

**Improved
Uniform
International** **SUNDAY
SCHOOL**
LESSON

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Lesson for April 14

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**HOW JESUS' FRIENDS
RESPONDED**

LESSON TEXT—Mark 1:16-20; 5:18-20;
10:46, 52; Luke 5:27, 28.

MEMORY SELECTION—He left all, rose up, and followed him.—Luke 5:28.

Friendship calls for an exchange of gifts or possessions necessarily, but of service, love and fellowship.

The friends of Jesus responded to the warmth of His affection and the appeal of His call, and they gave themselves in life and service to Him.

Many in the church have forgotten that part of the friendship of Jesus Christ. They want to count Him as their friend, they expect much of Him; but they give little or nothing in return. Their love is cold, their service indifferent, their witness powerless.

Not every one of Jesus' friends is called to be a preacher or a teacher. He needs those who will be His faithful followers, just a living testimony without special office or message.

To effectively present the contrasts of our lesson, we have arranged the verses in slightly different sequence. Among the friends of Jesus

I. Some Became Preachers (Mark 1:16-20)

These men had met Jesus before (John 1:35-51), but now He was ready to call them away from their daily occupation as fishermen and make them "fishers of men."

Such a change was not an easy one to make. It meant the giving up of an established earthly calling, a place in the community, home life and family, for the service of the Lord. That was to bring persecution, ridicule, poverty and loneliness. But "straightway they forsook their nets."

Let the members of the church and pastors be on the alert to sense the call of God to young men and women to the ministry and to the mission field, and then let them do everything possible to encourage them on their way.

II. Others Became Followers (Mark 10:46, 52)

When Jesus came by, blind Bartimaeus began to cry. "Jesus, son of David have mercy on me" (v. 47). Many around him tried to hush his voice (v. 48), but he cried the more.

Through that babel of voices Jesus heard him, stopped and sent for him, and healed him. The ear of our Lord is always attuned to hear the cry of the one in need, and His heart is quick to respond to his call. He can hear the cry of the repentant sinner through all the confusing sounds of our day.

Bartimaeus became a "follower" of Jesus. He probably had no position in the church, no call to preach, but what a testimony he had. (cf. John 9:25).

Jesus needs simple, steady followers. Men and women with a plain, effective testimony of salvation. The army of the Lord is not made up of generals and officers only. Perhaps we have more of them than we need.

III. Some Stayed at Home (Mark 5:18-20)

This striking story of the deliverance of the mad man shows the importance of testimony at home. The people had asked Jesus to leave (v. 17) because in delivering the maniac He had caused some swine to go mad and run into the sea.

These men needed a witness, and the most effective possible word to them would come from the delivered demoniac. He wanted to go with Jesus, but at the Master's word he stayed at home.

It is hard to leave home and loved ones to go afar to witness for Jesus Christ, but sometimes it is easier to speak for Him in a strange land than at home. Even Jesus found no honor in His own city.

If you are called to witness for Jesus in the small circle of your own family or community, trust God to make that word for Jesus tremendously effective. He can do it!

IV. Others Left Home and Business (Luke 5:27, 28)

Levi—better known to us as Matthew—was a member of that hated group of renegade Jews, who served the Roman invader and helped him in his cruel work of wringing extortions from the people" (Earl L. Douglass). As a result, he was rich and undoubtedly had a fine home and every desirable material possession.

He had come to know Jesus and when the call came suddenly to follow Jesus, he did not hesitate; he did not stop to gather up his money; he did not sell his house; he stood up and left all, and followed Jesus.

If Jesus really means everything to a man or a woman there is nothing in this world that can hold him back when Jesus calls. He is ready to go to the ends of the earth, and he who ever will care for the business, his possessions, everything (cf. Matt. 19:29).

RURAL CHURCHES

United Brethren in Christ
Rivarre Circuit
Rev. Paul A. Graham, pastor

Pleasant Grove:

Prayer meeting Wed. evening.

Sunday school 9:00.

Preaching service 10:00.

Mt. Victory:

Prayer meeting Wed. evening.

Sunday school 9:00.

Preaching service 7:00 p. m.

