

# Church

## Events outlined which will lead to the death of Jesus

### Sunday school lesson

#### IN THE GARDEN

(Luke 22:39-53)  
 "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless, not my will but thine be done." (Luke 22:42)

It was spring in Palestine (about April on our calendar) the year was A.D. 30. The place was the Garden of Gethsemane (the name means "oil press") located part way up the Mount of Olives, which lay west of Jerusalem across the Kidron Brook. It was Thursday night, but because the Jewish day started at sundown it was actually early Friday.

It was here that events would begin that would lead to Christ's death on the cross, His burial and His resurrection from the tomb. These are the essential elements of the Christian faith. With these events completed, Christ's earthly mission would be vir-

tually completed.

Christ's mission was to establish God's Kingdom, to establish a new covenant between God and man and to seal that covenant with His own blood, and to teach how the new kingdom citizens were to live. It was a new day for people; full of hope for the future. God's thread of redemption—which began with the fall of Adam and Eve—would now be different.

Previously, God's laws (commands) were written on tablets of stone, now they would be written on the hearts of mankind, lest they should forget. But first, Christ had to endure the humiliation, the shame and the agony of a sacrificial death on the cross.

#### PRAYER

(Luke 22:39-46)  
 After eating the last supper (Pas-

sover meal) with Apostles in the upper room, Jesus and His Apostles left and made their way toward the Mount of Olives, where Gethsemane was located. As the group moved along He continued to teach them. When they arrived at Gethsemane Jesus said unto them, "Pray that ye enter not into temptation." (Vs. 40) A warning of the events to come which they would not fully understand.

He had already warned them that they would be tempted to stumble that night, and Peter, especially, would be tempted to deny that he even knew Jesus. Jesus then withdrew a short distance from the others for prayer. How interesting it is to note the many times the New Testament records that Jesus prayed.

That in itself, makes a strong statement to Christians. Verse 42 records that He prayed to the Father

that the bitter of the cross might be removed—Nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done."

God sent an angel to strengthen Him. Verse 44 tells us that Jesus was in agony as He prayed, and that He literally sweat drops of blood which fell to the ground. Our word "agony" comes from the Greek word "Agonia", which means "a desperate conflict in the arena."

On the internal conflict which must have been raging between Jesus, the God and Jesus, the human. It was the human Jesus who suffered the agonies of the crucifixion. Judas, the betrayer, one of His inner circle of twelve, added to the suffering.

#### ARREST

(Luke 22:47-53)  
 Jesus, having finished praying, joined the eleven Apostles who had fallen asleep, and admonished them

to "pray, lest ye enter into temptation." Jesus knew that the events of this night would try their souls. At this time a large group of people from Jerusalem approached them, led by Judas, the Apostle—he would betray Jesus with a kiss.

He was accompanied by the chief priests, soldiers, and other religious leaders, for they had determined the time was right for Jesus' arrest and trial. If the religious leaders had been searching for the truth of Jesus' identity they would have found it this night in one of Jesus' acts. He did a miracle before their very eyes—replaced a servant's ear which had been cut off. Jesus said to the religious leaders in verse 53, "This is your hour, and the power of darkness," Jesus did resist because "for

this purpose He had come into the world." (Lesson based on the International Sunday School Lessons)

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Dear friends,



Child psychologists urge parents to avoid over-protecting the child during bereavement in the family. There is no way to truly avoid the impact of death upon the child, and it is best to treat it as a normal life experience. Answer the child's questions about death simply and briefly. Your clergyman can assist in this difficult situation.

Respectfully,

*Larry S. Deel*

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## Piney Grove to hold outdoor drama

"Because I live, ye shall live also. This is the glorious Message of Easter." Thus begins Piney Grove Baptist Church's 8th annual outdoor presentation of *The Message Of Easter*. The story is the greatest ever told; however, the actors and technicians are not professional theater people, but rather members of the Piney Grove Baptist Church near Williamston, N.C.

Entering into its eighth season as a production, the drama will be presented Friday, April through Monday, April 20 with performances at 8:15 p.m. each evening. As always, there is no admission charge.

The effort behind the drama, like the attendance, has grown from year to year. Having begun in 1980 with a cast of approximately 50 people, the 1987 production will feature a cast of approximately 130 with another 40 to 50 people working in technical areas.

