

**Improved  
Uniform  
International  
SCHOOL  
LESSON**

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.  
Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.  
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**LESSON FOR MARCH 23**

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**PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD**

LESSON TEXT—John 17:1-11, 20-23. MEMORY SELECTION—And now we are no more in the world, but those are in the world, and I am in the world. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. John 17:11.

The voice of the Son of God lifted in audible prayer! What could be more sacred and more blessed? He who had by act and example taught his disciples loving service (John 13), and had spoken to them words of comfort and assurance (John 14-16), now prayed for himself, for them, and for us.

While he spoke most intimately with the Father as his only begotten Son, he prayed aloud that his disciples might hear his prayer and join with him in it.

This prayer is often called the high-priestly prayer of Christ, and rightly so, for here the one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5) spoke as "the High Priest of mankind who begins his sacrifice by offering himself to God with all his people" (Gode).

First we find that he prayed for himself as he spoke of

**I. SALVATION FINISHED—THEN GLORY WITH THE FATHER (vv. 1-5).**

He looked up and said, "Father," that was all. No struggling, no pleading, just the recognition of his own divinity, his intimate and unique Sonship to God. Throughout this entire prayer the same close relationship is found. It was not as we would pray "Our Father," but "Father."

Jesus was the Son of God. Yes, he was and is God. He and the Father are one in blessed eternal, infinite unity. But as he is in the Father, we who believe are in him. So the poet well says:

"Near, so very near to God,

Nearer I cannot be,

For in the person of his Son

I am as near as he."

This divine Redeemer, who laid down his glory when he came to earth (Phil. 2:7, 8) to be a Saviour, was now ready to take up that glory again. He spoke of the work of salvation as completed—for in his obedient soul the death on the cross which was just ahead was already accomplished.

Now he was ready for the Father to glorify him even as he had glorified the name of the Father. That prayer was answered, and Christ now sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven. What a glorious Saviour we have!

His prayer was soon turned to those who had believed in him. They were precious to him, for they were given to him by the Father.

**II. OUT OF THE WORLD—THEN KEPT BY THE FATHER (vv. 6-11).**

There is something powerfully assuring to the believer to read the words of Jesus which declare that those who had believed on him had been given to him by the Father. They belonged to the Father, and he gave them to the Son. They kept the Word of God, and thus they knew the Son as the manifestation of the Father's name. What could be more certain for time and eternity!

Note that they were taken "out of the world"—that does not mean that they left this earth. They lived here as we live here, but they were delivered from that evil world power which opposes God.

Some professed Christians who find their greatest delight in fellowship with the Christ-rejecting world had better read carefully here, for it appears that the one who is truly in Christ is not of the world."

These disciples had to remain in the world (though they were not of it) and they needed to be kept. Now that the earthly ministry of Jesus was to be brought to a close, he tenderly placed them anew in the Father's mighty hand. Again we say, what could be more blessedly secure than that!

We must note that our Lord had a special interest and prayer for his own. Verse 9 obviously does not mean that he is not interested in all mankind. He died for them (John 3:16). But here his prayer was for his own, and in that prayer the world was left out. That makes us feel still more assured in him. He, the blessed Son of God and only Saviour, prayed for me, for you!

The closing words of verse 11 reach out into the third petition of our Lord, as he prayed for their

**III. UNITY IN CHRIST—THEN TESTIMONY TO THE WORLD (vv. 20-23).**

The verses between the foregoing division and this one (vv. 12-19) are important. Our Lord was concerned about the hatred of the world for those who had received the Word of the Father, and yet he would not have them taken out of the world. They were to be his witnesses—even as we are to be in our day. They must remain in the world, but being one in Christ and sanctified through the truth, they were to be kept for God and used by him.

**BURAL CHURCHES**

**WILLSHIRE CIRCUIT  
U. B. CHURCH  
L. A. MIDDAUGH, PASTOR  
WILLSHIRE**

9:30 a.m. Sunday school, Luther Funk, supt.

10:30 a.m. preaching service.

7:30 p.m. prayer meeting, Oatus Strickler, leader.

**ST. PAUL**

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, Eddie McFarland, supt.

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, prayer meeting and Bible study, Robert McBride, leader.

