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The Decision Of Mississippi Jury A Curse To Democracy

Emmett Till, a promising but helpless boy, has been treacherously and inhumanly murdered. Wrapped up in that tender sprig of humanity might have been the possibilities of a Booker T. Washington, a George Washington Carver or a Ralph Bunche. We need not elaborate on our inability to pull back the curtains, look through the endless corridors of coming decades and dimly predict what the future held for Till, for who knows, but that he could have been providentially destined to become one of the greatest advocates of democracy. What ever the future may have held for him, he was severed from it by the bloodstained hands of those, who, by their cowardly actions, brought shame and disgrace to the American way of life and caused justice to weep aloud.

The Negro youth has been slain. Who committed the crime? Despite our belief, presently, only God knows. Did Roy Bryant and John W. Milam, the accused, represent all the white citizens of Mississippi in their lawless actions? Positively, absolutely no.

There are thousands of white citizens of Mississippi whose heads are today hanging in remorseful shame that such bloody tragedy should have happened in their state. But all the citizens of Mississippi are responsible to see to it that the guilty are apprehended, brought before the bar of justice, and made to pay the supreme penalty for their crimson deeds. If the white citizens of Mississippi are not aroused to actions by such ruthless crime, then, the blood of Till will be required at their hands by God.

The awful cloud is after the accused had confessed the kidnapping of Till, they were acquitted. In other words, the all white jury maliciously and willfully failed to perform the moral and legal duties incumbent upon the shoulders of American citizens under a democratic government.

Many Southern writers are saying that the confessed kidnappers of Till were acquitted by the all white jury because of the vigorous attack made upon the white citizens of Mississippi by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Regardless of how vigorous an attack the NAACP made upon the white citizens of Mississippi, there is no logical excuse for such grave miscarriage of justice. Isn't it preposterous to human psychology and the fundamental teaching of the Bible for men to steal merely because they are accused of stealing, or to murder merely because they are stigmatized as murderers?

If the all white jury deemed the attack made by the NAACP upon the white citizens of Mississippi to have been an act of injustice, then, they should have falsified the accusations by executing justice and judgment, for the Master taught, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely." Had the decision of the all white jury been dominated by justice and judgment, they would have proved Mississippi to be a blessing to democracy and put the enemies of the American way of life to flight.

In these trying times when justice seems to be at its lowest ebb, and when bribery and crimes are shaking the very foundation of America, we, as colored citizens, can find consolation in three immortal truths.

A. It has never failed that these minority groups (not representative of America) who ignore the laws of their maker, take the laws of the land into their hands to punish and kill Negroes and escape the wrath of the law through the exit of legal chicanery will, far beyond the shadow of a doubt, with the same mad passion, punish and kill whites.

B. That the hasty illegal decision handed down by the all white jury in the Till case is diametrically opposed to the immortal principles upon which America is founded. A few lawless men do not change the spirit of the Constitution.

That despite all the injustices which have been inflicted upon us as a race, we have, beyond all reasonable doubts, received more blessings than cursings.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

ORDINANCE OF JUSTICE
By A. Leon Lowry.



A. B. B. D.
Pastor of
The Tabernacle
Baptist Church

CRIMINAL DIVISION
Evidence of Jesus' Power
Luke 7: 22-26

It might be rather difficult for us to understand this lesson, in the sense that prior to this time Jesus appears not to be using miraculous deeds to move His Kingdom ahead. This lesson seems to place a great emphasis upon the miracles. However, let us not be too hasty in our conclusions. For I am sure we will see that Jesus does not depart from his purpose plan to bring in His Kingdom.

Our lesson gives us the story of the restoring to life the son of the widow of Nain. The people had no doubt that the man was dead and that Jesus in some miraculous way restored him to life. There are a number of theories about this particular situation. Some hold that the man was not actually dead, but that it was a matter of suspended animation with which Jesus dealt. Others hold that this is an allegorical story. But the people present believed the man was dead and so do I. I do not know how he did it, for it is indeed a mystery.

As we look at the situation, we see this poor widow, who probably had depended on this son for her support; now he has died and she is left all alone. Jesus saw the problems clearly and decided what was necessary. He saw that the woman had no other means of support, and that there was no social security for her in that cruel and hard world. I am quite certain that there was no selfish thought in the mind of Jesus as he met this need. He did not consider himself as a wonder worker. However his fame spread far and wide and people came from all corners to see this great man.

At this time John the Baptist was in prison, but he too heard about the work that Jesus was doing and was greatly disturbed. He sent messengers to ask Jesus was He the Christ or was there another to come. John was not sure. It is strange that John, who had baptized Jesus and had heralded his approach in such glowing terms, should now be in doubt. It is possible that John who had not performed any miracles was disturbed because it might have appeared to him that Jesus was going to turn out to be a wonder worker. No doubt John was wondering about what would happen to the poor, the distressed and the abused.

