

Interdenominational Sunday School lesson

Suffering Crucifixion

Luke 23:33-46

"When Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said, Father, into Thy hands I commend My Spirit: and having said thus, He gave up the Ghost." Luke 23:46.

When reading this verse of Scripture, it suggests to us that this event marked the ending of an epoch. To be sure it was indeed the ending of something and, just as surely, the beginning of something. It brought to an end the existence of a human life and the public ministry of Jesus. The officials of the Roman government thought that it was an ending. The leaders of the orthodox religion at the time thought it was an ending. Most

of Jesus' disciples thought it was an ending, but all of these would, within a short time, come to realize that it was not an end. For some, the realization would come quickly, as they stood at the scene of the crucifixion and wondered, "What have we done?" For others, it would take longer, as they observed the Spiritual Kingdom of God take shape and begin to change peoples' lives. The Gospel of love initiated by Jesus would soon take on zeal and urgency that gripped them when they met together on the day of Pentecost. God's great plan for the redemption of man unto Himself was in full force and effect. The crucifixion was necessary, for it was paying the

penalty for man's sins. The Scriptures given for today's lesson draws our attention to that penalty and the suffering experienced in the crucifixion. From the viewpoint of one suffering crucifixion, turn to Psalm 22:1-18 and read the words reflecting the vividness of the experience.

Introduction to Calvary

Luke 23:32-34

After Jesus' last supper with His disciples, He continued His conversation with them as they made their way to the Garden of Gethsemane. There He prayed to the Father for strength for the ordeal. There Judas, the betrayer, led a band of temple guards to arrest Him and

lead Him away for trial. First to Ananias' house, then in the court of Calaphas, the High Priest, and, finally, before the Sanhedrin. There He was condemned as a blasphemer. He was taken before the Roman Governor, Pilate, who found no fault in Him, and then to Herod, who sent Him back to Pilate, who finally authorized His crucifixion. What an ordeal—the politics of it all. The soldiers then took Him to Calvary (a word from Latin meaning "skull"). This was a small hill outside the city wall reserved for crucifixions, a form of capital punishment used by the Romans.

The Scriptures do not relate the gruesome details. It simply says

"they crucified him." Verse 34 of this chapter, relates the essence of what was taking place that day. Jesus praying to the Father to forgive them. Never was a teaching more severely tested than was Jesus' admonition to His disciples, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you." A part of the sermon on the mount recorded in Matthew 5:44.

Insults, Injury, Darkness & Death

Luke 23:35-46

There were two kinds of pain that Jesus suffered during His crucifixion. The physical pain suffered when the nails were driven

through His hands and feet, a spear thrust into His side. The beating and the scouring that opened countless wounds on the body. There was, also, an inward pain. The humiliation of nakedness in front of His family and friends. The taunting insults by the officials, and those who spat upon Him, and those who mocked him. The pain of rejection by those He had come to save. Jesus had come to this moment with a deliberate purpose and when it was finished, He concluded His earthly ministry. The Lord's suffering was complete, and completed.

Lesson based on International Sunday School Lesson by the Lesson Committee.

Perquimans churches prepare for quiz bowl

By ERIC SKINNER

Local black churches are preparing youth for the first black history Quiz Bowl that will be held on February 26 at First Baptist Church in Hertford to commemorate Black History Month.

Seminars are being held each Saturday from 4 to 6 P.M. at the First Baptist Church to give the students an outline for the Quiz Bowl. The seminars are being organized by Vivian Trent, Fannie Leigh and Estelle Felton.

Henry Felton, vice principal of Perquimans County High, was one of

the speakers of the seminar Saturday. His topic was a "Tour through Black History", touching briefly on everything from famous black slaves to present day teenagers!

The second speaker was William Davis, a lawyer from Elizabeth City. Speaking on the topics of American Law for Blacks, as well as blacks in law. Davis gave a large number of notes to the youths that might help them in the upcoming Quiz Bowl.

