

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

POSSESSIONS AND THE KINGDOM

International Sunday School Lesson for February 1, 1953.

Memory Selection: "Take heed, and keep yourselves from all covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."—Luke 12: 16.

Lesson Text: Matthew 19: 16-26.

From time immemorial, mankind has speculated upon the mystery of life beyond the grave. During the time of Jesus, the same problem confronted the earnest individual and our lesson today is based upon a question asked the Great Teacher—how eternal life might be obtained.

We are told that the person making this inquiry was wealthy. We know that he lived morally and took a great interest in the religious affairs of his community, for he was a ruler of the local synagogue. His manner of life, externally, had been exemplary, for he could confidently assure Jesus that he had observed certain commandments consistently. Yet, this rich young man had not reached the correct answer to his own problem.

Jesus, in order to bring out the lesson he sought to give, replied by reciting the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth commandments, adding thereto a general summary of them, "thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." As to these, the young man could say he had been faultless in their observance, and, although realizing the importance of these things, he asked what further requirement was lacking. Knowing his devotion to riches, Jesus pointed out that his dependence upon them stood between him and perfection.

Jesus did not give similar advice to every wealthy man or woman with whom he came in contact, for we know that Martha, Mary and Lazarus were rich, and it is fair to assume, as Bishop Potter does, that "wealth has duties to perform in the constitution of our modern society," which "poverty could never perform. The progress of science, of the arts, of higher education, the organized efforts of philanthropy, require capital in the hands of a few just as truly as trade requires capital. At the same time, his possession of wealth entails great obligations, so great, in fact, that Jesus voiced the difficulty confronting a rich man in entering the Kingdom of God.

"Jesus was the world's greatest psychologist," says Charles Foster Kent. "No man has analyzed the motives in the mind of man as did he. No one appreciated more clearly than he how great an obstacle the possession of riches placed in the way of man's obtaining the highest development and fullest measure of his ability.

"At the time, his scientific impartiality is shown by the statement that it was not absolutely impossible for a man to surmount this obstacle. It called, however, for divine help. To discharge one's obligations as a social citizen, far more of the love and power of God is required in the heart of the rich than of the man with moderate means."

When one realizes that the American people, on the average, spend approximately twice as much for tobacco as they do for the support of all Protestant churches, the hospitals and colleges in this nation, and fully half again as much for gasoline to ride about on pleasure trips, the need for an additional realization of the spiritual responsibilities involved in the proper use of wealth becomes apparent.

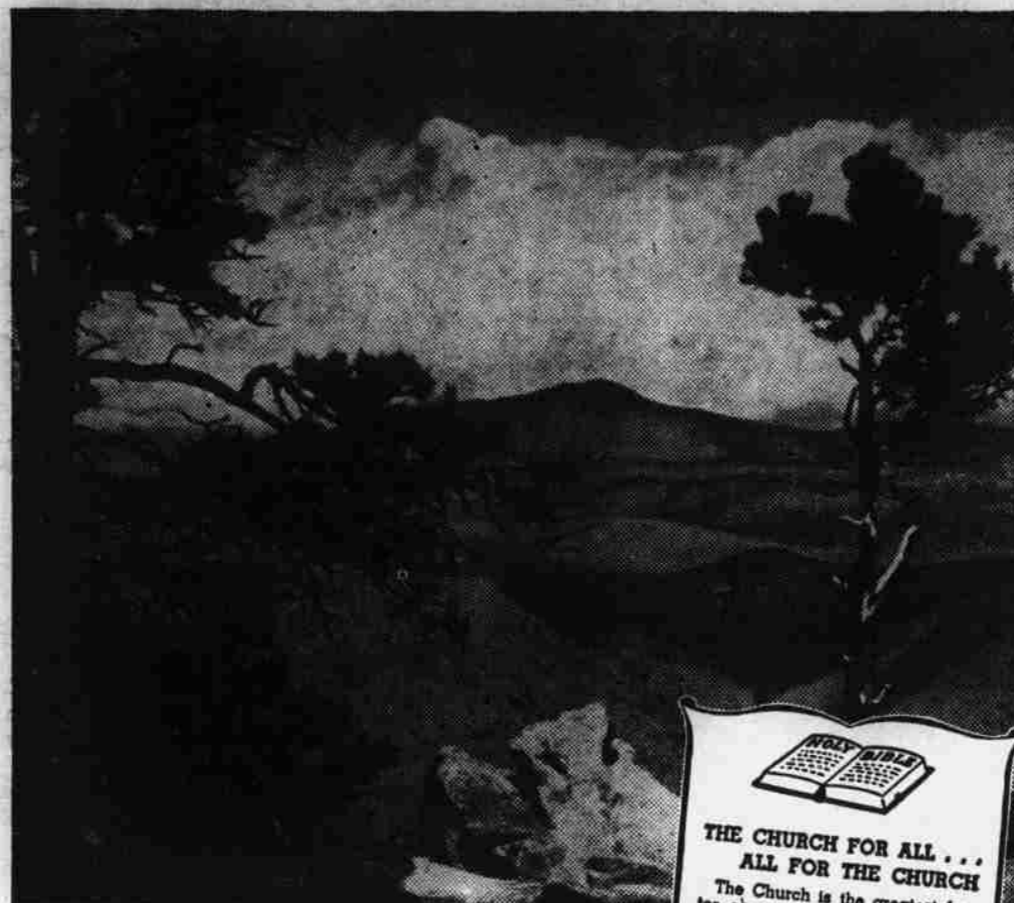
It is not enough that a man be honest, thrifty and benevolent in financial matters. He should also realize that he holds material possessions as a trustee only, that they are not paramount to spiritual values, and that, as a Christian, he is obliged to control and use his wealth for the benefit of humanity and the promotion of human happiness.