When the messengers of John relayed his message to Jesus, Jesus sent word to John that the poor were hearing the Gospel, that the blind were receiving their sight, and the lame were getting up and walking. Jesus referred to some Old Testament Scripture in his answer

to John. The words he spoke came from the prophecy of Isaiah.

The incidents in this lesson might lead us to think in terms of healing in our world. All about us are people who are purportedly engaged in the business of healing men and women. A large number of these are not medical doctors or psychiatrists. We have seen in our time how our physicians have actually restored life to people who were, clinically, dead. In many instances the treatments used have done some damage to the brain, so that apparently not all of "life" has actually been restored. Most of us do not put too much stress on this matter of healing and perhaps we are asking the same question that John asked. Now how can we apply this story to our present day situation?

There is no doubt that the basis of Jesus' message is spiritual. I am sure there are very definite results upon the body when one's spirit is "made whole" through following Jesus. But this is different from seeking Jesus primarily for some physical effect. On observing the reply of Jesus to John, we witness many today who want a special message directed to them alone. Some folk are just not satisfied to take what everyone can see and hear and come to their own conclusions on that basis. Because there is nothing special for them they become offended in Jesus.

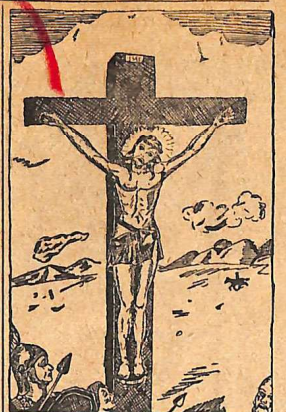
There are practical people of affairs who patronize Jesus. He is all right when you can afford the luxury of that kind of conduct, they seem to be saying; but when we have enemies or when we are conducting business we must use the rules that have been worked out through centuries of diplomacy, warfare and commerce. They say this until some great genius, like John Wanamaker, comes up with a new discovery that "the customer is always right," and makes a fortune by putting to work one of Jesus' basic ideas.

Again we see here that Jesus is no respecter of persons. He sees all men as being equal before God. I think that what Jesus is pointing out is that the person who is truly a follower of him is concerned with blindness wherever it is found in others, with disease wherever it could be destroyed, with ignorance wherever it ought to be dispelled. Witnesses of Jesus Christ have the responsibility of telling good news to the poor wherever there are poor. It is our task to give men new vision.

Did You Know That

One of the world's most famous trademarks was born in a painting entitled "His Master's Voice," created by Francis Barraud in 1899? The dog featured in the painting was the artist's fox terrier, named "Nipper." The Victor Talking Machine Company—which later became RCA Victor—acquired rights to this trademark in 1901. Since then it has identified the company's home entertainment products.

Falsehoods not only disagree with truth, but they usually quarrel among themselves. — Daniel Webster.



You Help Crucify Him When You Don't Go to Church

GO TO CHURCH SUNDAY!

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to enquire in his temple. Ps. 27:4.

Gardeners Asked To Aid Postal Authorities

Postmaster Louis J. O'Connell advised all home gardeners today that for the safest mail delivery of their shrubbery and plants during the current Fall planting season they should take certain steps to aid postal authorities.

"We have been informed by the Gardening Council of New York that this is the shipping season for nursery stock orders," O'Connell said. "Much of the stock is perishable, and without the co-operation of the purchasers, and delivering agencies, best results cannot be expected."

O'Connell said there were three steps that purchasers of nursery stock should take:

1. If away or on vacation, make arrangements to have a neighbor accept shipments. Keep moist and in a cool location until Planting time. Otherwise, the plants may be damaged in storage at the Post Office or Express Station.
2. If a neighbor cannot accept delivery, contact the Post Office, and leave instructions as to where the plants can be delivered. A cool basement, garage, or shaded porch is always better than a mail room for storage of dormant plants.
3. Best of all, if you are home, have the ground well prepared, and make your planting as soon as possible after delivery. Early planting, liberal watering, and following the sender's instructions will insure best growth of all plant materials.



Moments of Reflection

By
A. L. GUERARD

A THANKFUL HEART

God of the winds, the snows, the rains,
The tides that fall and rise;
The Painter of the vales and plains,
Lamp-lighter of the skies;
Thou who hast made the land and sea

And holdest each apart.
Wouldst thou but grant me this one plea:

Give me a thankful heart!
Give of calm in time of strife,
Giver of balm in pain;
Thou who alone canst give of life
And right all things amain;
Thou who gavest love that wooed
And drew this soul apart,
That I might show my gratitude:
Give me a thankful heart!
God of the atom and its power,
Wise keeper of the time;
Giver of peace sublime;
Giver of faith that sees the way
Though heaven and earth depart;
Thou who hast given all, I pray:
Give me a thankful heart!