

THE Perquimans Weekly

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FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1946.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

A FRIEND WHO LEARNED TO BELIEVE

International Sunday School Lesson for May 19, 1946.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."—John 20:29

Lesson Text: John 11: 7-16; 20-29.

Among the twelve disciples, or friends of Jesus, was a man named Thomas. The first time we hear much about him is in connection with the death of Lazarus. Jesus and the Twelve had been away from Judea for some time because of the enmity of the Jews, who had sought to kill him. When word came from Mary and Martha that their brother Lazarus was desperately ill, Jesus announced his intention of going to Bethany.

Fearing for their own lives, as well as that of Jesus, the disciples tried to dissuade him from going. They pointed out how dangerous it was. When it became evident that Jesus intended to go anyway, Thomas said, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." It might mean his death but Thomas was willing to go to the limit with his friend. That decision called for courage of the highest quality.

This study of the friends of Jesus is helpful in that we find Jesus did not seek perfection, even in a comparative degree when he chose his friends. He could take men with faults and weaknesses and love them. He could guide them as they tried to overcome their faults and help them to develop the virtues of righteousness. Jesus could, by his own power, turn these men into heroes who would let nothing stop them from making Christ known.

While we have come to think of Thomas as a doubter and the term "Doubting Thomas" has come down to us as the personification of someone who doubts everything, it is unfair to this disciple to always associate him with his doubts. Thomas had a practical mind and, like many of us, wanted to see the end from the beginning. He had a deep desire to understand the truth that Jesus taught and so, when in the Upper Room Jesus was trying to prepare his disciples for the events to follow immediately, Jesus spoke of his Father's house with his many mansions. He declared, "I go and prepare a place for you, and whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."

Thomas did not understand what Jesus was talking about and, possibly, neither did the other disciples, but he was the only one who was willing to admit it. He interrupted Jesus's discourse with this question: "Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" This was not doubt of the statement of Jesus but an honest inquiry to get the facts. Through his questioning Thomas called forth one of the greatest and most helpful declarations that Jesus ever made: "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

After the resurrection, when Jesus appeared to his disciples, Thomas was absent from the group. We do not know why Thomas was not there or where he was. He was probably wallowing in the Slough of Despondency, with all hope gone, for he believed that Jesus was dead. However, Jesus showed the other disciples the nail prints in his hands and the wound in his side and they were convinced that he had truly risen from the dead.

The disciples could hardly wait to find Thomas and tell him what he had missed. "We have seen the Lord!" they exclaimed. Thomas was not excited at all. "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

On the following Sunday, eight days after the resurrection, Thomas was with the rest of the disciples when Jesus appeared in their midst, and, after the customary greeting—"Peace be with you," he turned to Thomas and offered him the proof that he had asked, "Reach hither thy finger, and see my hands; and reach hither thy hand and put it into my side; and be not without faith but believing." We do not know whether Thomas took advantage of the opportunity to touch the sacred wounds

or not, but we rather think he did not now need that proof. The sight of his Master and his blessed voice were enough to dispel any questioning that Thomas may have had. "My Lord and my God!" he exclaimed.

Through the questioning of Thomas a beatitude has come down to us, when Jesus declared: "Because thou has seen me, thou has believed; blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." Alexander MacLaren has said: "Believing is not credence only, but trust. The object of the Christian's faith is not a proposition; it is not a dogma nor a truth, but a Person. And the act of faith is not an acceptance of a certain thing—a resurrection or anything

else—as true, but it is a reaching out of the whole nature to him and the resting upon him."

It is not a sin to doubt—Doubts may come to any of us—they come even to Jesus's closest friends. Sometimes doubts come when our spirits are low from physical or mental conditions, but they more often come when we do not stay close to Jesus. When in doubt, someone has said, honesty is the best policy. If we are sincere and earnest, Jesus will help us solve our problem just as he helped Thomas. Remember his words, spoken in the Sermon on the Mount, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" and, if we will do this, then our doubts will dis-

solve. One of the early Christian writers has this to say of Thomas: "He who was at first one of the weakest and most incredulous of all the apostles became, through Christ's condescension to satisfy all his scruples, and the power of his divine grace, the most active and invincible of them all; traveling over most parts of the world, and living without fear in the midst of barbarous nations, through the efficacy of that Almighty power which can make the weakest vessels to perform acts of the greatest difficulty."

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A Brief Sketch Of Robert Lee Humber Candidate For Congress

Born in Pitt County, May 30, 1898, on the homeplace of his father and grandfather.

