

Creamed Comments On S.S. Lesson

Creamed Comments on the Sunday School Lesson, The Source of the Church's Power, Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-11, for Sunday, January 12.

The words of Jesus in this lesson were spoken on the Mount of Olives immediately before His ascension: ten days later came Pentecost, when the promise of power given by Jesus His ascension was fulfilled. The gift of the Holy Spirit transformed the weakness of the disciples into power and victory.

V. 4. "And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me." Jerusalem was the seat of both political and religious hostility—so hostile, the forces there combined to crucify Christ. Therefore, the mastery of Jerusalem was the disciples' greatest problem from which they were not to run away. If they mastered Jerusalem and stood up to all of its difficult situations, they could master anything.

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COME TO CHURCH



The promise of the Father was the gift of the Holy Spirit to endow them with needed power.

V. 5. "For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many hence." Water baptism was more than a physical performance in Jesus' teachings. It was expressive of repentance. Jesus rebuked those who made much of the formality of baptism without giving due attention to its spiritual meaning which could bring fullness of spiritual power.

V. 6. "When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" The disciples were still looking for a Jewish political kingdom with the Messiah as a ruler. Actually, the Messianic kingdom was to be a dominion of spiritual depths, not political. The disciples were concerned with the future than with their mission to extend the kingdom.

V. 7. "And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the season, which the Father hath put in his own power." Some things were not to be revealed even to the apostles at this time, and it was unwise to speculate about the future rather than to be concerned about carrying out their mission then.

V. 8. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Christ diverted the minds of the apostles to something they could know and experience, and which was of vital importance. The power of the Holy Spirit can give Christians the strength to endure all things and to be witnesses to Christ to the end of the earth. The Holy Spirit is God within us—it is God in action. It is the finger of God touching us vitally within and releasing power.

V. 1. "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place." The day of Pentecost was a one-day feast celebrating the completion of the grain harvest, one of the three important feasts of the Jewish year. The Christian Pentecost commemorates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit instead of the giving of the Law and is celebrated fifty days after Easter. The disciples joined together in prayer this day.

Vs. 2, 3, 4. "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind and it filled all the house where they were sitting. . . And there appeared unto them cloven tongues as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. . . And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." The vigorous blast of wind symbolized the force, vastness and mystery of the Holy Spirit; tongues of fire symbolized purification with evil burned out of men's souls as the Holy Spirit entered; the gift of tongues could have been a temporary spiritual endowment so that all could hear and understand the Gospel.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mercer at the Five Points
Harold J. Bond, Pastor
9:15 Sunday School opening worship periods. Grow Spiritually in 1958 by attending Sunday School.
10:30 a.m. Winter Communion Service.

The Lord's Supper will be observed on Sunday, January 5th, at the morning service at 10:30 a.m. It is a mark of our church that no member be absent from the table of the Lord.

It is in the Communion of the

Lord's Supper that we see how the 'New Life is maintained.

A most cordial welcome is extended to all who worship in the House of God this day and always. Small children may be left in the nursery during the worship service. Supervision is provided for your little ones.

4:30 P.M. Junior Fellowship will meet Mrs. James Kocher Jr. is the advisor for January.

5:45 p.m. The Westminster Youth Fellowship will meet. All Junior and Senior High young people should be in attendance. Miss Dianne Linn, advisor. Miss Jane Stevenson, Moderator.

MONDAY

7:30 p.m. Week of Prayer Service in this Church The Men's Quartette will sing and Rev. Parker will speak.

TUESDAY

6:00 Boy's Basketball practice.
7:30 Week of Prayer Service at the Bethany E.U.B. Rev. Penrod, speaker.

7:00 p.m. Session Committees will meet.

8:00 p.m. The Session will meet.

WEDNESDAY

6:00 The Westminster Choir will practice.

7:00 The Chancel Choir will practice.

7:30 Week of Prayer Service at the Church of God. Rev. Gerig, speaker.

8:00 p.m. The pastor will assist in installation services at Howe, Indiana for Rev. A. A. Panhorst.

THURSDAY

7:30 p.m. Annual Congregational and Corporation Meeting. Reports of all organizations and Boards will be made. Election of Elders, Trustees and Deacons for 1958.

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

Nathan Ave.
Paul D. Parker, Minister
Sunday School, 9:30 A.M. Lawrence Michel Superintendent. A warm welcome awaits you in the class prepared for you. Bring the whole family as we have classes for all ages.

Morning worship service, 10:30 A.M. The Rev. Lloyd Eby, Conference Superintendent, will bring the morning sermon and conduct the Holy Communion.

Christian Endeavor 7:00 P.M. "Who Do You Think You Are?" will be the study topic.

Evangelistic service, 7:30 P.M. The pastor will bring the evening message on the subject, "Things To Remember." Plan to be with us in this closing service of our week-end of Spiritual Emphasis.

The Mid-week service will be dismissed in lieu of the special week of prayer emphasis sponsored by the Associated Churches of our City.

The Wednesday evening service will be held in the Church of God. You are cordially invited to attend these services.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

1210 Elm St.
George Varian, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. — We are beginning a new year this Sunday, and one of the best ways to begin is to go to church this Sunday and then every Sunday. The year 1957 was the greatest year yet in the history of the church. However in 1958, we hope to break all previous records.

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. Sermon: "The Heart of Man."
Evening Service 7:45 p.m. Sermon: "A Call for Consecrated Service."

