

# Sunday School Lesson

A TEST OF DISCIPLESHIP

International Sunday School Lesson for March 5, 1961.

Memory Selection: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." (John 13:34)

Lesson Text: John 13:1-5, 12-17, 34-35.

Today, in order to help adults realize that love is the most important quality of the Christian life, and that real love always finds expression in humble and unselfish service, we read of the Last Supper.

In today's Scripture we find one of the Bible's best illustrations of the meaning of true discipleship. Herein we find emphasis on the two main attributes of Christian discipleship. They are, respectively, lowly service and holy love. Both are worthy of our careful and undivided attention.

Let us discuss, first, the meaning of lowly service. Our lesson implies that there are certain standards by which we can judge Christians. And in order to determine our own sincerity of purpose we must ask ourselves: Do we care for people? How much do we care? Is it enough to stoop gladly to humble services wherever and whenever the need may appear? The answers to these questions provide our best test of real and true discipleship.

In his account of the wonderful, selfless act of Jesus—the washing of the disciples' feet—John is encouraging us to act, to do something helpful for the lowly and the needy. The meal of which the disciples partook with their Lord, as we ordinarily observe it, is a memorial to Jesus' supreme sacrifice on the cross. And what could be more meaningless than for us to remember Christ's death without putting into practice the principle of love illustrated by his humble ministrations to his followers. When we ask how much a believer should care, we must perforce also ask: Does he care enough to serve, even as a slave?

Service to others is the trust of all sacraments. A Christian never rises above another. We are all of one class—the slave class—and there is always room at the bottom. There the true disciple finds his level, and there he stays.

Another requirement of discipleship emphasized in today's Scripture is the command that we love one another. The obligation to love is as old as human life, but here it receives a new emphasis because Jesus gives holy love a new motive. He does this by relating his love to his death. His sacrificial dying gives both measure and meaning to Christian love. He loved his disciples not only with his life, but also with his death. To love more is utterly impossible. His love cost him his life.

The test of our discipleship is that we love as Christ loves. This love of one Christian for another is something very special. It goes beyond benevolence, and it exceeds generosity. It is love that has become concern. Hence the two tests of discipleship merge together in one test—caring or acting love. True, holy love involves incredible suffering as the story of the cross reveals. But love can win its way only by suffering—it has no other authority, no other weapon. It succeeds or fails only as it expresses itself in concern. We do not identify a Christian by outward trappings. We recognize him by his serving love—love that is characterized and clarified by the practical good it does.

In the end the world will not be won by campaigns, visitations or revival meetings, although each one of these has its place. The world will be won, our Scripture says, when Christians come together in the warm fellowship of holy love expressed in caring sacrifice.

When will the world be brought to Christ? Only when it sees this test of discipleship in living reality.

(These comments are based on outlines of the International Sunday School Lessons, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education and used by permission.)



## ASK-SEEK-KNOCK

Everyone knows that success comes not to those who merely desire it, but to those who achieve it through long, hard work.

It is odd then, that in the spiritual area of life some people should expect blessings to come for the asking.

Those who really understand PRAYER know that it's more than mere asking. It is seeking. It is the hungry search for truth and moral enlightenment... digging for spiritual gold in the hills of life.

But PRAYER is something more than seeking. It is knocking... meeting life's obstacles bravely... waiting with patient determination until closed doors open... entering portals that the more timid pass by.

We wouldn't really need churches if spiritual growth came for the asking. But we do need churches to help us seek the treasures of God. And through our churches, with the united strength of millions of Christians, we knock on the portals of the more abundant life—and there find it.

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member... of our society, but as eye the rights of innocent victims of strikes.

The answer is not to give management more power, nor to give unions greater power. The answer is to work out a sensible arbitration system which can be made compulsory on the order of the President or a special impartial court to be used in strikes where the public interest is directly involved.

Labor and management would be required to accept the decision of the arbitration ordered, just as every other citizen must accept the decisions of courts. In this way the public would be protected and in our modern society it no longer is feasible or justifiable to let the public's interest be ignored while a particular union and business corporation fight out their differences in a strike.

But where a wildcat strike suddenly stopped trains or airlines from operating, where a strike held up work on vital defense projects, where a strike presented thousands and thousands of people from being able to report for work, etc., in these cases the dispute would be referred to the special group for impartial settlement and both union members and management would be bound to abide by the decision of public's tribunal.

**Modern Version**  
 The third grade was learning the letters of the alphabet. "What comes after the T?" the teacher asked.  
 Ella quickly replied "V."  
 Unruly children make their sire stoop. —Shakespeare.

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Now we must stress another point which we hate to mention but the higher cost of operation, the close marginal profit and the ever existing interest rates require us to make the following statements which we must carry out:

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**FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1961**

### March, 1961

The first days of March have differing significances for different parts of the country. There are famous anniversaries and events to remember, which well-read citizens should recall.

For example, March 1st is Nebraska State Day, Nebraska having been admitted to the Union on March 1st, 1867. March 2nd is Texas Independence Day in commemoration of the Declaration of Independence from Mexico. This declaration came on March 2nd, 1836, while Santa Anna was besieging the Alamo.

The Missouri Compromise Act was also passed on March 2nd in 1820. War with Algiers began back in 1815 on March 3rd. March 3rd is also the birthday anniversary of Alexander Graham Bell.

March 4th is Vermont Day, Vermont having been admitted to the Union on March 4th, 1791. The United States Constitution went into effect on March 4th in 1789, and Pennsylvania was granted to William Penn on March 4th, 1781.

