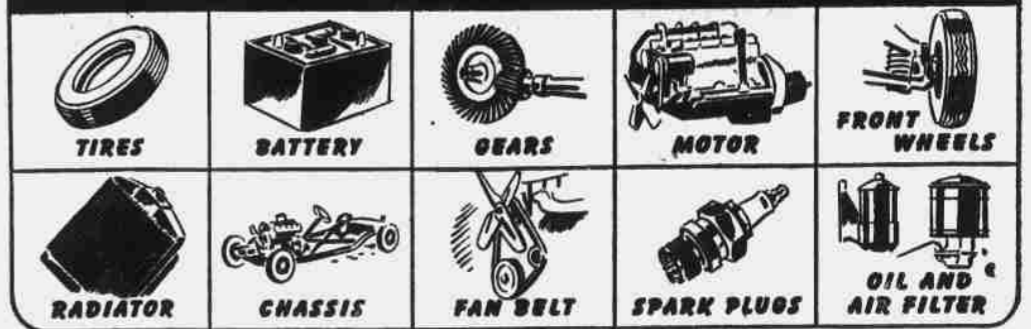
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