

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

JEREMIAH, A SPOKESMAN OF GOD

International Sunday School Lesson for November 27, 1949

Memory Selection: "Who unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by injustice; that useth his neighbor's service without wages, and giveth him not his hire."—Jeremiah 22: 13.

Lesson Text: Jeremiah 1:9-10, 18-19; 22: 1-3, 13-14; 37: 15-17.

Jeremiah was born at Anathoth, a little town a few miles from Jerusalem, not very far from the birthplace of the prophet, Amos. Early in life, Jeremiah came to Jerusalem where he was the ally of the Good King Josiah in his various efforts to reform the people of Judah.

Throughout the reign of the last five kings of the nation, Jeremiah continued to preach the inevitable judgement approaching his countrymen for their sin and repudiation of Jehovah, which culminated with the captivity of Jerusalem and the captivity of a great number who were carried to Babylon. Jeremiah remained in Judah for a few years afterwards, then went into Egypt, where tradition asserts that he met a martyr's death.

In the first chapter of the book, Jeremiah tells of the divine call which he received and relates how he sought to avoid the duty of preaching the destruction of his people by remonstrating with the Lord that he was not a good speaker.

In this respect he was like Moses, who sought to avoid his call to service by saying, "I am not eloquent." Other great leaders of Israel had done likewise, Saul, Joshua, Paul, Mark, etc. But God knows the hearts and possibilities of men and he refused to accept Jeremiah's explanation, saying to him that he should not be afraid for Jehovah would be with him.

It required a great deal of courage for Jeremiah to accept and carry out his mission, so thankless, and unappreciated by those he sought to save. The priests and prophets of his day were corrupt and worldly-minded. The Kings and rulers were devoid, for the most part, of any serious religious acceptance of Jehovah, and the people, as a whole, had been drawn to the worship of various idols and the neglect of their spiritual well-being.

To these, Jeremiah was asked to deliver a message of condemnation, punishment and sorrow, which by its very nature was a declaration that would array the recipients against him, laying him open to being called a false prophet and a traitor to his country.

Regardless of this, unmindful of his own townspeople, who sought to take his life, the treachery of his own family, or the punishment which infuriated rulers meted out to him, Jeremiah persevered in delivering his unpopular and rejected message. That required a high moral courage rarely encountered in human beings.

The same great need for courage and frankness in religious matters has been evidenced in the lives of many great leaders, whose words and actions show that they were sustained by a firm assurance that God was on their side. Bishop Latimer was once rebuked by Henry 8th and ordered to apologize for some of his remarks in a sermon. As he began to preach the following Sunday, he audibly reminded himself that he was speaking before the King of England who could take his life, but, further, that he was an ambassador of the King of Kings and had orders to deliver his message.

So John Knox declared, "I am in a place where conscience bids me speak the truth," and Luther made his celebrated avowal: "Here I stand; I cannot otherwise, God help me."

Jeremiah faithfully delivered his painful message at the gate of the temple, on the festival day, at the royal palace, at the gates of the city, or wherever he could obtain the largest audience, this faithful servant of duty delivered the condemnation of God to his hearers. Those who were entrusted with religion and proved faithless and Jeremiah quotes God to them, "the pastors are become brutish and have not sought the Lord."

The expedient and false prophets received this message from God through him, "the prophets lie in my name; I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake I unto them."

Even Zedekiah, the king, received (Concluded on Page Two)

BE A BETTER CITIZEN!

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY



The holiday season is here, and Mother is bringing home baskets of tempting food. One glance at the assorted nuts, the fruits, the puddings and cakes, reminds us that we will soon be enjoying the treats of Thanksgiving.

But enjoying our blessings is not enough. We must be thankful as well—and true thanks is possible only when we share with others.

When in the joy and excitement of the moment we stop to remember those who are less fortunate, we are not only bringing happiness to others, but we are making our own pleasures more genuine, more deeply felt.

In order to develop generosity—and indeed all virtues, we must join wholeheartedly in the work of the Church. Here we learn how to serve our fellow men most effectively, and in so doing, enrich our own lives.

THE CHURCH FOR ALL... ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Psalms	100	1-5
Monday	Psalms	105	1-5
Tuesday	Luke	22	14-19
Wednesday	Amos	8	1-6
Thursday	Psalms	136	1-4
Friday	Colossians	3	15-17
Saturday	Luke	17	11-19

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Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
C. W. Duling, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

BETHLEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST
Harold C. Turner, Pastor
Church services at 3:00 P. M.
Christian Union, 7:30 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. R. Byerly, Pastor
Church services first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES
E. B. Edwards, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 7:30 P. M.
Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.
Woodland Church, 7:00 P. M.
Third Sunday
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
New Hope Church, 7:30 P. M.
Fourth Sunday
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.
Winfall Church, 7:30 P. M.
Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church at 7:30 P. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. W. Davis, Supply Pastor
Sunday School, 11 A. M. every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH
Elizabeth White, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services, 11 A. M.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. E. G. Willis, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Preaching first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Preaching second and fourth Sunday evening at 7:30.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH
Carl J. Yow, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Morning worship—11:00 A. M.
Youth Fellowship, 6:30 P. M.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
G. M. Singletary, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:30 A. M. on first and third Sundays and 2:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.
Church services, 3:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
D. L. Fouts, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Young People's Meeting, 6:30 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
E. T. Jilson, Rector
Holy Communion, 9:00 A. M.
Every Sunday except first Sunday at 9:00 A. M.
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11:00 o'clock.
Holy Communion first Sunday at 11 A. M.

BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Walker Perry, Pastor
Bible School 10:30 A. M., except first Sunday, at 10 A. M.
Morning worship on first Sunday at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first Sunday at 7 P. M.

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
A. H. Outlaw, Pastor
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.
Church Service 3 P. M. every first Sunday.
Sunday School at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Go