

RELIGION

Scripture of the Week

Matthew, Chapter 7

Insight on the Word: Jesus Christ Is Risen! He Keeps Our Hope Alive

BY MICHAEL LINDSEY,
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The Bible text for next week's Sunday School lesson is Mark 15:42 through 16:8, the Biblical account of the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This concludes our series of studies in the Gospel of Mark; next week we will begin a series of six Bible lessons from 1 & 2 Peter.

If ever there were desperate times, the followers of Jesus knew that these were desperate times. Their rabbi had been taken by force late at night, and tried in both Jewish and Roman court by early the next morning, and crucified by noon that day—and most surprising of all, Jesus was dead before sundown that same day. How could you make sense of all that, how could you still have any hope for the future?

It is small wonder that the twelve (actually eleven) disciples ran and hid. With Jesus dead, hung like a murderer, what hope was there for the Kingdom of God? Jesus was not like any Messiah (or Christ) they understood. Why didn't he act in power to overcome the enemies, set up a kingdom and save his people? How could he die so meekly, like a lamb going to the slaughter?

Mark's account of the burial of Jesus, and the discovery of his resurrection, emphasizes the faith of other followers of Jesus—other than the apostles. The words we read in our Bibles today as Mark 16:9-20 are not found in some of the most ancient and reliable manuscripts of Mark, and many others mark these verses as questionable or quote them with many variations. These verses were known from very early commentary of the Church Fathers, but they were also regarded as spurious by some of those same Fathers. So it is best to conclude that these verses were a simple account of Jesus' resurrection appearances, added to this Gospel soon after it was written, as an ending to a book which seemed to end too abruptly. And it is best to take verse 8 as the end of the Gospel as Mark intended it.

Mark didn't need to rehearse the testimonies of the resurrection, for Peter and many others shared their witness to it continually (that's the point of 1 Corinthians 15:3-8). The other Gospels fill in much wonderful detail about Jesus' appearances after the resurrec-

tion, including some incidents which were obviously summarized in our Mark 16:8-20. With that much said about the ending of Mark, let's focus our attention on one of the followers of Jesus Christ, whose deeds Mark did record for us.

We can learn a lot about faith and hope from Joseph of Arimathea (15:43-46). The four Gospels all mention him at this point of the narrative, and the picture we get from them is impressive. Joseph was a man of some wealth, since he had a hewn sepulchre (tomb), not yet used, in a garden (John 19:41-42) near the hill called Calvary. He was a man of great influence, a "counsellor" or member of the Jewish Council, the Sanhedrin.

And yet he was a follower of Jesus Christ. John tells us Joseph was a secret disciple, because he feared the Jews. Perhaps Mark tells us why Joseph became a follower of Jesus—he was one who "waited for the kingdom of God." Unlike many other spiritual leaders of the Jews, Joseph had not become greedy or power-hungry; he still looked forward to the blessed day when God would break into human history and establish his righteous rule over the earth. And the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth convinced Joseph that Jesus was the beginning of that kingdom rule.

We have no reason to believe that Joseph understood Jesus' death any better than the rest. In fact, Joseph and Nicodemus used a lot of expensive spices as they hastily prepared the body of burial (again, we read this in John's Gospel). These spices were the Jewish way to forestall the inevitable putrefaction of a decaying body. They didn't expect a resurrection.

Still, Joseph took great risks to honor the One he called Master and Teacher. He "boldly" sought out Pilate, in the midst of the hubbub of Passover crowds and activities, to beg for Jesus' body. His secret devotion to Jesus would soon be open knowledge—now that the Nazarene was discredited and dead, convicted of treason. This could have cost Joseph his place of honor in the Sanhedrin, and made him an object of ridicule or even hatred.

He and Nicodemus spared no expense to honor Jesus. The new tomb had probably been prepared for his own

death; the linen and spices were a major expense, especially on such short notice. The personal work of wrapping the body and anointing it with spices throughout, took these men away from the ongoing celebrations of Passover and their own preparations for the approaching Sabbath. Most of all, the Law declared them unclean for touching a corpse (Num 19:11-16), but they decided their love for Jesus was a higher duty of the Law.

How often we've seen people today, who started out right, attending church and living for Jesus. They sang, "I am on the battlefield for my Lord." But as they grew older, they gained some measure of wealth, and some measure of education and sophistication, and they found out it wasn't acceptable to be dedicated (I mean sold out) to Jesus. So they had to decide, whether they would take the heat and stand up for the Son. I know some people who have lost their faith because they wanted to trust their own accomplishments, reputation or resources—not because Jesus had failed them.

Joseph of Arimathea shows us the right path to take. Seeking advancement in life is not wrong, as long as these things don't chill your love for the Savior. Gaining some wealth is not bad in itself, unless you forget how God enabled you to get what you have (Deut 8:17-18), so you can share freely with those in need (1 Tim 6:17-19).

If we aren't careful, we could spend all our lives trying to reach our dreams, only to end up empty. Faith in Jesus and his resurrection will give us a wonderful, "living hope" both for this life and for the life to come. Here and now, Jesus invites us to share in his new life, with a growing likeness to the character and qualities of God. These very qualities include the qualities of love and joy and peace of mind and gentleness and self-control, which make people truly human, truly bearers of the image of God (Col 3:9-10).

And in the life to come, our hope is a place of joy, and fellowship with God in Christ—"an inheritance incorruptible... reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4). That was worth more to Joseph than any wealth or position or status. And it should be for us as well.

