

Improved Uniform International LESSON

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Lesson for March 28

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THE APPEARANCES AFTER THE RESURRECTION

LESSON TEXT—John 20:19-31.
GOLDEN TEXT—I am alive for evermore.—Revelation 1:18.

The most important day in all history was the first day of the week following the crucifixion of Christ. Then He appeared to His disciples as their risen Lord. All the hope of all mankind for all eternity depended on His victory over death.

By eventide news had come to the disciples of His resurrection, and half in hope and half in uncertainty they had gathered to talk over these matters. Fearful of the Jews, they met behind closed doors. All at once He was there—the Lord Himself. What a wonderful change came over them as He made Himself known to them. They went:

I. From Fear to Gladness (vv. 19, 20).

Their eyes had been upon their enemies and they were afraid. Now they were glad, when they saw the Lord. "We need to learn that lesson. If we look within we are ashamed and discouraged. If we look around us we are confused and fearful. If we look to Christ we are glad and strong."

Notice that their joy was not based only on an emotional impulse. They saw Christ in His resurrection body—the very One who had died. The evidence was there before them. Now they could understand the things He had said to them. The whole realm of spiritual truth was now in focus again, and they were glad. So are we when we really see Christ.

II. From Weakness to Strength (vv. 21-23).

The disciples who were called to be witnesses for Christ had lost their testimony when He died on the cross. Unbelief and discouragement had so weakened them that they were in hiding instead of being out proclaiming His truth.

Now the risen and victorious One sent them forth with the Father's blessing. They were empowered by the Holy Spirit, and given great authority (v. 23). Note that it was given not to one man or to the leaders, but to all the disciples. It was "a declarative right, and it belongs to every true disciple. Those who have received the gift of the Holy Spirit are in a position to declare to men that their sincere repentance brings forgiveness" (Douglass). The opposite is also true.

III. From Doubt to Faith (vv. 24-26).

Thomas, who had doubts and who cultivated them by his stubborn attitude (v. 25), did himself and his brethren a serious disservice by being absent from the meeting on the evening of the first Easter Day. When he did appear he had only doubts to contribute. Let those who make a custom of absenting themselves from the place and hour of service beware lest they do likewise.

His doubts were honest ones—and God always meets such questions, honestly and intelligently. When the evidence was before him, the heart of Thomas leaped the chasm from doubt to faith in one cry of complete devotion (v. 28).

It is significant that down through the ages many doubters have been won to Christ by the proof of the resurrection of Christ, which is by the testimony of historical scholars "the best authenticated fact in all history." The risen Christ stands before men today and says, "Be not faithless but believing." May many respond with Thomas, "My Lord and my God."

IV. From Death to Life (vv. 29-31).

Christ arose from the dead not just to show that He had power to do so, but, as Paul puts it, "for our justification" (Rom. 4:25). The reality and dependability of the entire plan of salvation hinged on the return of Christ from the dead. Had the grave held Him, His claims of deity and of the ability to forgive sin would have been entirely discredited. Because He lives we shall live.

The experience of regeneration is therefore likened in Scripture to a passing from death to life (John 5:24). Thomas saw the Lord, and believing, passed from doubt to faith. We cannot see Him now, but we have the blessed privilege of believing and thus receiving life (vv. 29, 30).

This was the message which the snow radiant and empowered disciples went out to preach. The book of Acts tells us how effectively they did it, and shows how much of their preaching centered on the fact of the resurrection.

The command and the commission was not to them alone, but also to all of us who believe in Christ. May God take out of us the fear of men, overcome our weakness, and send us out with renewed faith to make this life-giving message known to our fellow men.

Creamed Comments On The Sunday School Lesson

Creamed comments on the Sunday School lesson, "Our Lord's Intercessory Prayer."—John 17:1-26 for Sunday, March 21.

With humility and with a profound feeling of unworthiness we approach the attempt to explain Christ's wonderful prayer for himself, his disciples, and the world.

v. 1. These spake Jesus; and lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said, "Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son may glorify thee." "The hour is come" is a statement we will all have to make, but, in that, it is possible to glorify God; it is then that Christian character counts.

v. 2. "Even as thou gavest him authority over all flesh, that to all whom thou hast given him, he should give eternal life." Note Christ's gratitude for the privilege of passing on to his disciples the precious gift of eternal life. Our greatest privilege is to help others to eternal life.

v. 3. "And this is life eternal, that they should know thee, the only true God, and him whom thou didst send, even Jesus Christ." Life eternal is more than immortal living; it is a quality of life here and now. There is a knowledge that passeth all understanding, the possession of truths and the experiences of compelling evidences of God and his will.

