

Sunday School Lesson

JESUS AFFIRMS HIS SONSHIP (Luke 2:39-52)

Throughout His childhood Christ's body kept on growing in strength and sturdiness. His mental development kept pace with His physical growth. His powers unfolded in a marvelous fashion, while He enjoyed the normal development of a healthy and happy child, as the grace and blessing of God were upon Him.

Even though Joseph and Mary were poor and lived many miles from Jerusalem, they were regular in their attendance at the Feast of the Passover. God chose a home in which worship was a practice in which His Son was to be reared. When He was twelve years of age they took Jesus with them to the Passover. It was a custom among the Jews that at this feast the boys who had attained twelve years of

age were recognized as "sons of the law."

When this feast was over Joseph and Mary started home in company with their relatives and friends. In the caravan the women were in front and the men followed. The children went with the group which they preferred and played together as they went along. Joseph and Mary were free from anxiety about the Lord Jesus, even though they did not see Him during the first day's journey. Alas, people frequently take too much for granted.

At eventide Joseph and Mary discovered that Jesus was not with them. They decided to return to Jerusalem and seek Him. On the third day they found Him. Instead of playing with the children about the courts of the Temple, He was inside listening to the wise teachers, answering their questions, and surprising them by His marvelous understanding. In a most respectful manner He listened to the doctors and then propounded His questions to them. His desire to get all the information possible from them about the things of God was most commendable. Not only were these eminent teachers amazed that He should manifest such a great interest in the deep things of God, but they were also astonished at the questions of His mind in grasping such great truths at that tender age.

To their great relief and joy, Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple conversing with the teachers of the law. Of course, they were astonished that He should venture into such an august presence and converse with them. Reproving Him for His seeming lack of thoughtfulness for her and Joseph, in remaining behind and causing them so much anxiety and inconvenience, Mary inquired, "Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us?" However, her reproach was quite tender, as if she felt sure that He could explain the matter satisfactorily.

Without any attempt to excuse himself, Christ gently reproved their inordinate solicitude about Him. His dignified, yet tender, reply, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" indicated that Mary should have realized His mission. He made it clear that, regardless of what any others might do, He intended to be about the business of His heavenly Father. His supreme task was to do the will of His Father. His statement in verse forty-nine was the first recorded words of our Saviour and Lord. From this striking statement we learn that a Christian should see to it that the Father's business has priority in his life.

From Jerusalem Christ went down to lowly Nazareth with Mary and Joseph, where the three had lived in an humble home since their return from Egypt. Knowing that He had come on a divine mission, and having informed Mary and Joseph that He had a Father in heaven in whose business He must be engaged, Christ voluntarily set a worthy example for all of filial subjection to parents. He yielded a ready obedience to their commands while living with them and working under and for them. Children today should emulate His example, and thereby greatly increase the joy of the entire family.

During the eighteen years of Christ's obscurity in Nazareth, He increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with both God and men. We, too, should grow physically, intellectually, and spiritually.

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The Sunday School Lesson is sent in each week by Clear Creek Baptist School in Pineville, Ky. and is written by Dr. H.C. Chiles.

SUPPER GUESTS

Supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Chappell during the Holidays were, Mr. and Mrs. John Chappell, Mr. and Mrs. John Wesley Chappell, Karen and Anthony of Norfolk, Va., Mrs. Janice Wood and Kathy of Ashville, N.C. and Mrs. Paige Stallings and Dana of Elizabeth City. Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Chappell and Genielle of Edenton, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Roberson of Hertford, and Mr. Stan Winslow of Belvidere, Mrs. Gertrude Winslow and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Bass and Tammi of Edenton, N.C.

Watch Night Service

A watch night service will be conducted at First Assembly of God Church, 715 W. Grubb St., Hertford, on New Year's Eve, Friday night, Dec. 31 beginning at 8 p.m. Featured singers will be David Smith from Jacksonville, Fla.; The Travelers from Elizabeth City; The Lighthouse Family

Singers from Windsor; Elmer Lassiter, soloist; The Gospel Countrymen; and The Larn Underwood Family.

Rev. Larn Underwood, pastor, extends an invitation to all to come and enjoy this time of fellowship and worship.



NEW YEAR'S WEDDING — Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Chappell of Rt. 1, Hertford announce the marriage of their daughter, Cynthia Fawn, to Garland Courtney Jennings Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Garland C. Jennings Sr. of Belvidere. The wedding will take place the first of January at 3 p.m. in the First Assembly of God Church in Hertford. No invitations are being sent. Friends and relatives are invited.

Obituaries

MRS. GLADYS W. HUMPHLETT

Mrs. Gladys Winslow Humphlett, 64, of Winfall, died Thursday at 5 p.m. in Chowan Hospital following an extended illness.

A native of Perquimans County, she was the daughter of the late Addie and Ethel W. Winslow and the wife of Walter Lee Humphlett. She was a member of Epworth United Methodist Church.

Surviving besides her widower are one daughter, Mrs. Wayne (Patsy) White of Elizabeth City; one son, Walter Humphlett Jr. of Winfall; one sister, Mrs. Ruby Raby of Winfall; two brothers, Sherrill Winslow of Elizabeth City and Gerald Winslow of Chesapeake, Va.; six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday at 3 p.m. in the chapel of the Swindell Funeral Home by the Rev. Milton Mann and the Rev. Robert Poole. Entombment followed in Cedarwood Cemetery.