In Loving Memory

Lonnie L. Jessie, born April 4, 1922, departed this life on March 17, 1992. Pastor Donald Frazier officiated the service on March 24th at St. Paul COGIC. He leaves to mourn, his beloved wife Doris Jessie; five sons, Leonard, Kenneth, Ronnie, Gerald and Kevin; three daughters, Diana Strawda, Dorothy Blakely of Vancouver, Washington, and Vera Wesley of Portland; 25 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; one sister, Margie Smith of Kansas City; three brothers, Elder Robert Jessie of Los Angeles, CA, Rev. Leon Jessie of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and James Jessie of Portland, Oregon.

Lonnie was the owner and manager of Custom Auto Polish Detail Shop for a number of years on 11th and Burnside. He served in the U.S. Army four years, and received the Good Conduct Medal, EAME Service Ribbon and one Silver Star. Lonnie also did volunteer work for the Community Care Association, Inc.

Lonnie was kind and fair to all. We will miss him.

Family Day-Health Fair And Diversity Celebration

Organizers of the Minority Health Conference announced plans for the first annual Family Day-Health Fair and Diversity Celebration on Thursday, April 30, 1992 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Oregon Convention Center, 700 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The Fair/Celebration is free and will offer activities throughout the evening, which include free health screenings for blood pressure, bone marrow testing, dental, hearing and vision. There will be refreshments and prizes.

Multi-Cultural groups will present entertainment for the evening. Plus, forty education exhibits and five cultural exhibits.

The purpose of the Family Day-Health Fair and Diversity Celebration is to encourage family participation, promote family health and to celebrate the "Beauty" in the diversity of Oregon Families.



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**Stone Tower Church,
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Worship Services 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Church School 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study, Wednesdays, 116 N.E. Schuyler
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9:30 am.
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10:45 am.
Men's Training Leadership
Women's Bible Class
5:00 pm.
Evening Worship
6:00 pm.
Attended nursery for all
services
Wednesday prayer meeting
and bible study
7:30 pm.

Profile of Brother Charles Edward Coleman I Evangelist Church of Christ Pittsburg, CA



Charles Coleman was born December 4, 1955 in Oakland, CA to Melrose and Ernestine Coleman. Charles completed 14 years of his education in Oakland, which included McOlymonds High School and Merritt College.

Bro. Coleman was added to the body of Christ in 1976, under the teaching of Evangelist Joe O. Pitts, Sr. serving the 13th Avenue Church of Christ in Oakland, CA. Charles' membership remained at 13th Avenue for ten years, during which time he began preaching and teaching God's word. Bro. Coleman

also served in the capacity of Youth Minister, Chorus Director, and New Converts Minister.

Bro. Coleman has served the church by way of teaching classes, home studies and Sunday School. He has preached in various congregations throughout the Bay Area and outside, including Southern California and in Illinois. Bro. Coleman also worked alongside Bro. T.O. Jackson of Oklahoma in the Evangelism department for the 1985 San Francisco Crusade for Christ.

Bro. Coleman later placed membership at the Church of Christ at MacDonald Avenue in Richmond, CA where he served as minister of Personal Evangelism and Care Group Director for four years alongside Evangelist's J.C. Thomas Jr. and Roland Jackson.

On September 30, 1990 Bro. Coleman became the Evangelist of the Diane Avenue Church of Christ in the City of Pittsburg, CA. There under his direction the following programs have been set up: a Substance Abuse Program, Literacy Program, Child Abuse Awareness Program, and a local network television program entitled "Righteousness Exalts a Nation." This program is aired weekly and can be viewed in Pittsburg, West Pittsburg, and Antioch, California.

In Memory

"Loving husband, loving father, all-around good-guy."

His full name was Ira Daniel Mumford. But to some he was known as "Superchief," or "Unc." He went home to be with our Heavenly Father on April 6, 1985. Ira was blessed with personality plus, a warm smile that put you at ease and he made you feel as if he had known you forever with his charm and grace. He was a people person who would take that extra step to help anyone in need. Often he would put the

needs of others before himself. He loved to sing, and it was evident that he enjoyed using this talent he was blessed with. There has not been a day in these seven years that Iretta and I have not thought about you, and your memory will always be there with us. We'll always love you.

Your Loving Wife,
Lydia Mumford

"CHURCH RENEWAL"

May 2-6, 1992

Theme: "Restore My Soul"

Concert: May 2, 1992 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Jefferson High School Auditorium
5210 N. Kerby

Homecoming Day Sunday - May 3, 1992
Bible Class Assembly - 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Worship and Praise - 10:45-12:15 p.m.
Fellowship and Potluck - 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Worship and Praise - 1:45-2:30 p.m.
Fellowship Sing-A-Rama - 2:45-5:00 p.m.

Church Renewal Services:
Nightly Monday thru Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Mallory Church of Christ
3908 N.E. Mallory (503) 288-1092

Evangelist, Charles Coleman I
Pittsburg, California
Greg Fobbs, Local Minister

Jesus Loves You!

Allen Temple CME Church

Psalms 34:3

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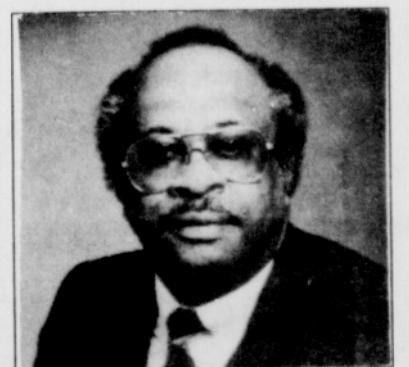
St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

8101 N. Fiske Avenue
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Church Phone: 289-0147

Study Phone: 289-1911

Sunday Service
10:45
Sunday School
9:30
Bible Study
6:00
Evening Service
7:00 P.M.



Pastor, Rev. James C.E. Faulkner

Theme: Whatever you're going to do
for the Lord, do it now

1 Peter 4:11

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11:00am Morning Worship
7:30pm Tuesday Bible
Study and Prayer



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