

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

CHRIST, THE LIVING BREAD.

International Sunday School Lesson for February 7th, 1954.

Memory Selection: "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst."—John 6:35.

Lesson Text: John 6:48-69.

You have probably known from childhood the story of how Jesus fed the multitude miraculously. It is interesting to learn that this is the only miracle recounted by all four gospel writers.

While the actual miracle is not given as a part of our lesson text, in order to get the proper background, we will give a brief recital of it. In his record, John recounts the events at the beginning of the year, but omits the remainder, including the definite calling of the Twelve disciples and the Sermon on the Mount. He also omits the early happenings of the next year, including the second rejection of Nazareth, the missionary journey of the Twelve, and the death of John the Baptist.

It was shortly after the death of John the Baptist that John related the incident of the feeding of the five thousand in order to properly introduce the discourse which followed, which forms the basis of our lesson for this week.

Because of the excitement which followed the news of John the Baptist's death and because Jesus probably wanted to confer privately with his disciples, who had just returned from an evangelistic tour, Jesus journeyed from the westward side of the Sea of Galilee to the eastward side. However, his desire for privacy was thwarted by the crowd which followed him. So interested were they in him, that they prolonged their stay until it was well past time for them to go home. Realizing that they had had no food the entire day, Jesus told his disciples to provide the necessary food for the multitude.

You can imagine their consternation. In the thinly settled section, supplies were very scarce. Phillip viewed the matter from the material standpoint and saw the enormous difficulty which it presented. Andrew, also practical but a little more imaginative, reported the finding of a small boy who had five barley loaves and two small fishes, both loaves and fishes very insufficient for such a large crowd.

However, Jesus had the multitude to sit down in order and, after giving thanks, he broke the small supply and distributed it, probably through the agency of his disciples. A miraculous increase took place during the process and when everybody had been fed, the disciples gathered up twelve baskets full, which remained. The miracle typifies the large results which can come from small resources properly devoted to divine purposes. It also points up the fact that those who share with those in need lose nothing but gain much in the end.

The effect of the miracle was that the crowd wanted to make Jesus King, expecting him to free Palestine from the rule of the Romans. This was entirely foreign to the purposes of Jesus and, in his discourses on the bread of life which followed, he sought to reveal to his listeners the difference between the physical bread and the substance of everlasting life which he was offering to the world.

He reminded the Jews that their fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and were now dead, but he offered a spiritual bread, which, if accepted, would cause the recipient to live forever. The great majority of those who heard him could not understand what he was talking about, and many left, to follow him no more.

There are valuable lessons to be drawn from this incident. Jesus looked at the multitude, but he did not confine his consideration of it to an abstract gathering. He knew that the multitude was composed of individuals each of whom had a full capacity for physical hunger and suffering. Many of our modern evils would disappear if their results were properly seen in their application to individuals rather than to society in general.

Jesus emphasized in his teaching that the spiritual values should have precedence over material needs. Modern man too often puts the cart before the horse here. Desire for the accumulation of wealth and the gratification of his needs and desires often leaves too little time and energy for the acquisition of or development of spiritual faith. Just as the physical body needs regular nourishment every day, so the spiritual body needs food for his soul. Jesus declared, "I am

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BE A BETTER CITIZEN!
GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY



time-out

It takes a lot of energy to wield a rattle. It takes even more to crawl across the room. A fellow just has to take a *time-out* once in a while. That's an important lesson for all of us to learn. It is nothing short of suicide to let one's work and recreation rob his body of the natural opportunity to replenish its resources in rest. Our souls also need a frequent *time-out*. Life depletes our spiritual resources. Man needs regular times for worship, for prayer, and for religious inspiration. The Church is meeting this need in the lives of many of your neighbors and friends. Are you—and your whole family—taking advantage of the *time-out* for spiritual replenishment which the Church offers? We invite you to attend the church of your choice next Sunday!

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 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	31	12-18
Monday	Matthew	11	25-30
Tuesday	Mark	6	30-46
Wednesday	Acts	3	19-26
Thursday	Philippians	2	1-11
Friday	I John	5	1-8
Saturday	Psalms	37	1-9

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Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
C. W. Duling, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:06 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
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
James Rahenkamp, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services 11 A. M., - 7:30 P. M.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.
Prayer Service, Wednesday 7:30 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
Cey 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 Do Go