



SCRIPTURE: Mark 8:27-31; 31-34

DEVOTIONAL READING: Philippians 2:5-11

Trail of The Cross

Lesson for April 3, 1949

THE TURNING-POINT In Jesus' career was dramatic. But the few friends who were present did not then realize what it meant. On a vacation journey, Jesus put to his most intimate friends this question: "Who do men say that I am?" Peter's answer, "Thou art the Christ," may sound obvious to us, but was not obvious then. **Dr. Foreman**

It was sensational so much so that Jesus did not want the publicity that would come to him if that name "Christ" were freely circulated. For the word "Christ" meant nothing less than "King." To the Romans it would sound like treason; but to the Jews it would sound like Judgment Day.

When Peter said, "You are the Christ," he was implying also: "You are immortal. You are the coming conqueror of the world. You are not in the same class with any other man. You will do for mankind what no other hero has ever done."

God's View and the Devil's
ON ALL THAT glowing devotion Jesus' next announcement fell like icy rain. In the ears of those friends of his it sounded like the bell of death. Never before had Jesus told them anything like this, and they must have found it hard to believe. For he had not a word about a throne, nothing about success, nothing about mastering the world. Quite the contrary. He must "suffer many things . . . be rejected . . . be killed." If they heard the words "rise again" too, the words made no impression.

For Jesus had announced what to them seemed impossible, absurd: He, the Christ, would be killed! Small wonder that Peter broke out, "No! No! But Jesus would not compromise. He even called Peter "Satan" for thinking as he did.

The Christian church agrees with Jesus, not with Peter. We realize today, as Peter himself did afterwards, what the Cross of Christ means.

Buddha, founder of a very different religion, died in old age of overeating. Can you imagine Jesus doing that? Suppose Jesus had taken Peter's advice and made arrangements to retire comfortably where he would never see a cross? Then we never should have heard of him. He would not have been worth hearing from.

One Cross is Not Enough

YES, WE KNOW now that the Cross of Christ is important. But we are a good deal like Peter, after all. For we do not listen to what we do not like to hear. And the next words of Jesus, on that historic occasion, must have sounded then as they do now, most chilling of all. "Whosoever would come after me, let him take his own cross and follow me." In Jesus' time no one was ever seen carrying a cross who was not already under sentence of death and on his way to be executed.

Translated into modern terms, what Jesus said would sound as horrible as this: Any man who wishes to follow me must take his seat on the electric chair . . . must take his place in the lethal chamber . . . must put his neck in a noose . . . and follow me.

One cross is not enough. There must be other crosses. My road is a death-march. I want for my followers only those who are willing to take the same trail.

Trail of the Cross
SUCH WORDS sounded harsh then: they do still. But in the light of the centuries, we can see what Jesus meant, better than that little band of frightened men around Jesus who did not want to hear the words "suffer . . . die." Jesus was not advocating pain for pain's sake.

Why did Jesus set his own face toward the cross? The Christian answer is, He did it for others. Now what is wrong with the world today? It isn't that we don't wish our neighbors well; but the trouble is, we don't want to be bothered, our good-will is too tender to stand any strain, we will do anything for other people . . . provided it doesn't hurt.

But the world can be saved only as men and women imitate and multiply the spirit of the crucified Christ.

RURAL CHURCHES

Calvary Church
Evangelical United Brethren
F. H. Willard, minister
Sunday school 9:30 a.m.
Prayer meeting, following S. S.
No evening service. Calvary church will attend the service at Pleasant Grove.

Rivière Circuit
U. B. Church

L. A. Middaugh, pastor
Mt. Zion

9:30 a.m. Sunday school.

10:30 a.m. Class meeting.

7:00 p.m. Christian Endeavor.

7:00 p.m. Wednesday, prayer meeting.

Pleasant Grove

9:30 a.m. Sunday school.

10:30 a.m. Preaching service.

7:00 p.m. Evangelistic service.

Revival now in progress, Rev. L. T. Norris is the evangelist. All are welcome.

Mt. Victory

9:00 a.m. Sunday school.

10:00 a.m. Class meeting.

7:00 p.m. Christian Endeavor.

7:00 p.m. Wednesday, prayer meeting.

Monroe Friends Church

R. P. Persons, pastor

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. William Zurcher, Supt. Everyone be present this Sunday, we have been missing many of you.

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. Message: "Conquering Through Christ."

Evangelistic Service 7:30 p.m.

Message: "Follow Me."

Service. We are studying the epistle to the Philippians and we urge all members and friends of the church to be present at this service.