The Boston Massacre occurred on March 5th, 1770, and Elizabeth V. Browning was born on March 5th in 1806. March 6th is another historical day, for it is the anniversary of the fall of the Alamo, which occurred on March 6th, 1836. (Davy Crockett was among those who perished in this defeat.) On this day in 1831, General Philip Sheridan was born and on March 7th, 1849, Luther Burbank was born at Lancaster, Massachusetts. On that day also, in 1876, Bell got a patent for his telephone.

Perhaps one day you will be remembered for something you did, and history books will record a special day as a memorable date for your deed or your birthday anniversary. Greatness is not impossible for us, if we get our hearts and minds to the task.

### Strikes And The Public Interest

In a modern society such as the United States major strikes of key union personnel often inconvenience millions of innocent victims. Sometimes the strikes deprive these innocent victims of holidays or the opportunity to work, even of food, clothes or money.

Of course, because this has happened and does happen in our society, it does not mean that the answer is to forbid all strikes. The rights of the union

**HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Norman Harris, Pastor  
 Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.  
 Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock  
 Evening Worship, 7 o'clock  
 Mid-week Services, Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock

**BETHLEHEM CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
 Joe Bachmann, Pastor  
 Bible School, 10:00 A. M.  
 Worship Service, 11:00 A. M., 1st and 3rd Sundays. Communion every Sunday.

**BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 A. J. McGowan, Pastor  
 Sunday school each Sunday at 10:00 A. M.  
 Morning worship at 11 o'clock 2nd and 4th Sunday mornings.

**PERCIVANS CHARGE CHURCHES**  
 Rev. Albert Gore, Jr., Pastor  
 Cedar Grove Church: 1st Sunday 10 A. M.; 2nd Sunday, 11 A. M.; 3rd Sunday 7:30 P. M.  
 Epworth Church: 1st Sunday, 11 A. M.; 2nd Sunday, 7:30 P. M.; 3rd Sunday, 10 A. M.; 4th Sunday, 7:30 P. M.  
 Oak Grove Church: 1st Sunday, 7:30 P. M.; 3rd Sunday, 11 A. M.; 4th Sunday, 11 A. M.

**NEW HOPE - WOODLAND**  
 Dan E. Meadows, Pastor  
 New Hope Church School, 10 A. M.; worship services, 11 A. M., 1st and 3rd Sundays; 7:30 P. M., 2nd and 4th Sundays.  
 Woodland Church School, 10 A. M.; worship service, 2nd and 4th Sunday, 11 A. M.; 1st and 3rd Sunday, 7:30 P. M.

**ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH**  
 Church School, 10:06 A. M.  
 Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

**WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 William S. Brown, Pastor  
 Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.; Morning Worship, 11 A. M.; Training Union, 8:30 P. M.; Evening Service, 7:30 P. M.

**UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH**  
 Orval Dillon, Pastor  
 Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.  
 Church services, 11 A. M. and P. M.  
 Youth Fellowship, 7 P. M.  
 Prayer service, Wednesday, 7 P. M.

**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 A. B. Hammett, Pastor  
 Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.  
 Morning Worship 11:00 A. M.  
 Evening Worship, 8:00 P. M.

**PINEY WOODS PRIME CHURCH**  
 Mark Hodge, Pastor  
 Church School 10 A. M.  
 Morning worship 11 A. M.  
 Young People's meeting 7 P. M.

**WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Walter Hill, Pastor  
 Sunday School 10:00 A. M., every Sunday.  
 Church services first and third Sundays at 11:00 A. M.

**HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH**  
 J. A. Anman, Pastor  
 Church School 9:45 A. M.  
 Morning Worship 11:00 o'clock  
 Youth Fellowship, 9:45 P. M.  
 Evening worship, 7:30 P. M.

**BAGLEY SWAMP METHODIST CHURCH**  
 A. E. Swain, Pastor  
 Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.  
 Morning worship 11 o'clock.  
 Young People's meeting at 6:15 P. M.  
 Evening worship, 7:00 o'clock.

**HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
 Rev. E. F. Mosler, Rector  
 Holy Communion 8 A. M.; Church School 9:45 A. M.; Morning Prayer, 11 A. M.; Holy Communion on 1st Sunday at 11 A. M.

**BREA CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 Charles Brasley, Pastor  
 Bible School each Sunday at 10 o'clock; Holy Communion each Sunday; Worship Services, first and third Sunday mornings at 11 o'clock; Evening Worship Services at 7:30 o'clock.  
 Adult Study Classes and Youth Meetings first and third Sunday evening at 7 o'clock.

**CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Sunday School every Sunday at 10:00 A. M.  
 Worship services every second and fourth Sunday at 11:00 A. M.  
 BTH every Sunday at 7:30 P. M.

**ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
 Rev. Albert G. Elder  
 Sunday School, 10 A. M.; Worship at 11 A. M.; Evangelism Service 7:30; Prayer Meeting Tuesday night at 8 o'clock and CA Services Friday night at 8 o'clock.

**MT. SINAI BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 JAMES LAYTON, Pastor  
 Sunday School, each Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.  
 Worship services, 1st and 3rd Sunday evening at 8 o'clock; 2nd and 4th Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

**HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH**  
 Frank Fuchman, Pastor  
 Sunday School, 1st and 3rd Sunday at 10 A. M.  
 Services, 2nd and 4th Sunday