Wednesday Evening 7:45 p.m. Prayer meeting and Bible study.
Saturday Evening 7:00-8:00 p.m. The hour of prayer for those who believe that God is one who will fulfill His Word.

You always have a very special invitation to attend the church where people from all denominations meet to worship God. You will be thrilled to hear the old-fashioned singing, the anointed preaching, and the friendly atmosphere.

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V. Rev. Msgr. Selme, Pastor

Sunday Masses
6 a.m.
7:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses
6 a.m.
7:30 a.m.
8:15 a.m.

BETHANY

Evangelical United Brethren

Benj. G. Thomas, minister

Sunday school, 9 a.m. Wm. Feas-

el, superintendent. No extended

session except nursery.

Divine worship, 10 a.m. We shall

celebrate the Sacrament of Holy

Communion. Miss Rheta Butcher

will play the organ and use as her

special music: "The Beautiful

Garden of Prayer," by Fillmore

and "Distant Chimes" by Byles.

Stanley Alger will bring a trumpet

solo: "Take My Hand, Precious

Lord" by Dorsey. The Communion

meditation: "Great Is Thy

Faithfulness." Lamentations 3:21-23.

6 p.m., youth fellowship discus-

sion hour.

The week of prayer services,

sponsored by the Associated

Churches of Decatur will be held

at 7:30 p.m. each evening begin-

ning Monday night in the Presby-

terian church and Tuesday night

in Bethany E.U.B. church. The

public is urged to take advantage

of these special meetings. Each

night there will be a different

speaker.

Tuesday, 8:45 p.m., the council

of administration will meet in the

church basement.

Wednesday, 7 p.m., the choir re-

hearsal.

FIRST BAPTIST

221 South Fourth Street

Stuart H. Brightwell, pastor

9:15 a.m. Sunday school hour.

Don Silger, supt. We have a grad-

ed church school with a class for

every age group.

10:30 a.m. morning worship ser-

vice. Sermon by the pastor: The

church choir, under the direction

of Mrs. Stuart Brightwell, will

bring special music. The Lord's

Supper will be observed at this

service.

6:30 p.m. Baptist youth fellow-

ship. Karen Call is president.

7:30 p.m. evening gospel hour.

Sermon by the pastor, "Humbling

Ourselves Before God."

The Sunday school teaching staff

meets Thursday evening at 7:30

o'clock.

Saturday Bible school will con-

vene again next Saturday morn-

ing, 9:15, for children of grades

three through eight.

If you made a resolution to at-

tend church in 1958 and have no

church home, we invite you to

worship at Zion Lutheran.

FIRST METHODIST

West Monroe at Fifth Street

Virgil Wesley Sexton, minister

9:30 a.m., church school. Fred

Soldner, superintendent, will be in

charge. We have classes for all

age groups, a supervised nursery

for pre-school children, and a cri-

room for babies. Bring your chil-

dren and come to the church

school.

10:20 a.m., divine worship. Rev

Sexton will have for his Meditation

this Communion Sunday. "Names

of the Communion." The special

music will be a solo, "Largo" by

Fandel and sung by Lyman Hann.

Mrs. Edgar Gerber will play for

accompaniment. "Canzonetta" by

Nordman; "Pastorale" by

Mattson; and "Christ Triumphant"

by Oberg.

The senior Methodist youth fel-

lowship will meet in Memoria

Chapel at 5:30 o'clock Sunday eve-

ning for their traditional commu-

nion service. This is a special ser-

vice for youth held on the first Sun-

day of the New Year. Rev. Sex-

ton will use the field kit for the

Holy Communion of the United

States Navy and will serve the

Communion in the method which

he used overseas. Guides of the

Way will be Mr. and Mrs. Robert

Lane.

The intermediate youth fellow-

ship will meet in the recreation

room at 5:30 o'clock Sunday eve-

ning. Cynthia Collier will give the

devotions and will also serve as

hostess. A guest speaker will pre-

sent the program.

Next week throughout the Unit-

ed States, has been designated as

the Week of Prayer. In observ-

ance of this week, the Associated

Churches of Decatur are sponsor-

ing a series of week-night services

in the churches of our city. The

service will be held in a different

church each night with one of the

local ministers speaking on the

general theme, "The Lord's Prayer."

Each service will begin at

7:30 o'clock. The schedule of

places and preacher is as follows:

Monday, Presbyterian, Rev. Paul

Parker; Tuesday, Bethany E.U.B.,

Rev. J. O. Penrod; Wednesday,

Church of God, Rev. G. I. Gerig;

Thursday, Missionary, Rev. Stuart

Brightwell; Friday, Nottman U.B.,

Rev. Huston Bever; Sunday, Trin-

ity E.U.B., Rev. Harold Bond.

Other ministers of the city will

participate in each of the services.

You are urged to attend.

Wednesday, 7 p.m., regular choir

rehearsal.

Thursday, 7:30 p.m., general

meeting of the W. S. C. S. with the

members of the Wesleyan Service

Guild in charge of the program

and they will also act as hostesses.

DECATUR CHURCH OF GOD

628 Cleveland St.

Huston Bever, Jr. Pastor

8:30 a.m. "The Christian Brother-

hood Hour," Dr. Dale Oldham

the speaker. A program which will

help prepare you for worship in

your own church.

9:30 a.m. Morning Worship —

This being the first Sunday of the

year, we should start the year