Mt. Zion:

Prayer meeting Wed. evening.

Sunday school 9:30.

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Willshire Circuit
U. S. Church
L. A. Middaugh, Pastor

Willshire:

9:30 a. m. Sunday school, Fred Myers, Supt.

10:30 a. m. Class meeting, Charles Samples, leader.

7:30 p. m. Wednesday, prayer meeting.

St. Paul:

9:15 a. m. Preaching service.

10:15 a. m. Sunday school, Eddie McFarland, Supt.

7:30 p. m. Tuesday, prayer meeting.

First Baptist

Special pre-Easter services will open at the First Baptist church

Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock and continue for six evenings, closing with the Friday night service.

The Rev. Lloyd C. Clark, superintendent of the missionary Bible training school of the Fort Wayne Gospel Temple, will speak at all services. A large baptismal service will precede the Sunday evening sermon. The public is invited to attend these services.

Pleasant Dale

An Easter program will be given at the Pleasant Dale church

Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Two short plays will be given.

"The Children Head about Jesus,"

by the junior department; and

"The Light in the Window," by the

young people.

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Calvary Evangelical Church

Rev. F. H. Willard, Minister

Sunday school 9:30. Ermill Shiffner, Supt.

Prayer meeting, following Sunday school.

Preaching service, Wednesday 7:30.

Holy Week Communion service.

Note the change in time from Thursday to Wednesday.

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Monroe Friends Church

Robert P. Miller, Pastor

Announcements for Sunday April 14, 1946.

9:30 Sunday school.

10:30 morning service.

7:30 evening service.

Pre-Easter messages at both services by the pastor.

7:30 p. m. Wednesday prayer meeting.

7:30 p. m. Friday, Good Friday service at Pleasant Valley Methodist church.

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St. Luke's Evangelical & Reformed Church

Honduras

H. M. Mackstroth, Pastor

9 a. m. worship service.

10 a. m. Sunday school.

Thursday, an all-day meeting of the women's guild in the church basement. Mrs. Earl Harmin and Mrs. Moeschberger will be the hostesses, and Miss Hulda Klick leader for the afternoon meeting.

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Monroe Methodist Church

E. O. Kegereis, Pastor

9:30 morning worship.

Baptismal service for infants and children. Special music by the choir.

Sermon: "The Commission of Jesus."

10:35 church school.

6:45 Youth Fellowship.

7:30 Evening services. Sermon: "Misunderstood?"

8:00 Tuesday Board of Education.

7:30 Wednesday, the closing events of Jesus' ministry: the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, His teachings, His death, His resurrection, and His ascension.

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7:30 Thursday, an interpretation of the meaning of the last supper followed by Holy Communion.

7:30 Friday, Union Good Friday service with the Friends and Wesleyan Methodists at Pleasant Valley church, two miles east and one mile south of Monroe.

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Union Chapel Church

United Brethren in Christ

H. D. and Celia Pellette, Pastors

Sunday school 9:30. Thurman L. Drew, Superintendent.

Morning worship 10:15, subject: "A Pageant of Triumph." Special music by the choir.

There will be no evening service because of the Monmouth high school Baccalaureate service.

Holy Week services will be held each evening during this week at 7:30.

Subjects: Monday, "The Master's Authority"; Tuesday, "What It Means to Believe"; Wednesday, "Life With A Margin"; Thursday, "Holy Communion"; Friday, "Christ on the Cross"; Easter, Sunrise service sponsored by the young people; Morning Worship, subject, "The Risen Christ".

Rios did not reveal how his "most important" document would be presented to the council. But he did disclose at a press conference that it would prove that Spain is prepared to mass 450,000 troops in the Pyrenees area of the Franco-Spanish border. He arrived here this week from Paris, the headquarters of the republican regime in exile, to assume his post as observer at the UN security council.

Good music will be supplied during these meetings with John Walters as chorister and Earl W. Chase directing the choir.

The community is cordially invited to share in these services.

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Portland, Ore. does not permit one person to shake a feather duster in another's face. In Naperville, Ill., it's illegal to hang feminine underwear on a wash line.

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