

## Sunday School Lesson

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Temple officials.

## What the Scripture Says to Us

A lot of words in the vocabulary of Christianity need a vacation. They have become so familiar that we do not really hear the meaning they were intended to convey. We are much like a man who has lived beside a railroad track for so long that he no longer hears the trains as they go by.

The title of our lesson contains two such words — confes-

sion and covenant. They refer to a situation in which people were being brutally honest with themselves and with God and were promising to be completely attentive to God in the future. Perhaps the lesson title would have more meaning for us if it were "Honesty and Attentiveness."

## Honesty Before God

Man's relation to God involves two types of honesty — honesty as to how we understand God and honesty as to how we see ourselves.

Part of our human imperfec-

tion is a tendency to think that God's claims upon us are unreasonable. We brush aside the Sermon on the Mount, for example. Should we make no protest when a thief steals our automobile? Is this really the style of life God demands? Of course not, we say. Thus we "water down" the New Testament.

Such dishonesty as this destroys all our attempts to worship, for honesty is at the heart of worship. Honesty in worship demands that we openly admit that we have rejected God's claim on us. It requires our ad-

mission that we have made a god we can control—or at least outguess. Such honesty is confession of sin. Repentance is turning to God in honesty.

This honesty about who we are and what we have done assumes that we are honest also about who God is. In true worship we honestly admit that God is God. He is not the tame, American-style superman that we like to pretend. God is the one who is concerned for the well-being of his entire creation—our enemies as well as ourselves. It is he who takes up

both the evil and the good that men do and uses it to open the door of the future.

## Attentiveness to God

The other element of our response to God suggested in the Nehemiah passage is attentiveness.

Using traditional language, we have often said that the covenant was at the heart of Israel's life. To be in covenant relationship means to be attentive to what God is doing in the world daily. Such attentiveness means to be ready to recognize that God does

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## What Makes the Piedmont Great



Not everyone appreciates a relative who spreads rumors. But Dr. David Caldwell and his wife, Rachel, were eternally grateful for the rumor spread by Rachel's sister, Mary Dunlap.

Dr. Caldwell was truly an all-around man. From 1768 to 1824, he served as minister to two congregations in the Greensboro area. He was also a self-taught doctor of medicine, an educator and an outspoken critic of British tyranny.

In fact, he was so influential, he was forced to spend almost the entire revolution in hiding.

One day he returned to his home and was seized by the enemy. It was a great moment for the British, but only a moment.

The next move was a mistake. They decided to ransack his home before taking him back to their camp.

Leaving him with a guard, they set about their destructive work. Mary, who happened to be with the Caldwells at the time, saw this as an opportunity and gambled. She approached Dr. Caldwell and whispered, just loud enough for the guard to hear, "Shouldn't Gillespie be coming?" Gillespie was the leader of a small but effective army of patriots. And he was nowhere in the area. But the guard didn't know that. So, fearing that he and his men were about to be attacked, he warned the officer-

## Mary Dunlap's Rumor.

in-charge. The officer rounded up his men and hurried away, leaving Dr. Caldwell and his wife in peace. It is difficult to measure fully Dr. Caldwell's influence on the people of his time. But we do know that five-state governors, fifty ministers and many physicians, lawyers and judges received their classical edu-

cations in his little school.

Had Dr. Caldwell been taken away that day, he might never have continued his work. But thanks to the imagination and ingenuity of Mary Dunlap, he carried on.

Mrs. Dunlap's rumor happened almost 200 years ago. But the imagination and ingenuity it demonstrates continues today.

At Duke Power, imagination and ingenuity have always been a part of our philosophy. When Duke Power was founded in 1904, the company's concept of turning the entire Catawba River Valley into a hydroelectric system was an innovation.

For the 1970's we're putting imagination to work in building one of the world's largest nuclear generating stations at Oconee, South Carolina.

And our philosophy will continue to work for the people of the Piedmont as long as we serve this area.

**Duke Power**

Working for the Piedmont,  
in the spirit that made it great.