Teams for the Quiz Bowl are being selected through area churches, but any person may enter alone or be accompanied by a team.

The First Baptist Church pastor, Rev. J.H. Condor, said, "It's another way to learn as well as have fun."

First Baptist, Poole's Grove, Saunders Grove, St. Paul A.M.E. Zion, New Bethel and Bay Branch are a few of the registered to play the Quiz Bowl.

The Quiz Bowl will cover everything from black music to black athletes. All wishing to enter should contact Vivian Trent, Fannie Leigh or Estelle Felton.

The public is invited to the next seminar, February 19 at First Baptist Church from 4 to 6 P.M.

Library announces contest winners

Columbia High School garnered first place in the local four-county Quiz Bowl '83 competition held February 10 at John A. Holmes High School in Edenton. Columbia won by defeating reigning champion Creswell High School by 85 to 60 in a deciding third game. Sponsored annually by Pettigrew Regional Library, the local Quiz Bowl match, based loosely on the old GE College Bowl format, determines who will represent local counties at a regional Quiz Bowl competition, where each county may send one team.

The Columbia High School team, made up of Joe Roughton, Susan Suter, Chet Cooper, and Starlyn Combs, positioned itself for the decisive third game by eliminating Holmes High of Edenton earlier in the competition. In that game, Columbia beat Holmes by 85 to 65. Creswell had moved into the championship game by knocking out

Perquimans High School in their elimination round by a score of 70 to 60. The Creswell team included Lisa D. Spruill, Jeff Collins, Stuart Woodley, and James Livingston.

In the championship game, Joe Roughton of Columbia led his team to victory by accumulating 35 of the team's 85 points. Stuart Woodley was high scorer for Creswell with 35 points also.

Because each county may send one team to the regional Quiz Bowl contest, none of the four participating teams needed to be eliminated in the local match. Each team now advances to the regional contest to be held on March 5 in Williamston, where teams from ten Eastern Carolina counties will meet to determine who will represent their region in the State Quiz Bowl finals in Raleigh later in March.

By winning the local Quiz Bowl match, Columbia received a cash

prize of \$70 to be donated to its local high school library for the purchase of materials. Second place Creswell received \$40 and Perquimans and Holmes each took home \$20.

The Quiz Bowl is sponsored each year by Pettigrew Regional Library to encourage academically-minded students in its service area. In addition to cash prizes, the library awarded free books and Hardee's food coupons to all participants. The library has also decided to initiate a revolving trophy which will be given to the local winner each year to place in its school trophy case for one year. The trophy will pass to the next school who wins the tournament. Each year the winner's name will be engraved to establish a history of local winners. The winner of the first contest in 1982 was Creswell High.

The winning Columbia team was coached by James Cahoon, guidance counselor at the school.

Church news

Bethany United Methodist Church of Belvidere will have Sunday services of worship each Sunday in Lent. On February 20, 11 A.M. Mr. Coy Harbeson will preach at Bethany. Mr. Harbeson is a member of Mt. Hermon UMC, and a certified lay speaker. His witness is stimulating and his message is Good News.

The second Sunday in Lent, February 27, Bethany's pastor, Rev. Carol Goehring, will deliver the sermon at 9:45 A.M. Goehring will again preside at Lenten services March 13-27 at 9:30 A.M.

Mrs. Brenda Harbeson, wife of Coy and also a certified lay speaker, will preach at Bethany at 11 A.M., March 6. Her testimony is inspiring and her ministry among the laity is

vital. The public is always welcome at Bethany Church. Sunday School is held weekly at the church, and visitors are invited.

The First Baptist Church will hold Sunday school at 9:45 A.M. The superintendent is Mrs. R.B. Gibbs who is in charge of the Celebration of Black History Month. A special morning worship has been planned with George N. Reid as our morning speaker.

The senior choir will sing under the direction of Mrs. Barbara J. Shannon, organist. Also the Iota Nu Zeta Chapter Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Come worship with us and honor the Woman of the Year, Dr. Gerie F. Wilds, a former member of the First

Baptist Church. She is a retired instructor at Elizabeth City State University. Mrs. M.B. Taylor is in charge. The Rev. J.H. London is host pastor.

