

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

CHRISTIAN COMPASSION FOR A NEEDY WORLD

International Sunday School Lesson for November 22, 1953.

Memory Selection: "But whose hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth."—1 John 3:17-18.

Anyone who will take the time to go into any community, anywhere—not only in foreign lands, or metropolitan cities—but there in our town—can see that there is dire need among the people. While we know that those who go abroad come home distressed about conditions, we also realize that needs exist here, right under our own noses, and too often these needs are allowed to go unattended to, while we send aid to unfortunates all over the world.

No one needs to tell us that this is a needy world. Millions go to bed every night without enough food to sustain life. In almost any newspaper, almost any day, you can read of disastrous floods or famines that destroy lives and property and reduce thousands to want and misery. Millions are physically sick and need medical attention, with little hope of receiving it.

But this tells only part of the story. There are millions in need of spiritual and social rehabilitation. The world is hungry for knowledge, for freedom, for news about a loving God and a saving Christ. Who is there in the world who will supply this need but the Christians, to whom Christ said, "Go ye into all the world," and tell them of a compassionate Savior, who, when he looked on a suffering people, wept with sympathy for them and gave his life that they might be saved from the error of their ways.

We have, in our printed passages for this week, several instances of Jesus ministering to huge crowds of people. His compassion was no passing emotion, it was a prelude to action. Matthew tells us that he went about all the cities and villages, preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. He met the needs as the need existed among those with whom he worked. It is worth noting that Jesus was a social gospel—not only of preaching the gospel but of meeting the physical needs of the people as well.

Mark gives an instance of this when he relates how Jesus met the needs of the hungry multitude, who had been so interested in the message of Jesus that they had remained with him for three days, with nothing to eat. Jesus "had compassion on the multitude" and this compassion was implemented with action—the providing of food for their hungry bodies.

Compassion is at the very heart of God and it should be a major characteristic of those who love God and are His children. Christian compassion must include all people, for all people know sorrow and need. Jesus looked upon the multitude and saw, not the crowds, but the individual need of the great masses of people. We, too, need to look at individuals, as God's creation, most of whom are in need of something that we can supply.

This something does not always require money. The need for love, for sympathy, for understanding often times surpasses the need for material things, such as food, clothing and decent housing. A kindly word spoken at the right time is often just the inspiration the young man or woman needs to keep his or her feet on the right road. A pat on the back gives the discouraged new hope and a feeling that someone cares.

Costen J. Harrell has said: "Sympathy is Christlike, and by it we are judged. Are the ignorance and poverty of the lowliest repulsive to you, or does your heart go out to them? On street and highway do you see only the crowd, or do you see the pinched faces of little children, and the discouraged faces of young men and women struggling against heavy odds, and the tragic faces of the aged who have known better days, and the hard faces of those who have never had a fair chance? Are you indifferent to others' limitations and sorrows and sin, or are you wounded by them? Answer these questions and you will know whether or not you have the mind of Christ. If we have not the mind of Christ, we are none of His."

How can this spirit of Christlike compassion be cultivated? We should carefully and prayerfully study the life of Christ, with a sincere desire to be like Him. Genuine compassion will make us unselfish—thinking more of others and less of ourselves. Certainly, if we pray for the spirit of Christ.

BE A BETTER CITIZEN!

GO TO SOME NEXT SUNDAY CHURCH

THE BOOK of HOPE

1953	NOVEMBER	1953
Day	Book	Chapter
26	Thanks-giving	Psalms ...103:1-22
27	.....	Psalms ...23:1-6
28	.....	Psalms ...43:1-5
29	Sunday	Psalms ...130:1-8
30	.....	Psalms ...147:1-20
1953	DECEMBER	1953
Day	Book	Chapter
1	.....	Jeremiah ...17:1-15
2	.....	Luke ...5:27-39
3	.....	Luke ...6:1-26
4	.....	Luke ...9:27-49
5	Sunday	Acts ...2:1-47
6	.....	Acts ...13:1-42
7	.....	Romans ...5:1-21
8	.....	Romans ...8:1-18
9	.....	Romans ...12:1-21
10	.....	Romans ...15:1-13
11	.....	I Cor. ...13:1-13
12	.....	I Cor. ...15:1-23
13	Universal Bible	.....
14	Sunday	Psalms ...119:43-56
15	.....	Psalms ...119:103-116
16	.....	Galatians ...5:1-22
17	.....	Ephesians ...4:1-32
18	.....	I Thess. ...1:1-10
19	.....	Hebrews ...11:1-16
20	Sunday	I John ...3:1-24
21	.....	I John ...4:1-21
22	Sunday	Isaiah ...40:1-31
23	.....	Isaiah ...53:1-12
24	.....	Matthew ...23:1-35
25	Christmas	Matthew ...2:1-10

Alexander Pope has said, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast." And most of us will certainly not dispute his word. Who does not look for a better tomorrow? Who does not expect our troubles and sorrows will be eased next week, next month, or next year? It is human nature, and it is a wonderful attribute.

But mere wishful thinking and idle day-dreaming will do little to make our hopes come true. A passive attitude toward our ambitions will surely find us no better than before. This is true in all walks of life; in work, in play, in day-to-day living.

Along with this hope within us, other God-given gifts must be utilized. Habits of love, generosity, and brotherhood must be developed and our faith strengthened by regular attendance at our spiritual home, the Church.

The Bible... the Word of God... has been given to us as a pattern, a way of life for all to follow. Here we find the greatest promise ever given—that of eternal life. Through its great truths our hopes and ambitions are brought into proper perspective and we are able to press forward with confidence.

Take advantage of this great gift. Truly it is the Book of Hope!

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 the sake of 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... Psalms	119	33-40
Monday... Psalms	119	41-48
Tuesday... Psalms	119	49-56
Wednesday... Romans	8	18-25
Thursday... Romans	12	9-21
Friday... I Cor. 13	1-13	
Saturday... Philippians	1	12-21

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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
Colton 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. E. 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
James Rahenkamp, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services, 11 A. M.
Youth Fellowship, 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. Virgil 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, 10:30 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.

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
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 Do Go