v. 4. "I glorify thee on earth, having accomplished the work which thou hast given me to do." Doing God's will glorifies him. If we would do God's will we must perform work for him—a work for which we are best fitted.

v. 5. "And now, Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory I had with thee before the world was." Jesus now looks forward to a glorious home-going and enjoying the fellowship of the Godhead from all eternity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

v. 6. "I manifested thy name unto the men whom thou gavest me out of the world, and thou gavest them to me, and they have kept thy word." It was Christ's purpose to reveal to men the true character of God as a loving and holy Father. This was first done to the inner circle who could best understand and were the most willing to respond to his will.

v. 7. "Now they know that all things whatsoever thou hast given me I have given unto them, and knew of a truth that I came from thee, and they believed that thou didst send me." His teachings which we often declared had come from God had been delivered to the disciples and were truly received as such; they first held the truth and now the truth holds them.

v. 18. "As thou didst send me into the world, even so send I them into the world." As God commissioned Christ to go forth into the world to proclaim salvation to all men, so Jesus commissions his disciples to do the same.

v. 19. "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified." The first "sanctify" means that Christ set himself apart for the redemption of mankind; the second time this word is used it means that the disciples are not only to be set apart for Christian service but that they are to be purified also.

v. 20. "Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me through their word."

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To know that Jesus is praying for each one of us ought to make us humble, and devotedly earnest in doing his will.

v. 21. "That they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, I in thee, that they also may be in us; that the world may believe that thou didst send me." There is a unique and mysterious union of the Father and the Son in the Trinity; so there is a unique and mysterious union of God's children with Christ and God. In this union there is a force that causes people to believe in Christ and in God. Herein lies the glory of God as stated in the two following verses.

v. 24. "Father, I desire that they also whom thou hast given me be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me; for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." It is the last of life for which the first was made. Jesus wants that all end well.

v. 25. "O righteous Father, the world knew thee not, but I know thee; and these knew that thou didst send me." Christ makes an appeal to God's justice. It is an appeal to make a distinction between the unbelieving world and those who have accepted Christ, accordance with his wish expressed that the latter may be rewarded in verse 24.



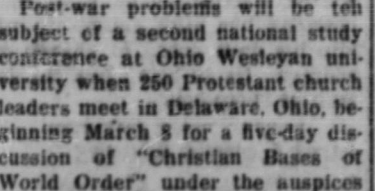
The Northern Baptist Church has oversubscribed by \$15,000 its goal of \$600,000 for a World Relief fund. April 30 had been set as the deadline. A similar campaign will be conducted next year.

The Palestine Foundation Fund of the United States has provided money for the settlement of 4,500 Jewish children and 500 Jewish adults in Bulgaria in Palestine, the New York headquarters of the fund has announced.

On March 12 a hemisphere crusade dedicated to winning the war this year will begin in a number of Roman Catholic churches here in the U. S. and in Central and South America. The crusade will take the form of a novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Stating that in 1943 Army and Navy will need 5,500 additional chaplains, the General Commission on Army and Navy Chaplains reports to the executive committee of the Federal Council of Churches some methods used by individual churches to free their pastors for the chaplaincy. "The churches left vacant when their ministers become chaplains are meeting the situation in various ways. Some are availing themselves of the temporary service of retired ministers or of missionaries on extended furlough. Some obtain the part-time service of a neighboring pastor. In other cases the laymen are carrying on the preaching and pastoral work with the occasional assistance of an ordained man from another church of the same or a different denomination. Some churches being conducted largely by the laymen report increased activity and attendance at services."

Post-war problems will be the subject of a second national study conference at Ohio Wesleyan university when 250 Protestant church leaders meet in Delaware, Ohio, beginning March 3 for a five-day discussion of "Christian Bases of World Order" under the auspices of the division of foreign missions of the Methodist church. The purpose of the conference, according to Dr. Ralph Diefendorfer, secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, is "to lift into prominence some of the fundamental issues which are involved in world order."



Bass Singers and the Church
Some one observing the trend of the boys and girls Sunday morning said, "When I looked out this snowy morning, I saw the girls on their way to Sunday schools and the boys coasting down the hill on their sleds. Verily, it looks like there will be hardly men enough in heaven to sing bass."