The church and pastor will worship with the St. John Baptist Church in Chowan County at 2:30 P.M. The public is invited to attend. The Rev. J.H. London will be preaching.

The Elizabeth City Chapter of Womens Aglow will meet Monday, February 21 at 7 P.M. at Tucks Restaurant. Mrs. Thelma Stevenson of Route 2, Elizabeth City is the guest speaker. Mrs. Stevenson and her husband, Charles, are pastors at Parskville Holiness Church. Come and bring a friend. For more information call 264-3495 or 338-8623.

Scalf receives diploma Feb. 15

WOODVILLE, N.C. — Joseph Henry Scalf, Jr., of Hertford, will receive the Diploma in Biblical Studies from Seminary Extension in a ceremony February 15 at Chowan Seminary Extension Center.

Scalf is pastor of Woodville Baptist Church. B.E. White presented the diplomas on behalf of the six Southern Baptist Theological seminaries, which operate the Seminary Extension Dept. through a jointly sponsored Seminary External Education Division. Each diploma represents the completion of 16 college-level courses.

The Seminary Extension Dept. provides training in Christian ministry through approximately 80 pre-college and college-level courses.

These courses may be studied in an extension center such as the one at Chowan in Woodville or through the department's Independent Study Institute, housed in the Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville, Tenn. Glen Lane is the center

director. Although designed primarily for pastors, the courses also are available to other Christians desiring academically oriented study in the Bible and other subjects normally included in a theological curriculum.

In Memoriam

The members of the United Methodist Women of Epworth United Methodist Church, Winfall, N.C. wish to offer these words of love and respect in memory of Mrs. Frances White.

Her love, devotion and dedication was shown by her faithful service and attendance at church. She was a dedicated member of the W.M.U.

She will be missed by her family and friends, but we are thankful for the life she lived among us.

Evelyn S. Smith
Florence W. Nowell
Epworth United
Methodist Women

IN MEMORIAM

We, the members of the Woman's Missionary Union of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, wish to pay this tribute of love and respect to the memory of our beloved member, Mrs. Vercha U. Godwin, who was called to her eternal reward December 5, 1982.

She loved her church, Sunday School and Missionary Society and was faithful in attendance as long as her health permitted. She was a dedicated Christian and was a valuable member of our church.

Therefore be it resolved:

That we, her co-laborers and friends bow in humble submission to the will of God, thanking Him for her life.

That we extend our sincere sympathy to members of her family and pray that god will sustain them in their loss.

That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family and a copy be placed in the records of the Woman's Missionary Union.

Respectively submitted.
Members of the W.M.U.

For Your Information

Dear friends,

The death of a child is a most heart-wrenching experience for parents. Normal emotions of grief include bewilderment and disbelief — and feelings of guilt and anger. Chapters of 'Compassionate Friends' developed by bereaved parents, offer healing and hope by sharing with other parents who have 'been there'. For information:

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

P.O. Box 1347
Oak Brook, IL 60521

Respectfully,
Marian Suddell

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Cards of Thanks

My heartfelt thanks to each and everyone who remembered me with cards, visits, calls and prayers while I was a patient in Norfolk General Hospital, and since my return home.
Laura Sutton

My sincere thanks to everyone who remembered me during my illness. Your prayers, love and encouragement have been a real blessing. May God bless each of you as He has blessed me.
Eunice Jennings

We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to each church, Sunday School class, organization, our friends, neighbors and relatives for the many prayers, cards, gifts, phone calls, food, visits and flowers during my stay in the hospital and since my return home. All your concern and expressions of love have meant so much to us. May God bless you always.
A.D. Ward and Family

I would like to thank all of those who remembered me with cards, flowers, food, visits and other acts of kindness extended me while in Norfolk General Hospital. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and prayers.
Marshall Bateman