

CHURCH

Sunday School lesson

RECEIVE NEW LIFE (John 2:1-11; 3:16-18)

"God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:17)

With last week's lesson we began a series of three studies under the theme of "The Meaning of New Life."

In the first lesson we saw that God's Son is the Word of Life, and the Light of Life. In today's lesson we shall see that all who will may "receive new life," an everlasting life in Christ, according to the Apostle John.

The Scripture given for today's study is taken from the second and third chapters of John's Gospel. The event recorded is that of a wedding which took place at Cana, a town near Nazareth.

It was here that Jesus turned the water into wine; the first recorded miracle of His public ministry. Just prior to this Jesus had gone to the River Jordan and had been baptized by John.

Following His baptism He was led into the wilderness area by the spirit to be tempted of the

Devil for 40 days. After these events He was ready to begin His public ministry by calling some of the men who were to become His disciples — and apostles.

Among those were Andrew, Peter and Phillip, and most probably James and John, the sons of Zebedee and Nathanael. Jesus and these disciples were invited to the wedding in Cana.

JESUS AT THE WEDDING FEAST (John 2:1-2)

Some view Jesus' character as being one of only sternness and seriousness. To be sure He was very serious about His mission in the world, and God's redemptive work. But aside from that, He did exhibit social graces on occasion.

He probably had, along with His strong character, an enhancing personality. He was popular as a dinner guest as the Scriptures record. It would not be unusual for Him to be invited to a wedding feast.

REQUEST AND RESPONSE (John 2:3-10)

Upon their arrival at the wedding, Jesus was presented

with a problem. His mother, also a guest, brought to His attention that there was no wine left. You see, weddings in those days lasted for several days — it was a great social occasion.

Why did Jesus' mother come to Him with the problem? There is no ready answer to that. We may surmise; however, that she was acutely aware that her Son was the Messiah, and therefore, able to handle any difficulty.

Jesus' response to His mother's request is very unusual for us in the 20th century; "Woman, what have I to do with thee?" This seems an impolite reply. Yet, this form of address was common in Jesus' day. One theologian, in addressing these verses of Scripture, notes that Jesus was telling His mother politely, but firmly, that the former mother-son relationship was coming to an end.

Jesus did go on and do the miracle, and it was useful in strengthening the faith of His disciples. Verse 11 records the results, "This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of

Galilee, and manifested forth His glory and His disciples believed on Him."

GOD'S PURPOSE TOWARDS MAN (John 3:16-18)

After the wedding in Cana, Jesus went to Capernaum, and then, after a few days, to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. While in Jerusalem He had a visitor who came to see Him at night. He was troubled by this new Gospel which Jesus taught.

The visitor was Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a leader of the Jews. These last three verses of our Scripture text record the closing conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. Read all of Chapter three for the full story.

Included in these verses is John 3:16. No verse of Scripture is better known or more frequently quoted than this verse, and rightly so, for it is the "Golden Text."

It sets forth God's purpose toward man.



Brownie troop leader Pat Lewis is shown with Jenny Hurdle as she becomes a new brownie at investiture services held last week at Hertford Grammar School. (Photo by Cindy Leicester)

Investiture service held

Brownie investiture services were held at the Hertford Grammar School on Tuesday, December 18.

During these services new Brownies received their Brownie pins, from troop leader Pat Lewis, and dedicated themselves to going good for others, which is one of the main duties of a brownie.

Girls who were previously Brownies, rededicated themselves to the Brownie organization during these services.

Following investiture services

a Christmas party was held at the school.

For Your Information
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LeRoy named general chairman

Daniel E. LeRoy, pastor of the



THE REV. DANIEL LEROY

Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church, is serving as General Chairman for Knoxville 84, the Southern Area Wesleyan Youth Convention, December 26-28, in Knoxville, Tennessee.

As General Chairman, he will be responsible for general supervision of all convention activities.

The convention, held every four years, is expected to attract 180 Wesleyan Youth and their leaders from throughout the southeastern United States.

During the three-day convention, the youth will attend inspirational rallies, seminars and concerts featuring nationally known speakers and singers.

The goal of the convention is 'changed lives,' and speakers will be addressing such topics as 'Repentance,' 'The Deeper Life,' 'Pure Dating Relationships,' 'Reaching a Lost World' and 'The Call.'

The convention will be housed in the Hyatt Regency Knoxville and the Knoxville Hilton, with meetings being held in the Civic Auditorium.

The Southern Area Wesleyan Youth Convention is a ministry of the Wesleyan Church which has its headquarters in Marion, Indiana.

Church news

UP RIVER

FRIENDS MEETING

A missionary film entitled "Escape from Darkness" will be shown at Up River Friends Meeting on December 30 during the 7:00 p.m. evening service. This new film, produced by

Key to good parenting

Mothers and fathers are at their parenting best when they are consistent, confident and caring.

"These attitudes toward their children are far more important than the specific methods parents use," says Dr. Frances Wagner, extension human development specialist, North Carolina State University.

Be consistent in routines. When taking care of a young child, do things the same way every time every day.

"Babies and young children are learning how to respond to you. They are learning to help you help them and to help themselves. A baby can soon predict which arm to raise to be pushed through the armhole or how to hold out a foot for a sock," Dr. Wagner says.

Consistence in routines helps children to be more cooperative and knowing what is going on in their lives helps them to feel they have some control.

It is also important to be consistent in temperament. For example, say you usually rough-house with a child when arriving home from work but don't feel well one evening. Tell the child you wish you could play but don't feel well. Give him a hug instead.

A Word From Mt. Sinai

Seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus the prophet Isaiah said, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given," (Isa. 9:6) "his name shall be called wonderful, counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

The prophet Micah would name Bethlehem to be the birthplace. (Micah 5:2)

This is more than enough evidence that Jesus Christ is God in human flesh. The Son of God is the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father is the Son of God.

You may be like many who want to understand all this before you become a Christian. You may never be a Christian if this is your attitude. You must trust Christ for salvation. Jesus will become the light of your life.

He will enlighten your heart and mind to these truths that the lost sinner cannot understand. Receive God's gift this Christmas season and have "Peace on Earth."

Happy Holidays from all of us at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church.

George Willmore, Pastor

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