Trade in a Good Town - Decatur

CHURCHES

First Presbyterian Church
Five Points
George O. Walton, minister

9:00 a. m.—Junior Bible hour. Mrs. W. A. Lower.
9:30 a. m.—Morning worship. Sermon, "The New Testament Church With Its Back to the Wall." Text, "Consider Him, lest ye faint in your minds."
5:30 p. m.—Youth league.
The confirmation class will meet Monday afternoon at 2:45.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
First Mass.....6:00 A. M.
Second Mass.....7:30 A. M.
Children's Mass.....9:00 A. M.
High Mass.....10:15 A. M.
Holy Hour Sunday.....2:30 P. M.
Communion Sunday for the St. Mary's Society.
Tuesday Lenten Sermon 7:30 P. M.
Friday Way of Cross, 7:30 P. M.
Rev. Joseph J. Seimetz, Pastor

First Evangelical Church
George S. Lozier, Minister
9:15 a. m.—Sunday school. Mr. Gregg McFarland, superintendent.
10:10 a. m.—Divine Worship service. Sermon theme: "The Merciful."
10:10 a. m.—Mission Band and Little Heralds.
6:00 p. m.—Intermediate and Senior Christian Endeavor.
7:00 p. m.—Sunday Evening Fellowship. Sermon theme: "How Strong Am I?"
7:00 p. m., Wednesday—Prayer and praise service.

The annual business meeting of the congregation is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 7, at 7:30 o'clock p. m. in the social room of the church. In addition to other items of business which will be considered there will be the election of two trustees.

Church of God
Glen Marshall, Pastor
9:30-11:20 Unified service. The pastor will bring the message on the theme "Keeping the Soul on Top."

Worship services are provided for the boys and girls as well as for the adults and youth.
6:30—Shining Lights. A service for the boys and girls. Mrs. Edith Smiley, leader.
6:30—Christian Crusaders. A service for youth fellowship. Miss Pauline Hawkins, president.
7:30—Evening Evangelistic service. This will be the closing service of the present revival campaign.

The public is most cordially invited to attend all the services of this congregation.

Zion Evangelical and Reformed
William C. Feller, Pastor
Sunday school at 9:00 a. m. T. L. Becker, superintendent. Classes for all ages, under capable teachers.

Worship service at 10:00 a. m. Sermon: "Vicarious Suffering." The young people will meet at 6:15 p. m. Sunday for a reorganization meeting. All young people of the church are invited.

Midweek Lenten service, Wednesday at 7:30 p. m. Meditation by the pastor: "The Friend of Sinners."
Combined choir rehearsal at 8:30 p. m. on Wednesday, following the midweek service.

The Circles of the Women's Guild will meet on Thursday, 2:00 p. m. Ruth and Naomi Circle in the church parlor.
8:00 p. m. Philanthropic Circle in the home of Mrs. M. F. Worthman.
8:00 p. m. Bethany Circle in the home of Mrs. A. Brushwiler.
8:00 p. m. Friendship Circle in the home of Mrs. Homer Barton.

If you are without a church home in the city we cordially invite you to worship with us.

Nuttman Ave. U. B. Church
Delbert Cross, pastor

9:30 a. m.—Sunday school. Lawrence Michel, superintendent.
10:30 a. m.—Worship service. Sermon by pastor.
6:30 p. m.—Christian Endeavor.
7:30 p. m.—Evangelistic service. Message by pastor.
7:30 p. m. Wednesday—Midweek prayer service.

We invite you to come worship with us in these services.

First United Brethren Church
R. Wilson, minister

Sunday school, 9:15 a. m. Curtis Hill, superintendent.
Worship, 10:30 a. m. Sermon, "The Sign of the Cross."
C. E. at 6:30 p. m.
Evening worship, 7:30 p. m.
Bible study Monday evening at 7:30 p. m.
Orchestra practice, prayer meeting and choir practice Wednesday

evening at 6:15, 7 and 8 o'clock. Attend the church of your choice every Sunday. If we are fighting for this privilege, why not use it?

First Baptist Church
Carey R. Moser, pastor

9:30 a. m.—Bible school. Classes you will enjoy. C. E. Bell, superintendent.
10:15 a. m.—Morning worship. Special music. Sermon theme, "God's All-Out Program." There will be no Junior church until next Sunday morning due to the re-decorating of the auditorium. But parents, bring your children with you into the morning worship service. We enjoy seeing them there.

7:30 p. m.—Our evening hour of fellowship. At this service we are privileged to have a young lady missionary from French Equatorial Africa, who will soon be returning to the field. She will be most interesting and we are desirous that all the families and friends of the church enjoy this hour with us.

