Go to Church Easter Sunday

"Rumors About Jesus"

(Following is the substance of a sermon given last Sunday in the Birmingham First Presbyterian Church, by its pastor, Rev. W. Glen Harris.)

By Rev. W. Glen Harris

"When they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem." (John 12:12).

Many people live on the strength of the rumors they hear. Propaganda has become a very effective instrument in modern civilization. Rumor has become so effective that the truth is increasingly difficult to determine. The present program of planned propaganda more and more determines the destiny of man. It is interesting to observe that the closing days of Christ's earthly ministry were shrouded with the designs of propaganda, rumor, and hearsay.

The ancient and venerable feast of the Passover was at hand. The fame of Jesus had touched the life of all people who had any semblance of religious responsibility. The pilgrims who had traveled from far and near congregated in groups, and the one question that dominated all thought and conversation: "Will He come to the feast?" They anxiously hoped that he would come but they were nervously apprehensive lest he absent himself as he had done the previous year. At the appointed time, and to God's own way, their doubt was set at rest.

Word came upon good authority that He would observe the Feast with his people in Jerusalem. They looked upon Him as the Messiah approaching His capital according to ancient prophecy, and they wanted to welcome and honor Him as such. After the fashion of royal processions, they covered the road with their garments, and cut boughs from the palm-trees which lined the road, and waving those emblems of triumph, they escorted Him on His way. As they descended the western slopes of Olivet, as one mighty symphony, they sang "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest!" The rulers questioned, the Pharisees protested. Jesus knew the real meaning.

His Conduct Peculiar

A careful reader of the Gospels can easily detect the reason for many rumors that arose during the last week of Christ's earthly ministry. The conduct of Jesus was peculiar. It is unlike anything else recorded of Him in the New Testament.

Hitherto we have seen Him withdrawing as much as possible from public notice, retiring into the wilderness, and checking those who would have brought Him forward and made Him a King. As a rule He did not court popular attention. Here, on the contrary, we see Him making a public entry into Jerusalem, attended by an immense crowd of people, and causing even the Pharisees to say, "Behold, the world has gone after Him."

Many rumors developed amidst the rapidly passing events of Christ's last days. Some of those rumors are worthy of our consideration today, almost twenty centuries later.

A man's religion affects his actions

In those days it was rumored that Jesus openly advocated the unpopular theory that a man's religion actually has some influence upon what he does. Jesus emphatically thus, and the reason that it degenerated into a mere rumor is that the people of that day did not welcome such a thought, and their general resentment caused it to be received at first as a rumor. Men alter and color the things that they perceive to harmonize with the things that they want to hear. They discount anything that is objectionable and glorify anything that appeals to their fancy.

King of the Jews

In those last days it was rumored that Jesus was King of the Jews. The pharisees received these words and placed upon them an interpretation that fitted usually into their attitude toward Jesus. Upon the basis of this misinterpretation of a fact, they made Jesus a provincial, local, temporary racial God. They suggested that in the due course of time His popularity would run its course and He would be forgotten.

The world has well witnessed the tragedy of such interpretation of God. We are willing to give a little money to missions, condescendingly. We want the African, the Chinaman, the alien with in our own borders, to have a little religion, but we send our missionaries to him with the definite understanding that God was ours first, and He can never be their God like He is ours, because He must always be thought of as the God of the superior people.

Raised the Dead

It was rumored in those days that just before His own death Jesus raised a man from the dead. Some one had given a vivid and detailed account of such an event. The occurrence was so well confirmed that the propaganda machines of the Pharisees had to go into full action. This rumor Jesus faced courageously. He made no effort to suppress this story, but rather gave it impetus and confirmation. Closely linked with this rumor are some of the most profound claims of our Lord. He claims that confirm His Lordship, claims that prove conclusively that He is the Son of God. "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. And I, if I be lifted from the earth, will draw all men unto me." (12:32).

Jesus Enjoyed His Religion

In those days it was rumored that Jesus enjoyed His religion. The story was actually circulated about that He sang that He took part in functions where people truly enjoyed themselves. The last time that Jesus talked with disciples as a group they sang together. He instituted the Lord's Supper and they ate of it together, and then sang a hymn and went out. This occasion was not one of hilarious laughter and exultant rejoicing, but there was about it an atmosphere of hope, joy, true reason for rejoicing.

