

Church news

Sunday school lesson Jesus begins teaching that the kingdom of God is close at hand to his many followers

"As ye go, preach, saying, The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:7-8)

It had been close to two years since Jesus had been baptized by John in the River Jordan, and had been tempted by the devil in the wilderness. As He moved about teaching and preaching the Kingdom of Heaven, and healing all manner of afflictions and diseases, many disciples followed him. From these disciples Jesus chose twelve men to be apostles. The word "apostle" means "one sent forth." The apostles were ambassadors of the One who sent them. In the case of our lesson today, these were sent on a special preaching mission. Jesus did not just send them out; He taught them, instructed them, empowered them and then trusted them. It is most interesting to note that Jesus equipped the apostles for the mission. He warned them of the pitfalls in the world, but He did not build a protective wall around them to protect them from man's evil. The warning given in verse 16 was, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves..." The Christian walk of a consecrated, dedi-

icated disciple is not supposed to be in a flower garden amongst the beds of roses. It is rather out in the world among people who need Jesus and salvation. It is there that one finds the narrow path, strewn with rocks and thorn bushes.

THE TWELVE EMPOWERED.
(Matthew 10:1-8)

That dedicated disciple that goes out into the highways and byways as Christ's ambassador does not go as one entirely on his own, he goes empowered. He is equipped with the ability and the power of the Spirit to fulfill his mission. In the case of the apostles in today's lesson, Jesus gave them power to heal sickness and disease, cleanse lepers, raise the dead and cast out devils. In addition to this, He gave them the ability to preach God's Word. The message that they were to preach was "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MINISTRY.
(Matthew 10:5-8)

"...Freely ye have receive, freely give." (Verse 8)
Christian people are sometimes admonished, and rightly so, that they

cannot outgive God. While the twelve apostles were to preach God's Word as they went forth, they also were to minister to people's physical needs as well. At first it sounds cruel that Jesus would tell the apostles not to go to the Gentiles or to the Samaritans. However, this was a temporary instruction for that particular assignment only. A little later they would be instructed to go to the whole world with the good news of salvation. It was a matter of fulfilling prophecy. God had promised that the Messiah would come to the Jews (House of Israel) first. The Jews were expecting the Messiah and through converted Jews the Gentiles and the Samaritans would eventually be evangelized.

WARNINGS AND PROVISIONS.
(Matthew 10:16-20)

"Behold I send you forth as sheep among wolves..." (Verse 16)
In the words of one commentator, Jesus never sugar coated what His disciples might face in life. He promised them privileges and He promised to be with them, but He let them know about the problems. There would be jealousy, hostility and religious politics awaiting to snare them. They would be brought before reli-

gious councils and given lashes with the whip. They would be brought before kings and governors. Few people want their vested interest challenged by the truth of Christianity. This speaks to Christians of today. Christians who carry on Jesus' work should be ready to pay the price if called upon for Jesus said, "Take up your cross and follow me."

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The First Baptist Church School will be at 9:45 a.m. Morning worship will be at 11 a.m. The Reverend How-

ard Manley will preach for the Missionary Hour. The Senior Choir will be singing under the direction of Sis. Barbra Shannon.

The J.H. London Crusader Gospel Singers will have a musical program Sunday night, January 31, 1988 at 6:30 p.m. The New Spirit Gospel Singers, J.L. Wills Echoes Singers, and soloist, Sis. Arnita Rouse Tillet will be performing.


Come and enjoy an event of gospel music.

Mid-Week Prayer and Bible Study will be Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to come and worship the Lord.

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Dear friends,

How does one explain death to a child? Very simply, and directly, as a normal part of life — it is all about us is nature. When a pet dies, or a relative or close friend, certainly an explanation is called for. When children know what to expect, they feel less apprehensive and insecure.

Respectfully,

Harry Swindell

**Swindell
Funeral
Home, Inc.**
509 Dobbs Street
Hertford, N.C.
426-7311

Snug Harbor Church schedule

Snug Harbor Community Church holds a Worship Service Sunday at 9 a.m. followed by Sunday School for all ages at 10:15 a.m.

In the evening at 7 p.m., there is an Adult Bible Study; Youth Group Meeting (6-12 yrs.) and a Teen Group Meeting.

We are an Interdenominational Church. All are welcome to join in our activities and fellowship.

Host families sought for students

1. Host Families are being sought for 25 high school students from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Holland, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Brazil, Ecuador, Australia and Japan for the SCHOOL YEAR 1988-89 in a program sponsored by the American Intercultural Student Exchange (AISE).

The students, age 15 through 17, will arrive in the United States in August, 1988, attend a local high school, and return to their home countries in June 1989. The students, all fluent in English, have been screened by their school representatives in their home countries and have spending money and medical insurance.

2. AISE is also seeking AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS age 15 through 17, who would like to spend a HIGH SCHOOL YEAR in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, France, Spain or Australia or participate in a FIVE WEEK SUMMER HOST FAMILY STAY throughout Western Europe including Ireland.

Families interested in this program should contact the person named above or telephone toll free: 1-800-SIBLING.

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**NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Amendments to the Perquimans County Flood Damage - Prevention Ordinance on Monday, February 1, 1988 at 9:45 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Perquimans County Courthouse.

N. Paul Gregory, Jr.
County Manager

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"THE REFUSED REMEDY"

Submitted by, **Raymond C. Needham**
Pastor, Hertford Baptist Church

Most of us are familiar with the rich young ruler who came to Jesus desiring to know how he could have eternal life. The Master said to him, "You know the commandments," and then recited some of them. The young man replied, "All these have I kept from my youth up," but to his surprise Jesus told him that he lacked one thing. He said, "...go thy way, sell whatever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow me." Hearing this, the young inquirer was saddened and went away grieved, for he had great possessions. He had been brought abruptly face to face with the fact that he had put another god before the Living Lord—his wealth. Thus he walked away from the only one who could give him the eternal life which he had come seeking. He refused the remedy.

Many have followed his example. Multitudes have within their hearts a deep desire for peace and for something that will really satisfy the deep yearnings of the soul. They realize that for all their strivings and seeking for fulfillment, the emptiness is still there. The rich young man had, as we would say, all that you could ask for in his life. The tragedy of the story is seen in the fact that he could have received the everlasting life that day and gone away with peace in his heart, but he refused the remedy, Jesus.

This refusal frequently is repeated in other ways in our day. Even a nation can refuse the remedy that would bring healing to the wounds which are inflicted by the sinful and selfish ambitions of men. The news reports of the day can be characterized as primarily bad news—violence, conflicts, terrorism, verbal assaults on others, and a host of other evils that eat like a cancer in our society. There is a reason for this, and also an answer, both of which are summed up in the following words of Noah Webster.

The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.

Mankind is obsessed with the delusion that he can, in his own wisdom, order his life and be successful. Thus he keeps up his struggle, even in the face of failure, and refuses the one remedy which lies with the Creator of us all and His inspired word, the Bible, which is sufficient to guide us into a life that is truly blessed.

Remember, the rich young man went away from the Master saddened and grieved, refusing Him as Lord. Yet there were others who accepted the life which He offered, and thus received healing and rest unto their soul. Let us not refuse the Remedy!

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