**WINCHESTER**

9:30 a.m. Sunday school, Merlin Essex, supt.

10:30 a.m. preaching service.

7:30 p.m. evangelistic service.

Revival now in progress. Huntington College Gospel Volunteers

are with us in many of these meetings and are doing a splendid work. All are welcome.

**UNION CHAPEL CHURCH**

Evangelical United Brethren (Dent School House)

D. H. Pelett, minister

The morning services are un-

ited:

Sunday school, under the direction of Thurman L. Drew, supt. 9:30.

Divine worship, Rev. Clyde Rothrick, blind evangelist, 10:15.

Reverend Rothrick has a thrilling life story of his conversion after losing his sight, and then his acceptance of the call to the ministry. He will be with us for this one service only. Be sure to hear him.

Youth Fellowship, 7:00.

Adult Study in 4 John 3, 7:00.

Revival services, sermon subject, "Redeemed," 7:30.

Revival services will continue each evening until Easter with the exception of Saturday evening. The music will be in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Chase supported by the choir. The pastors will bring the gospel messages. You are cordially invited to attend. The weeknight services will begin promptly at 7:30 o'clock.

**MOUNT TABOR METHODIST**

C. C. Conn, minister

**MRS. AUSTIN McMICHAEL, SUPT.**

Sunday school 9:30.

Morning worship 10:30.

Prayer meeting at the parsonage 7:30.

Spring means new life in nature. Show yours by your attendance at church as well as your other services to God.

**ST. LKE EVA. & REFORMED CHURCH, HONDURAS**

H. H. Meckstroth, pastor.

9:00 Worship Service.

10:00 Sunday School.

2:00 Catechetical Instruction.

7:30 Christian Endeavor, Miss Lucille Beavers, leader.

**MONROE METHODIST CHURCH**

E. O. Kegereis, Minister

9:30 Morning Worship. Sermon "The Love of God." Special Music.

10:35 Church School classes for all ages.

6:30 Youth Fellowship. Marie Rowden, Leader.

7:30 Evening Worship.

Monday 7:30 Special Prayer Service in preparation for Passion Week.

Tuesday 7:00 Troop 65 Boy Scouts.

Wednesday 7:30 Mid-week prayer followed by Choir.

Thursday 7:00 Evangelistic visiting.

Friday 7:00 Evangelistic visiting.

**UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST RIVARRE CIRCUIT**

PAUL A. GRAHAM, PASTOR

PLEASANT GROVE

Sunday School 9:00.

Preaching 10:00.

Prayer Meeting Wed. 7:30

**Mt. VICTORY**

Sunday School 9:30.

Class Meeting 10:30.

Prayer Meeting Wed. 7:30.

**REVIVAL SERVICES:** The Evangelistic Meetings will continue over this weekend. The attendance and interest for these services has been very good. The hour of service is 7:30. The public is invited to attend each night.

We will have as our guests in the services this Sunday, Mar. 23, Mr. and Mrs. Max Ware of Huntington, Ind. Mrs. Ware is Professor of music at Huntington College and Mr. Ware is a talented tenor soloist and violinist. They will help in the Worship Service at Pleasant Grove in the morning and in the Evangelistic Service at Mt. Zion in the evening. Come and get acquainted with them and enjoy the music.

**THE CLOSING WORDS OF VERSES 11 AND 12**

According to the Clear and Tobacco Journal, published in St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota, the total number of cigarettes smoked in 1946 amounted to 34.9 for every man, woman and child in the United States. Now this figure, according to the same authority, has increased to 2,000.

**CHURCH NEWS**

**First Christian**

The First Christian church of Decatur will start a new program for its members. Instead of having the usual Sunday school followed by the church session, the two meetings will be held simultaneously, according to the Rev. E. E. Isenhower, pastor.

The combined services will continue until further notice, Rev. Isenhower stated. The new service will start at 9:30 o'clock morning.

The Sunday school part of the services, called junior church, will be held during the regular Sunday morning sermon, and Fred Schrider, superintendent, will be in charge.

The Rev. D. D. McCall, of the northeast district of Christian churches, will be the guest minister Sunday and will deliver the sermon, Rev. Isenhower announced.

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