The only unpleasant memory that I have of religion dates back to childhood, back to the long and ghastly looking faces of people who thought that they could not be a Christian and smile and be happy at the same time. The only thing that I can remember that ever made religion unattractive is the attitude of people who spend their time making religion unappealing instead of scattering everywhere the sunshine of God's great and unbounding life for man.

Many rumors arose concerning the Christ of Palm Sunday. Whatever rumor may choose to think of them, these things are true: Jesus was a Prophet in His identification with us. He lived here among us, sharing our joys and sorrows, our burdens and tears.

In the Franco-Prussian war of 70 years ago the French were defeated and Paris was besieged by the Prussians. The greatest soul in France in those days was Victor Hugo. He was a lay-prophet who, by his writings had sought to lift his people back to God. At the time of the French defeat he was living in safety and peace in England. If he had remained there he would have escaped those dreadful days that were to follow. He heard that the Prussians were nearing Paris and that the French capital would soon be facing the horrors of a siege. He left England, crossing the channel into France, and arrived in Paris the last day before the Germans arrived. He came to share with his people their suffering and tears. For this France has never forgotten Victor Hugo. No man could speak to them with such appeal and authority as he who had identified himself with them in their suffering and need.

This was the glory of Jesus Christ. He identified Himself with us. It was this that made Palm Sunday glorious.

Reported to be the only one in the world, the Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, have a newspaper in their own language.

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"The Lord is Risen"

EASTER SERVICE

Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church

Lincoln near Woodward

11 A. M.

SERMON: "The Stone Rolled Away."

St. James Church

THE REVEREND WARNER L. FORSYTH

Rector

Good Friday

12 M. to 3:00 P. M.
Three hours of devotion. Meditations by the Rector.

Easter Eve

4 P. M.
Baptism.

5 P. M.
Evening Prayer.

Easter Day

7 A. M.
Celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

9:30 A. M.
Childrens Service.

11 A. M.
Celebration of the Holy Eucharist.
Sermon by the Rector.

Public address system installed for this service.

Church News

First Church Christ, Scientist, Chester and William Streets
Church and Sunday School services
Wednesday at 8 p. m.
Sunday at 10:30 a. m. (for children up to 14 years of age: 11:30 for children 14 years and over).
Are Sin, Disease, and Death Real? will be the subject of the Lesson-Sermon in all Christian Science Churches throughout the world on Sunday, April 19.
The Golden Text is: "Fear not: for, lo, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." (Isaiah 9:2-6, 7).
Among the Bible citations in the lesson-sermon will be the following from the Christian Science textbook, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy, including the following: "Life, God, is the only Life, God is neither the author nor the cause of death, are the impossibilities, absurdities of Life, God and His creation are perfect before truth and love."

Calvary Baptist Church
605 South Woodward
Rev. R. Bruce Brewer, Pastor
10:00 A. M. Church School. Bible Primary School. Classes for all ages. Welcome to all. Come and study God's Bible with us. We would like to have you come with us to study God's Bible.
Our School has shown fine increase during the ministry of the Rev. Bruce Brewer, who joined the church only to prayer about two months ago. Our time record was broken last Sunday when the attendance was almost doubled. Our teachers that is positive minded and full faith in the Word of God. No one will be permitted to teach a class of God's word will not be accepted. Be on hand. Send your children with full confidence that they will receive sound teaching of the Scriptures which is better than no education is complete.
11:00 a. m. Morning Worship Service. Special Music by our choir. Church School Meeting. Gravestones Of Stones. This is the fifth in a series of sermons on the Six Miracles Of The Cross. The Blind arraigned and treated by Sanhedrim. Mrs. Burgess.
7:30 P. M. Evening Worship Service. Special Music by our choir. This is the last of a series of sermons on the miracle of the Cross will be given tonight. The Cross Speaks Tender To Life, with the subject continuing and introduction made in the opening brief summary of events of the week as recorded in the Bible. Jesus Christ revealing Himself as the resurrection and the life. The prophecy made of both life and death are declared in the clear cut. The text will be provided as it is throughout the entire sermon of God.
This is your invitation to hear great messages.
7:30 p. m. Wednesday Midweek Church Service. Special music by the Church body this week.
10:00 a. m. Thursday Morning Group meet for prayer in church vestry on at noon. Special wish announced by Rev. Brewer during the week.
1:00 p. m. Thursday. Rooster Meeting for the men and boys.
7:30 p. m. Thursday. Special prayer meeting preceding choir rehearsal.
7:30 p. m. Saturday. Special meeting for Church members and friends, one of the homes. You are always welcome.