"When They Ring Those Golden Bells" was played by Mrs. Preston Morgan, organist.

Pallbearers were Kenneth Miller, Dick Long, Crafton Matthews, Julian Matthews, Aubrey Umphlett, and Jack Symons.

The pall was made of red roses, white chrysanthemums and baby's breath.

DR. LUTHER BUTLER

Dr. Luther Butler, who had practiced dentistry in Greensboro since 1936, died Thursday at Moses Cone Hospital. He resided at 503 Kimberly Ave., Greensboro. He had also practiced dentistry in Hertford in the early thirties before moving to Greensboro.

Funeral services were held Sunday at 2 p.m. in the First Baptist Church, Greensboro, where he was a member, with Dr. Alton McEachern officiating. Burial was in New Garden Cemetery.

A native of Athens, Ga., he attended Emory University Dental School in Atlanta and had served as secretary-treasurer and president of the Guilford Dental Society and as secretary-treasurer of the North Carolina Dental Society. He was president of the state society in 1960-61.

He was a fellow in the International Congress of Dentists, was a member of the Piedmont Study Club, the Tar Heel Endodontic Society and a diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics. He served as secretary of the American Association of Endodontists three years.

He was a Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner, an Odd Fellow and a member of the Greensboro Kiwanis Club.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Ruth Butler; brothers, S. Hoyt Butler of Athens, Ga., H. Estes Butler of Greensboro; and one sister, Mrs. Evie Hardman, also of Athens.

Stevens-Skinner Exchange Vows

Miss Jennifer Stevens and Carlton Skinner exchanged wedding vows Christmas Eve at the home of the groom's sister, Mrs. Nora Taylor of Elizabeth City. The Rev. Willie Moore officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Grady Stevens Sr. of Washington, D.C. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Skinner of Hertford.

Maid of honor was Miss Florence White of Washington, D.C.

Best man was James White of Maryland.

The bride is a 1973 graduate of McKinley High, Maryland and is employed at Community Services Administration in Washington, D.C. The groom is a 1969 graduate of Perquimans Union School at Winfall and is employed with American District Telegraph in Maryland.

A reception followed the

wedding at Mrs. Taylor's home.

Out-of-town guests included Grady Jr. and Glen Stevens, Calvin Moore, all of Maryland; Mrs. Mary Matilda Berry and daughter, Ite, of Hawaii; William Skinner, Calvin Skinner, Mr. and Mrs. Callie Skinner, and Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Wright, all of New York; Mr. and Mrs. Jerald O. Bryant of Fort Bragg, N.C.; Alexander Skinner of Washington, D.C.; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Skinner and Arluster Skinner of Norfolk, Va.; Richard Skinner of Belcross; and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Clark of Washington, D.C.

The couple is making their home in Maryland.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED — Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Ferrell of Charlotte, N.C. announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Ann, to Neal P. Campbell, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Hartwell Campbell of Wilson, N.C. The future bride graduated from Gaston Day School of Gastonia, N.C. She is also a graduate of Central Piedmont College with a degree in Dental Hygiene, and received her Public Health education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is employed as a Public Health Hygienist by the District Health Department of Elizabeth City. The prospective bridegroom graduated from Ralph L. Fike High School in Wilson, N.C. He attended Atlantic Christian College and will be attending N.C. State University in the fall with a major in computer science. He is vice-president and operations manager of Campbell Broadcasting. The wedding date is set for early May.

For Your Information

Dear friends,

COMPASSION is the word we offer for the New Year. All of us have problems and frustrations, yet lack the personal capacity to fully solve them. Few are those who have 'put their house in order' and can relax with a genuine smile of achievement. We are all in the same boat, so let us practice understanding, patience and — compassion — for our fellowmen, who are also struggling to find their way.

Respectfully,

Mason Swindell

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The pleasure of your company is requested at a Reception to celebrate the Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tatum Benton on Sunday, the ninth of January. Nineteen hundred and seventy-seven two to five o'clock Woodland Methodist Church Route 4 Hertford, North Carolina

No gifts please

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For changes and/or additions is 5:00 P.M. on January 7, 1977. Please, don't wait until the last minute. CALL US TODAY.

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NORFOLK CAROLINA TELEPHONE COMPANY

News From First Baptist

Sunday School at First Baptist Church will convene at 9:45 a.m. with the morning worship service to follow at 11 a.m. The pastor will preach from the text, "Putting on the Christian's Uniform" (Colossians 3:12). The Junior Choir will sing. The public is invited.

The Perquimans County Branch of the NAACP will have Kelly M. Alexander Jr., son of the president of the North Carolina branches of NAACP for a program on Saturday, Jan. 1 beginning at 3 p.m. at First Baptist Church. At this time, the church will also honor Mrs. Rosa Lee Gibbs with a special gift for her service to the NAACP. The public is invited to attend this program. Special music will be provided by the Saunder Grove Baptist Church Choir, the St. Paul A.M.E. Zion and First Baptist Church Choirs. Mrs. Alexander Green will be the special soloist. Rev. Walter Leigh, vice-president and Rev. John H. London are chairmen for the program.

The watch meeting worship service will be held at First Baptist Church on Friday night, Dec. 31 at 10 p.m. The president of the Fellowship Hour will preach the first sermon. The public is invited to attend this service to march in the new year.

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