The ideas of stewardship should not be confined to money, however. It applies with equal force to the use of our physical strength, the abilities and capacities which we may possess, and the employment of the years of life which we are given to use and enjoy in a manner which will prove helpful to our fellowmen.

If we have a proper conception of these responsibilities, the possession of great riches will not overshadow, in our minds, the supreme purpose of life—to so live that we may have and enjoy that eternal life about which the young ruler was asking. Jesus did not concern himself with bestowing earthly benefits and privileges, for, as Caleb D. Bradlee once said, his attitude is represented by this imaginary statement: "I do not concern myself about these small matters, but I can promise you rest, peace, joy, opportunity, honor and glory in the Celestial Kingdom.

BE A BETTER CITIZEN! GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

"THE GREAT DIVIDE"



In the great Mid-West of our country stands one of the miracles of nature called "The Great Divide." Here, if a drop of water falls to the west of the divide, it goes on and on into the Pacific Ocean. If it falls to the east, it flows until it reaches the Atlantic Ocean.

In our lives, little "divides" cause us to swerve to the right or to the left; toward the thing that is right or the thing that is wrong and sinful. Little things? No, not as little as they seem, for often a little deed changes the whole course of one's life, or the life of another.

Of ourselves we can do nothing, but help is near. The Church stands ready, offering us the sure hand of Christian faith. Here we can find strength to make the right decision at every "divide" in life's way.

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	Exodus	20	1-17
Monday	Joshua	1	1-9
Tuesday	Psalms	105	1-8
Wednesday	Luke	12	13-21
Thursday	Luke	15	11-32
Friday	I Corinth's	1	16-18
Saturday	I John	4	1-8

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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
Colon Jackson, Jr., Pastor
Church services second and fourth 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
H. M. Jamieson, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 7:00 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, 7:00 P. M.
Fourth Sunday
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.
Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.
Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.

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

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Harvey L. Coppidge, Pastor
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
First and Third Sundays at 7:45 P. M.
Sunday School 9:45 A. 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. Bennie Crawford, 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
D. Virgin Pike, Pastor
Church School 10 A. M.
Morning Worship 11 A. M.
Young People's Meeting 7 P. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Caleb Goodwin, Jr., Pastor
Sunday School, 11 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.

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.
9:45 A. M., Church School, every Sunday.
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 1st Sunday.
8:30 A. M., Holy Communion, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday.
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
10:00 A. M., Holy Communion, Fridays and Saints' Days.

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
Rev. Ralph Knight, 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