The production has a remarkable amount of realism, most of which has been created through the efforts of the Piney Grove Church members. Costumes, lighting, and a specially designed outdoor theatre help transport the audience back 2000 years to the streets of old Jerusalem and the surrounding hillsides. The realism is even more evident as the familiar story moves from scene to scene.

The drama seems to make the audience a part of the events rather than just observers.

A spokesman for Piney Grove Baptist Church has extended an invitation to the general public to attend any of the performances. More information may be obtained by calling (919) 792-4977 or 792-4875 or writing

The Message Of Easter C-O E.T. Taylor, Rt. 1, Box 720, Williamston, N.C. 27892.

## Church News First Baptist schedule

The First Baptist Church Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. with the superintendent, R.B. Gibbs, in charge. Morning worship starts at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor London preaching from the subject "Yielding To The Holy Spirit" Roman 6:13. The senior choir will be singing under the direction of Robert Thomas.

The Pastor's Aide Club of First Baptist Church will have their anniversary at 2:30 p.m. The Galatia Male Chorus will sing and Rev. J.H. London will Preach from the Subject "Don't take the Easy Way Out" Genesis 26:18.

Please come share with these hard working ladies of the church who help the pastor.

## Singers perform

The Solid Rock Gospel Singers will be ministering in music in a special Saturday Night Singing at the Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church this Saturday evening, March 21, at 7:30 p.m.

The Solid Rock Gospel Singers are from Belhaven. One of the members of the group is Gail Watson Gibbs, formerly of the Bagley Swamp Community.

The Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church is located five miles northeast of Hertford, between Winfall and Belvidere, one and one-half miles

east of Highway 37.

For more information contact the pastor, Daniel E. LeRoy, at 426-7476.

## Saunders Grove

Saunders Grove Baptist Church Ushers are sponsoring a musical program on Sunday, March 22nd at 4:00 p.m. All singing groups are invited to participate.

The public is invited to attend.

## Service set

The Rev. Ricky Banks, choir, ushers and congregation of St. Stephens Baptist Church of Elizabeth City will render service at St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church on Sunday, March 22nd at 3:00 p.m. The Rev. Thomas McPherson, host pastor, invites the public to attend.

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## Cards of Thanks

To all my friends I would like to thank you for your prayers, visits, cards, flowers, and gifts you gave me during my stay in the hospital at Norfolk General and since my return home. A special thanks to Dr. R. E. Lane.  
 Elizabeth (Lib) Thach

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### IN MEMORIAL

In loving memory of my husband, Merrill Elisha Copeland, who passed away March 19, 1986:  
 "It broke our hearts to lose you,  
 You did not go alone.  
 For part of us went with you,  
 The day God called you home."  
 Wife and Family

## "READ THE DIRECTIONS"

**Pastor Raymond C. Needham**  
**Hertford Baptist Church**  
**Hertford, N.C.**

"After trying everything else, read the directions." Have these words ever been spoken to you? Have you ever made a mess of things and become frustrated simply because you did not first read the directions? Sometimes such failure results in sorrow, regret and even a great expense.

How much better life would be for many if only God's directions were consulted and followed instead of depending on human wisdom and one's self-chosen way! God's word says, "This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." (Isaiah 30:21). God created a moral universe, and He sets forth His righteous standards and calls men to live by them. Yet, we live in a nation and world that is characterized largely by hurt, pain, sorrow, regret, and frustration, much of which is self-induced, mainly because God's way is ignored. In Jeremiah 6:16 we read, "Thus saith the Lord, Stand in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk in it, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk in it." How irrational man can be! He often takes the course of the dying man who has in his hands life-giving medicine, and yet dies because he refuses to take it. Individual lives, homes, and nations self-destruct for the same reason. Listen to these words from Jeremiah 7:23; "But this thing commanded I them saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people; and walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you." God promises to bless those who walk in His ways. Do we want "it to be well with us?" Do we want inner peace and contentment, and sustaining grace when we face trials? Then the Lord says that we should follow His directions. If we want good relations with others, then follow His instruction and "walk in love" (Ephesians 5:2). Do you want your family relationships to be blessed? Then give heed to His guidelines as found in His word (Ephesians 5:22-6:4). He Who instituted the home, knows best how the members of it should relate to one another. Read and find out. Apply it and be blessed!

Why not read the instructions He has provided for each of our lives? The Psalmist said, "Thy word have I hidden in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:11). Spend time with Him Who knows what is best for you. The hymn writer well stated it when he penned these words, "Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer."

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