

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

JESUS ASSERTS HIS AUTHORITY

International Sunday School Lesson
For March 11th, 1951.

Memory Selection: "Mine house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."—Isaiah 56: 7.

Lesson Text: Mark 11: 11, 15-19; 12: 28-31.

We have now come to the last week of Jesus' earthly life, which is crowded with significant happenings. It is worthy of note that the records of this last week cover a third of each of the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, a fourth of the Gospel of Luke, and ten pages of the twenty-four of the Gospel of John.

It was the Passover Season, a time when the city of Jerusalem was crowded with visitors from all over Palestine. Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, was spent by Jesus and his disciples quietly in Bethany, and it is now Sunday, A. D., 30. "The week opens with the greatest ovation ever accorded to Jesus. But the acclaim was not from the citizens of Jerusalem, but from admiring Galileans who, like himself, are pilgrims to the Passover. This public demonstration bears no organic relationship to the drama that develops: it does not figure in the conflicts or charges at the trials, and these enthusiastic crowds do not appear later to seek to have their Hero. In our Christian experience, this ovation has always symbolized the triumphant element in the life of Jesus—Palm Sunday."—W. E. Bundy.

Upon entering Jerusalem, Jesus went immediately to the Temple and, Mark declares: "When he had looked around about upon all things, it being now eventide, he went out into Bethany." This note is significant because it tells us that the cleansing of the temple was not something which Jesus did on the spur of the moment. How keen must have been that glance around his Father's house and how sensitive was the spirit that interpreted what was seen! But he did nothing then. He and his disciples went back to Bethany to spend the night and it was there, during the night hours, that Jesus communed long and deeply with his Heavenly Father and received new strength of mind and will to act upon what he had seen in the temple.

Returning to the temple the following morning, the same familiar sight greeted him. The court was filled with traders who sold doves to the people for temple sacrifices, and who changed the strange currency of the pilgrims from afar so that they could make their temple offerings. There was nothing wrong in the fact that the traders were there: the authorities had granted them places in the court to carry on their business. The wrong was that they were defrauders, cheating the pilgrims, and not honest in their dealings; they sold their doves for exorbitant prices to the poor; and they cheated the pilgrims on the rate of exchange. They were just what Jesus called them: a den of robbers!

When Jesus took command of the Temple, driving the traders and money-changers out of it with stinging words, he was assuming the highest authority which any child of Israel could imagine. The rule of the temple was vested by every legal right in the High Priest, and his possession of that power made him the titular ruler of the Jews. Now, a Galilean Teacher had brushed the High Priest aside, accusing him of the most blasphemous misconduct, and took his power, wielding it as now his own. By what right? Only one answer could be made to that question. This Galilean was claiming a direct commission from God—only such a commission could supersede that of Caiaphas. Jesus of Nazareth was setting himself up as supreme Judge of Israel and his judgment was beginning at the House of God—"my Father's house!"

This further aroused the enmity of the religious leaders and they were determined to get rid of one who questioned their authority and who upset the prevailing order of their day. So they sent various ones to question him, hoping that something he said would trap him and make him liable for severe punishment. However, there was one in the crowd who had been listening to the questioning and the skillful manner in which Jesus answered his critics, and he was deeply impressed.

Mark tells us that a Scribe came to him and asked a question—this time a sincere one: "Which is the first commandment of all?" The fact that this question was asked by a Scribe makes it important, for the Scribes, above all others in the Jewish state were learned in the Law. Jesus answered him right out of the Law—Deut. 6: 4-5 and Leviticus 19: 18—the same words that Jesus used about loving God and your neighbor. That was the heart and core of Jesus' teaching and still is. If practiced today, all the rest of the principles of Christianity will take care of themselves. Love—God and your neighbor—one commandment, one necessity—and all will be well.



HOUR OF DECISION...

For a certain proud young father, this is a red letter day, and rightfully so! Certainly few events in his life hold greater significance for man than the hour when at last he beholds his first-born, a tiny, fragile, human being, but just then the most important person on earth.

But on such a day the new father should pause for a moment of serious reflection. The new arrival is a challenge and a grave responsibility.

Will Dad conscientiously attempt to establish a pattern of life exemplifying Christ's teachings, which his child may accept as a model? Or will the youngster be forced to make his own search for God?

Bring your little one to God's House. Here he will learn of the Heavenly Father and His wondrous love. Here is priceless training for character building, and a fruitful, satisfying life.

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.

Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday... Luke	11	5-12
Monday... Luke	15	11-20
Tuesday... Matthew	4	1-11
Wednesday... Exodus	3	1-3
Thursday... Luke	7	1-10
Friday... Luke	8	4-15
Saturday... Peter	5	1-11

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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
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor
First Sunday
11 A. M. and 8 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
J. S. Craffin, Paston
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, 7:30 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.

ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH
R. M. Gradeless, Pastor
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Carl Bjork, Pastor
Sunday School, 11 A. M. every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 8 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. V.
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
A. L. Chaplin, 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 EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. Charles F. Wulf, Rector.
10:00 A. M., Church School, Every Sunday
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion Third Sunday

BERRA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Walker Perry, Pastor
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
A. H. Outlaw, Pastor
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.
Church Service 8 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