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WILL HOLD ITS FIRST

Club Night

ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH, 1947

8.00 — 11.00 p.m.

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2.24 p.m.	_

10.20 a.m. 7.15 p.m. x11.25 a.m. b 8.20 p.m. 2.35 p.m. xa9.05 p.m. y 4.55 p.m. x11.10 p.m.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL . LESSON

by Rev. R. C. Todd JESUS SUMS UP HIS CLAIMS John 12: 12-50 Our study of John's Gospel has

brought us to the last week of Jesus' ministry - a week that began with cheers for the nian who entered Jerusalem on a donkey, and ended with jeers for the man who left it carrying a cross. John would have us see that Jesus was not the victim of hostile oircumstance, but the willing accomplice of the Divine Purpose. . In chap. 10, vs. 18 Jesus says, "No man taketh (my life) from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down and I have power to take again. This commandment have I received from my Father." Quite deliberately. Jesus chooses to proclaim himself Messiah by his entry into the city upon the colt of an ass. The action later recalled to the disciples the words of the prophet Zecharlah: "Re-

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joice greatly, O daughter of Ziona. . . behold thy king cometh unto thee; He is just and having salvation; lowly and riding upon an ass, and upon a coit, the foal of an ass. And I will out off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be called off; and He shall speak peace unto the heathen." Quite delberately Jesus chose this way, knowing full well where it would lead and believing it was God's

He quietly but distinctly proclaims that he fulfils all God's promise and purpose among men; is the promised Messiah who is to rectify all things, to lead men to their true destiny; to be practically God upon earth, accessible to men and identified with all/human interests. This was the claim 'he made and his claim was enthusiastically admitted and acclaimed by the populace. To them his credentials were entirely satisfactory, but they did not understand that he was not of the same mind as themselves regarding the work of the Messiah. He saw that the throne to which they. were leading him was the Cross, that his coronation was the reception on his head of all the thorns and stings and burdens that man's sin had

fancy that the redemption of the world could be accomplished by an afternoon's enthusiasm. He measured with accuracy the forces against him and understood that his warfare was not with the legions of Rome, against | - Betty Rhodes which this Jewish patriotism and courage might tell, but with forces a thousand times stronger, with the - Charlie Spivak devils of hatred and jealousy, of lust and worldliness, of carnality and seltishness. Only by the very utmost of - Yaughn Monroe goodness and sacrifice, trial and endurance, could his warfare be accomplished. To see of the travail of his - Page Cavanagh Trio soul and be satisfied, he must be

brought into the world. He did not

That's What I Like About wounded for transgressions and bruised for iniquities. (see Isiah 53.) Claiming Messlah's crown, he must carry the crown of thorns. - Phil Harris

John now introduces another incldent to show that all is ripe for the death of Jesus. Certain Greeks request to be introduced to Jesus. The - Vaughn Monroe acclamations Jesus received in Jer usalem are being echoed among those whose nationality, customs and traditions are as separate as the poles - Perry Como from those of the Jews. These are 20-2108 The Funny Thing Called Love Gentiles, and their request to see Jesus is the cry of the whole Gentile - Freddy Martin world for a Redeemer. In Creeks, Jesus sees the first of the "other sheep which are not of this - Johnny Desmond fold," which hear the Shepherd's voice and follow Him, (see last Sunday's lesson on the Good Shepherd) - Count Basic It is an incident which encouraged Jesus to continue the course he had chosen, the course that will lead to the Cross. The time has come for it. "the hour that the Son of Man should be glorified." His greatest glory is the Cross, a glory in the light

> of which even the most respectable of men stand judged, and the powers of evil condemned and destroyed. In the little parable of the corn of wheat. Jesus indicates the one power that is able to overthrow the dominion of evil over mankind. This is the fact and the example of the cross Speaking of the principle of self-sacrifice as the law of life, and then of his own acceptance of that principle in the final sacrifice now so close upon him. Jesus says that here is our assurance of the ultimate and complete defeat of the power of evil to curse humanity. But it is not enough for Satan to be overthrown; men must be drawn to a new and more adequate allegiance in life; they must

be inspired to a share in the spirit of sacrifice of which the cross is the symbol. A better life will become possible for men and nations only as they are drawn to the Crucified Christ and learn to be motivated by the spirit of the cross. So long as individuals and nations think in terms of increasing their own power, and securing heir own profit, there can never be any escape from the economic and political conflicts which inevitably result in depession and war. There must be a basic change of spirit and motive, dictated by the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. George Bernard Shaw once wrote in the preface to one of his plays: "I have lived for over sixty years; and I confess that I can see no way of escape from the miseries of the world except the way that Jesus would have taken if he had undertaken the work of a modern statesman." The whole pressure of modern life is on the side of 'getting, but so long as we are aware of Christ, on His Cross, we know that this cannot be right and we. stand judged "Now is the judgment of this world." This is a judgment on individuals and it is the response of the individual to that judgment and the call of Jeeus to follow Him in the way of the Cross that forms the basis of the Ohristian religion. Men are called into the fel-

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