Trade in a Good Town — Decatur

Pleasant Mills Baptist
Durward B. Gehres, pastor
9:30 a.m. Sunday School. Donald Burkhardt Supt.

10:30 A special message of the children.

Worship service. Sermon by the pastor. Come and enjoy the fellowship of a friendly church.

Winchester and St. Paul
U. B. Circuit
Dale Osborn, pastor

St. Paul:

Worship 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Prayer meeting Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Winchester:

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Preaching 7:30 p.m.

Prayer meeting Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

St. Luke Reformed Church, Honduras

H. H. Meckstroth, minister

9:00 Worship. Offering for Repair Fund.

10:00 Sunday School.

1:00 Catechism.

6:45 Youth Fellowship.

7:30 Thursday Girls' Guild.

Antioch United Missionary

3 miles west of Decatur, 1 mile south of 224

L. W. Null, pastor

Sunday school 9:30 a.m. John Arnold, Superintendent.

Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

Evening service 7:30 p.m.

Prayer meeting Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

A cordial invitation is extended to the public.

When beauty tires the blood, how love exalts the mind. — Dryden.

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Trade in a Good Town — Decatur

Voters Assembly Will Meet Sunday

The quarterly meeting of the voters assembly, the administrative body of Zion Lutheran church, West Monroe street, will be held Sunday in the church at 2 p.m. Will Schenepf is chairman of the congregation and Paul Hancher, secretary.

Claims to be allowed by the Board of Commissioners, Monday April 4, 1949.

Haywood Pub. Co. oper. 637.00

Decatur Light & Power do 122.58

Citizens Tel. Co. do 6.50

Edward F. Jaeger clerk post 23.65

Parkerson Type. Sales do 11.38

Thurman L. Drew Aud post 11.38

Internal Carbon Co. do 11.38

Haywood Pub. Co. do 246.00

Ralph E. Koop dresses 135.00

Marjorie Drew do 35.00

Parkerson Type. Sales T op 20.00

Burroughs Add. Mach. rec op 4.15

Internal Carbon Co. do 26.70

Herman Bowman sher mill 129.50

Decatur License Branch S O 12.00

Haywood Pub. Co. do 12.00

Edgar Drug Store do 2.39

Gambles do 2.59

W. S. Darley & Co. do 1.05

Milton J. Hull do 44.70

Melvin Mallonee at mill 10.22

L. E. Archbold C A S O 119.58

Beulah Jane Berisch do steel 150.00

Dr. F. Zwick Health O S 77.00

Elleene Andrews do 12.50

Dr. H. Zwick Health Off P 1.50

Jean Shockley H N S M 296.57

D. Burdette Custer do rent 42.33

H. F. Friend & Co. Prod A O 50.55

Saverin H. Schurig do 4.85

Fred V. Mills asst. clerk 46.00

Albert H. H. do 10.00

Citizens Tel. C. Gir C Op 11.55

Haywood Pub. Co. do 14.00

West Pub. Co. do 129.14

Lawyers Co-op Pub. Co. do 7.00

Callaghan & Co. do 15.00

C. H. Muselman P O M 14.05

John Bixler C. H. Cust sal 175.00

Verona Veneers do 12.00

Arnold & Kienk do 32.63

Lee Hardware do 26.99

Decatur Lumber Co. do 18.54

Pumphrey Jewelry Store 15.00

Champion Chem. Co. do 20.30

Grace Lee Prod. Inc. do 2.75

Herbert Kitson do 40.00

Grover Kelley do 36.00

Provo Gilbert do 20.00

Decatur Mfg. Co. do 15.00

Kathryn Gar do 37.50

National Mill Supply do 57.00

Frank Kitson do 8.00

George C. Bond do 7.50

Rev. Schmidt do min 4.00

Rev. Gehman do 4.00

Berne Hdwe. Co. do 25.91

John B. Teeter do 18.00

Edgar M. Moore do 4.00

Illinois Bottled Gas do 8.25

Stevens Imp. Co. do 47.25

Nihilo C. G. do 35.76

Steinbier Ref. Co. do 19.35

Beavers Oil Serv. do 19.35

John C. Augsburger Co. C S 11.63

John W. Blakley do 41.65

Otto Hoffman do 41.86

Ed A. Böse Co. At Säl 75.00

Decatur Dem. Co. legal ad 46.23

Van Wert Co. Com. Rep B 606.37

Decatur Ins. Agency do 44.61

Frank Shuey do 29.67

John C. Schuett do 22.11