

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

WHOSE IS THE KINGDOM?

For February 15, 1953.

Memory Selection: "Fear not, little flock; for it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."
—Luke 12: 32.

Lesson Text: Matthew 21: 33-43

Our lesson for this week goes back to a consideration of a passage from the Gospel of Matthew, which follows almost immediately after the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem, which occurred on Sunday of what we have come to call "Passion Week."

Immediately after the enthusiastic welcome given him and the spontaneous acceptance of him as the long expected "King," Jesus retired to the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, at nearby Bethany, where he spent the night.

Journeying back to Jerusalem with his disciples early the next morning, Jesus saw a fig tree near the highway and, being hungry, went to it expecting fruit to eat. Finding no figs, and thus humanly disappointed, the tree having failed in the purpose for which it was planted, Jesus declared that no fruit should grow upon it from henceforth forever.

Following the cursing of the fig tree, Jesus journeyed on into Jerusalem and, on entering the Temple, became righteously indignant at the practices being carried on in the name of religion. Taking a scourge in his hand, he drove the money-changers from the Temple, declaring, "It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer but ye make it a den of robbers."

Returning to Jerusalem the following morning—Tuesday—Jesus went again into the Temple and there began to preach to eager crowds which had assembled there. Here and in many other places during the final days of his life, Jesus announced that he was the divine Son of God, who came in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

He was rudely interrupted in his discourse by the chief priests and elders, who demanded to know by what authority he presumed to do the things he did and teach the truths he taught. Instead of answering their question, Jesus presented a counter-question, by asking, "The baptism of John (the Baptist), was it from heaven or of men?" They dared not discount John because of the people's belief in his integrity and they feared their wrath; and yet they dared not approve John, for he had testified as to the divinity of Christ. Cowardly, they withdrew from the dangerous situation, by declaring themselves unable to answer.

Then, by parabolic teaching, Jesus turned in wrath upon these religious leaders. In the first parable—that of the two sons, Jesus, by inference, declared that the scribes and Pharisees, because of their stubborn unbelief, had received the Messiah sent to them by God and because of this rejection, they were farther from the Kingdom of God than the vilest persons in their knowledge—the publicans and the harlots—who had heard the teachings of John and of Christ and had, through faith, accepted them.

Then, Jesus told the story of the householder, who planted a vineyard, turned it over to husbandmen and departed into a far country. When the householder sent servants to the husbandmen for an accounting, the wicked men beat one, killed another and stoned a third. Sending other servants, the husbandmen did likewise to them.

Finally, the lord of the vineyard sent his own son, thinking that they would reverence him. But, the owner was mistaken, for the husbandmen rejected him also, took him out of the vineyard and put him to death. Although the Jewish leaders did not recognize the picture Jesus was painting, Jesus was describing the action of the Jews themselves.

God, the owner and Creator of all things, had entrusted to his chosen people—the Jews—his purpose to bless all of the nations of the earth. He sent various prophets and most of them were rejected. Later, he sent his servant, John the Baptist, and he, too, was rejected. Now God had sent his own beloved Son and he, too, was about to be put to death.

The scribes and Pharisees thought that by getting rid of Jesus, they would put an end to his popularity, which was estranging many of the people from their own teaching. That they were wrong was shown in the events which followed immediately after his crucifixion and have lasted to this very day.

The gospel of Jesus Christ spread throughout the then known world, many thousands of the Jews were won away from the synagogue, and, most terrible of all for the religious leaders of that day, within forty years Jerusalem was laid in ruins, the Temple was desecrated and the Jews, as a people, from that time until this, have been scattered over the face of the earth—a nation without a home.

The Jews, as a race, rejected Jesus Christ as the Son of God, their long-promised Messiah and have suffered as a result. What about you?—Are you rejecting Jesus Christ as your Saviour, too?

THE PROTECTING ARM OF THE LAW



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	Psalm	119	7-14
Monday	Psalm	119	1-6
Tuesday	Matthew	5	13-20
Wednesday	Luke	30	13-26
Thursday	Romans	7	14-25
Friday	Romans	13	8-19
Saturday	James	1	19-27

Nancy's not afraid of policemen. You can tell that by her open expression of friendliness as she looks up at the officer helping her across the street.

In some countries the law is not so kind. It is not used, as in America to protect the individual. It is not made for the masses, but for the few to do with as they please.

In our great land you'll see policemen at nearly every city school, not to correct, but to protect your children at the street crossings.

That is because our country and its laws have been founded on Christianity.

Support your church and give your children continued protection and the freedom to live, learn, and worship as they please.

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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