St. Hugo of the Hills Church
Opdyke Road
The Rev. Daniel T. Whelihan, Pastor
Sunday masses at 8:00, 10:00, 11:00 and 12:30.

First Presbyterian Church
Rev. W. Glen Harris, Pastor
Lloyd G. Chapman, Director Christian Education
Norman S. Grubb, Supt. Sabbath School
Friday evening at 7:30, M'Committee and Revival Meeting, to which all are to be held in this Church. We cordially invite all members and friends of the Church to share in the services. The choir will sing "The Ascension" Stamer to open this program, 7:45 sharp.
The Rev. Lloyd G. Harris will speak on his subject, "An Appointment with Jesus" at each of the worship services at 9:30 and the other at 11 o'clock. These services will be morning in order of worship and music.
At 7:30 o'clock in the evening the Christian Endeavor groups and the Intermediate Choir are presenting a sunrise service, and program.
Sabbath School 11:45. Adult Bible class at 10:00. Junior and Primary Church 11:00 o'clock.

First Baptist Church
Willits at Baldwin
Rev. Joseph G. Nelson, Pastor
David Anderson, Church School Supt.
Thomas Little, Organist
Sunrise Young People's Meeting 6:30 A. M. in the Parlor.
Music and speakers for the Young People.
Breakfast served in the dining room following the service.
10:00 Church School. Classes for ages as usual.
11:00 Morning Worship. Organ Prelude by Mr. Harlan Hoover, "Andante" Chopin; "Consentement" F. Willis; Finale in F. Mr. Harris will sing in the church choir "Alleluia" Bellis; R. H. Marryott, Jr., Easter Morning Light, Ayer; Baritone Solo, Girls Chorus, "The Cross Speaks Tender To Life" Stamer; "Sunrise Triumph," J. Harper; Mrs. Ruth Lockwood Sessions, Walter Rice.
11:00 Nursery for small children.
6:30 Mr. and Mrs. Club with Parlor Games and U. C. Meeting in the Easter program.
7:30 Evening Service in the Auditorium. Sermon topic—"Behold My Hands and Feet"—Music by the Girls Chorus, Mrs. Nelson at the Organ. Communion Service.
The community is cordially invited to attend all the services of the church.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday evening at 7:30 in the Prayer Room.

St. James Episcopal Church
Rev. Warner L. Forsyth, Rector
Women's Rectory 199, Office 2318
Sunday school, Kindergarten and primary classes at 9:30 a. m. Junior and senior schools 9:45 a. m.
Holy Communion and Sermon 11 a. m.
Morning prayer and sermon, 11 a. m.
Holy Communion, 11 a. m., first Sunday of month.

Christ Church Cranbrook
Rev. Charles H. Gadigan, Rector.
Mr. E. W. Hill, Organist and Choirmaster
Holy Communion and Sermon 8 a. m.
Morning Prayer and Sermon 11 a. m.
Good Friday, Three Hour Service, 12 noon to 3 p. m.
Easter Day—Holy Communion 7 a. m.
Sunrise Service 6:30 a. m.
Holy Communion and Sermon 9:30 a. m.
Holy Communion and Sermon 11 a. m.
Holy Communion and Sermon 4 p. m.
Carillon Recital 4:45 p. m.
August Maekelberghe, carillonneur.

Holy Name Catholic Church
1 Highway and Woodward
Rev. Fr. Laurence J. Haney, Pastor
Sunday masses at 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 12:00.
Sunday Evening Service at 7:30.
Services for Holy Week. Holy Thursday at 7:30 p. m. Tenebrae.
Good Friday at 3 p. m. Adoration of the Cross.
Holy Saturday at 7:30 p. m. Easter Vigil.
Easter Sunday masses at 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 12:00.
Easter Evening Service at 7:30.

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Woodward at Wimbledon
Rev. Theodore H. Wickeser, Pastor
Sunday school 9:30 a. m.
Good morning worship service 10:30 a. m.
Lutheran Hour 7:30 p. m.
Lutheran Young People's League 7:30 p