7:30 p. m. Monday—Our monthly officers, teachers and workers meeting in behalf of our Bible school. Mrs. Brayton, our director of religious education in the grade schools of Decatur, will be our speaker. She will discuss the primary work and give opportunity for us to ask questions.

7:30 p. m. Wednesday—Our midweek service, where we pray definitely for our boys in our country's service. Will you not take time out to pray with us for these boys of ours? They are requesting us to pray, so can you do less?

8:30 p. m. Wednesday—Our monthly deacons meeting at the church.

Christian Church
Kenneth Timmons, pastor

Bible School, 9:30 a. m. D. L. Drum, superintendent.
Morning worship, 10:30 a. m. Sermon subject, "Salvation for a Mad World."
11 a. m.—Junior church.
Evening services, 7:30. Bible study in Revelations.

Zion Lutheran Church
Monroe and Eleventh St.
Paul W. Schultz, pastor

9:30 a. m.
Sunday school and Bible class.
Regular Sunday services, 10:30 a. m.
Early services, 8:30 a. m.
Lutheran hour, 2:00 p. m.
Church choir, 2:00 p. m.
Wednesday Lenten services, 7:30 p. m.
Saturday catechism school, 8:30 a. m.

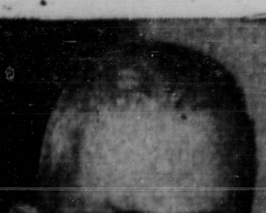
First Methodist Church
Dr. M. O. Lester, minister
L. L. Hann, S. S. Supt.

Sunday services at usual hours. Morning worship and study classes. Special music by Youth Choir under direction of Mrs. Dan Tyndall. The morning sermon subject will be "Earthen Vessels." At 7:30 the subject will be "Scaling the Heights." The men's class is asked to sponsor the evening service. The Chancel choir will provide special music at the children's worship hour.

Sunday will be another "Volunteer Day" in the church. Last Sunday one hundred people made their pledge to the 1943-44 program of the church. It is anticipated that one hundred more may make pledges this Sunday. Much generosity was shown in increasing pledges over last year's subscription.

There are souls in this world who have the gift of finding joy everywhere, and of leaving it behind them wherever they go.

General Weds



CHIEF of the U. S. Army's Services of Supply, Lieut. Gen. Brehon H. Somerville, above, has married a sweetheart of West Point cadets, Mrs. Louise Hampton Wartman, in Ocala, Fla. They first met in Arkansas, where both were born, and met again in 1935 when the general was stationed in the Florida city. (International)

DO YOU KNOW?
1. What is the origin of our phrase, "eleventh hour repentance?"
2. What is the only miracle related in all four Gospels?
3. Whom did Christ call "blind leaders of the blind?"
4. How many proverbs did Solomon speak?
5. What two books contain the Ten Commandments?
Answers found on page five.

Home Education

The American Mother of the Year Who will be the 1943, most outstanding mother will be determined by nominations received before March 31, sent to Golden Rule Foundation Mother's Day Committee, 60 East 42nd St., New York. The choice is based on the following requirements:

1. She must be a mother of character and achievement.
2. She must have the traits—courage, moral strength, patience, affection, kindness, understanding, home making ability.
3. She must have a sense of social and world relationships and a good record of community welfare work.
4. She must have a friendly disposition evidenced by the possession of a host of friends.

Full particulars may be obtained from the sponsoring organization. A Christian should be like a good watch—open face, busy hands, pure gold, well regulated, full of good works.

Don't build a mud hut in your life when you are capable of building a palace.—Gipsy Smith. Life is lived happily only when it is lived positively for the best that one knows.

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George Washington's pastor said of him, "No company ever kept him from church. I have often been at Mt. Vernon on Sabbath morning when his breakfast table was filled with guests. Instead of staying at home out of fancied courtesy to them, he would invite them to accompany him."

We love to laud the fine qualities in the Father of our country, here is one point of strength that is overlooked. His example of faithful church attendance is not well emulated by the majority of the Christians. We not accept the invitation and go to church next Sunday?



American Peace Aims

In a speech recently Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, set forward five basic principles for guiding the post-war world. The principles he enunciated are briefly as follows: 1. Extreme nationalism must not again be permitted to express itself in excessive trade restrictions. 2. Nondiscrimination in international commercial relations must be the rule, so that international trade may grow and prosper. 3. Raw material supplies must be available to all nations without discrimination. 4. International agreements regulating the supply of commodities must be so handled so to protect fully the interests of the consuming countries and their people. 5. The institutions and arrangements of international finance must be so set up that they lend aid to the essential enterprises and

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