Graduated from Winterville High School and from Wake Forest College with B. A. and LL. B. degrees, where he was President of Senior Class, Commencement Speaker, Intercollegiate Debater, Vice President of the YMCA, and Editor of the weekly and monthly magazines. Active in Athletics, playing left-end on Varsity football team and Manager of Varsity baseball team. First Wake Forest Alumnus to be elected member of Phi Beta Kappa, the highest Collegiate Scholarship in the United States.

Volunteered in World War I and served as Second Lieutenant in Field Artillery.

After the War he entered Harvard University receiving the degree of M.A. and served on the faculty as tutor in the Department of Government, History and Economics. Licensed to practice Law and sworn in as member of Pitt County Bar in September, 1920. Appointed Rhodes Scholar from North Carolina to Oxford University, England, in 1920, in which capacity he served for three years. Traveled extensively on the Continent and made a trip around the world.

Studied at the University of Paris, where he was American Field Service Fellow for two years, Chairman of Board of Trustees of the American Church in Paris—the oldest American Church on foreign soil—which served as the religious center for as many as 5000 American students annually in France.

In Paris, where the American Legion was born in 1919, he was a Charter member and officer of Paris Post No. 1, having previously been a Charter Member of the American Legion Post at Harvard University and is now a member of Pitt County Post No. 39. Returning to his home in Pitt County in 1940, he was elected Chairman of Board of Deacons of Memorial Baptist Church and is now a Trustee of the Church.

Received National recognition in an article first printed in the Christian Herald and re-printed in the May, 1946, issue of Reader's Digest which every voter should read. In 1940, believing that if the peace, following World War II, was to be won, the people of America, themselves, would have to win it, he organized among the people of Eastern North Carolina a movement for World Federation, which seeks to establish law as the means of maintaining world order by punishing individuals who commit international crime, instead of the present method of fighting nations and destroying through war the innocent as well as the guilty.

The movement has spread throughout the Nation. Fourteen States have endorsed the resolution of which he is the author, among them being North Carolina; eight other states have taken modified action, making 22 states that have responded favorably to his leadership. Fifteen additional States are now considering the resolution that is destined to be introduced in Congress, which must ultimately decide in the name of the American people whether the United States shall stand hereafter for world order based on law or world chaos based on war.

Questions involving war and peace are now becoming the supreme issues of our generation. Either we win the peace and preserve civilization or lose the peace and become victims of atomic bomb. His long and successful efforts in dealing with over half of the Legislatures of this country, many of which he addressed in joint sessions, have not only brought him a nationwide circle of friends and collaborators, but qualified him for leadership and accomplishment in the halls of Congress.

The welfare and problems of the farmers have been a subject of special concern to Mr. Humber. He has frequently made speeches emphasizing the necessity of stabilizing the income of farmers and of keeping their revenue on a par with industrial changes, indicating that he is not only a student but a champion of the farmer's interest. Farm income, he says, must be sustained on a high level, if the prosperity of this nation is to continue, or else half of the population of this country will cease to be customers and the industrial fabric of the nation will crumble. He has repeatedly stressed the enormous potentialities embedded in the soil and climate of Eastern North Carolina which have scarcely been touched or developed. Through the maintenance of a just equilibrium between farm and industrial income, the diversification of agriculture and the establishment of more small businesses, the growth of Eastern North Carolina can, he said, be more secure.

Fourteen Counties are included in the First Congressional District, and BEAUFORT COUNTY (Candidate Bonner's County) is the only County that has had representation in Congress since 1898, a period without a break of FORTY-EIGHT YEARS. Don't you think it is about time that some other county should have a Representative in Congress? PITT COUNTY is presenting to the voters of the first District ROBERT LEE HUMBER, who is well qualified to give this District one of the best representations it has had in the entire history of the First Congressional District, and in seizing this opportunity, the voters place in the halls of Congress, in these stressful and trying times, a strong advocate for WORLD ORDER BASED ON LAW AND FOR WORLD PEACE INSTEAD OF ANOTHER WORLD WAR.

CAST YOUR BALLOT FOR ROBERT LEE HUMBER ON MAY 25, 1946

Sponsored By Perquimans County Friends of Robert Lee Humber

RENOMINATE

CHAS. H. JENKINS

FOR

The State Senate

Subject to Democratic Primary

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1946

He will appreciate your vote on the basis of his qualifications and his record in the last Legislature.