

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THROUGH DEATH TO LIFE (Easter).

International Sunday School Lesson for March 25th, 1951

Memory Selection: "Lo, I am with you always."—Matthew 28. 20.

Lesson Text: Mark 15: 33-37; 16: 1-7.

Arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, after the betrayal by Judas with a treacherous kiss, Jesus was carried before the two High Priests, Annas and Caiaphas, and a hastily-summoned gathering of the Sanhedrin.

Although the Jewish law required that the Sanhedrin meet in the daytime, this midnight meeting was held in order to give Jesus a form of trial so that his condemnation could be delivered the following morning, as the law prohibited the trial and sentence of a prisoner on the same day. In order to carry out this requirement, another meeting of the Sanhedrin was called immediately after sunrise. At this gathering, Jesus again repeated his answer as to the origin of his personality and the Council condemned him to death—for presuming to claim kinship with God.

It is interesting to note that no reference is made to either Nicodemus or Joseph of Arimathea, both members of the Council, who are not believed to have joined in the condemnation, in view of their earlier contact with Jesus and their subsequent tender care of his body in burial.

The Jewish Sanhedrin had no power to condemn anyone to death without the approval of the Roman authorities, so Jesus was carried before Pontius Pilate, Governor of Judea, a man of ability but a politician without decided principles. Pilate would not believe that Jesus deserved death. He had a superstitious dread of the role he was called upon to play and, besides, he had been alarmed by a dream which his wife had related to him about this same man, Jesus.

In an effort to sidestep the responsibility and in view of the fact that Jesus was from Galilee, Pilate sent him to be judged by Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, who happened to be in Jerusalem at that time. Herod declined to accept the responsibility and sent Jesus back to Pilate, who was thus forced to face the issue.

Pilate's conduct in this crisis stands as a warning to all who exercise authority. In the interest of expediency and rather than brook the anger of the Jews, Pilate acquiesced in sending an innocent man to death. The enemies of Jesus lost no time in carrying out the sentence of death which they had extorted from Pilate. The mocking crowd made merry over the apparent discomfiture of the man who had assumed to be the king of his people. Many insults were forced upon him, and, finally, he was forced to carry his cross to the scene of his crucifixion, which he was unable to do because of the physical punishment he had just been forced to undergo. Simon of Cyrene was impressed by the soldiers to perform this service for him.

Having reached the place of crucifixion, Jesus was impaled upon the cross, with two robbers alongside, and his enemies lingered around, watching him in the agony of death. As death approached, Jesus realized that his great mission was completed and gave voice to his satisfaction of achievement, by exclaiming, "It is finished!" (John 19: 30).

Taken down from the cross by loving hands, Jesus was given burial with all the care possible by two secret friends, Joseph and Arimathea and Nicodemus. On the third day thereafter, early in the morning after the Jewish Sabbath, faithful women went to his tomb, only to be told by the guardian angel there, "He is not here, he is risen!" These are the most meaningful words ever to be heard on earth, even surpassing the stupendous announcement of the angels of the birth of Jesus. "He is not here" meant plainly that Jesus Christ had risen from the dead and that resurrection is the basic cornerstone of the whole Christian faith. In the Resurrection is the final proof of it all; proof that this was indeed the Only Begotten Son of God, the Lord of Life and the Conqueror of Death. It was the proof of the statement of Jesus himself: "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live again." (John 11: 25).

BE A BETTER CITIZEN!

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

RESURRECTION

Fair blue skies that were lately bleak and gray arch over our heads. Under our feet the new grass is growing. The first flowers of spring are bursting into bloom. Tender green leaves now cover the branches that a month ago were bare. All around us is the balmy air of spring.

In each of us dwells the hope of a life that is everlasting, and the resurrection of nature in the spring serves to strengthen this hope.

But there is yet another greater evidence of life hereafter. This greater hope lies in the story of Easter, when the resurrection of Jesus Christ revealed an empty tomb.

From this miraculous event came forth the Christian religion which has brought joy, hope, and courage to men for generations. Through faithful church attendance, you too can find a more meaningful, happier life on earth, and the hope of a greater life yet to follow.

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	Mark	4	26-32
Monday	Luke	8	4-15
Tuesday	Isaiah	55	6-13
Wednesday	Isaiah	61	1-11
Thursday	Matthew	16	1-4
Friday	John	3	1-8
Saturday	John	20	1-10

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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 3 P. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH
Elizabeth White, Paston
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, 8:00 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. Wolf, 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

BEREA 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 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