

January 3rd, 1924.

2nd Chapter of the Book of St. John- first eleven verses.

I read in your hearing this morning a passage of scripture the second chapter of the Book of St. John for two reasons. It shows us that Jesus was interested in the social life of his people; it shows that he was interested in a marriage, and that he was interested in having the party that followed the marriage a success. I am not going into any discussion with you this morning about the water that was turned into wine. I have heard people say that it would make you drunk. It was good wine. Jesus didn't make grape juice and call it wine. When he made wine he made wine. When he did anything he did it through and through.

Jesus the Savior was interested in the people, and he wanted their social function to be a success. He demonstrated that. The very reason that I read that passage of scripture to you was that his Mother had faith in him. When the wine ran out- they must have been drinking pretty heavily that night- when it ran out Mary went to Jesus, who was an invited guest, and so was Mary, and she told him that the wine had given out, what did he have to do with it. She had faith in him that he would help those people out at this trying time. He said "Woman I haven't got anything to do with this, it is none of my business, my time is not yet come". She went off, but she still had faith in his ability. She walked around into the servants quarters and said "whatever he tells you to do, don't ask any questions, do whatever he says". She had faith in her Lord, and he didn't fail her.

Now there is some one at home with faith in you, don't fail them, live up to their expectations. I am nearly as old as any of you, not quite, but you have broken a great many more New Year resolutions than I ever did because I haven't made any. I don't believe in making New Year resolutions a bit more than I believe in waiting until Saturday for the usual Saturday performance. I believe in making your resolution whenever the time comes, not wait until the first of January, you may forget it, you may have something else to do that day, but as opportunity comes and as you catch a vision of what you ought to do, then is the time to make a resolution that from now on I will do this, Make your resolutions at the time when you feel you ought to make them, but it is a good thing and let me say to you before I leave the question of resolutions, you better make them on the first of January than not to make them at all. It is a good thing, however, for us once or twice or three times a year to do like the man in the mercantile business. You know a lot of merchants at a certain time in the year shut up the stores, close the doors to the outside world and take stock, see what they have to sell, see how much they have made during the year or how much they have lost, rummage through the whole place, and they find an awful lot of things sometimes that they don't know they had and bring out and put on the shelf. Take stock of what you have to start with, and that's a good thing to do the first of the year. Close the door to the outside world and rummage through your life, go back through a period of 12 months, see what you have sold and whether you have made or lost on it, go through the shelves



of your life and see what you have overlooked that you could have sold if you had had it where you could see it. Go through your lives and see where you have made mistakes and where you could correct them in the future. The valuable piece of property that you had in there for sale, clean the box off and give it a prominent place in the show counter and see that you sell it next. The ability that you have acquired during the year see that it is placed where it can do its greatest service during the coming year. Take stock of your life and see what you have that is worth while, and you will find perhaps some things in there that ought to be marked down and put on the bargain counter and sold to the first person that wants to buy. I mean you will find some things in life that are not worth keeping there, get rid of them that day.

Bring them out during the next year, you will find opportunities neglected during 1923. see that they are not neglected in 1924. You will find mistakes you have made, and it is all right to make mistakes if we will improve by it. See that you make them not in 1924. You will find things written on the walls of your life that you would like to erase. Well you can't erase them but you can cover them with good deeds. You can put something over them that will take their place. You will find in life a number of things when you take stock that you will want to keep because they are things that are worth while, and they remain. The great bulk of the stock in your life is worth while, find a way to use it to the best advantage. Oh, well you say that's the same as making a resolution. All right make that kind of resolution if you want to. Go through your life and see where you are but don't stop there, keep your eye on the future and project a scheme for 1924 that will carry to you something that is worth while, just as the good business man lays his plans with what he is going to have do after he has taken stock, Just so you can too, then bend every energy to live up to it, and that is worth while.

Some of you in taking stock will find a large box of fear. I cant do it. One of you wrote me about that during the Christmas holidays. I have failed on so and so, can I take something else up. That is a great box of fear that got in the way of that girl's life. The box of fear is made out of tissue paper and is the easiest box that you have to remove. Just go right straight on through, it isn't there when you get through, and yet there are a lot of folks in this world who build for themselves a wall of fear that keeps them from undertaking the things that easiest to do. There isn't any thing to be afraid of. Are you afraid to go by a grave yard at night? Most people are, they forget that the dead can't hurt you. It is only the living that do you harm. Well if you are afraid to go by a graveyard at night get the left hand leg of a graveyard rabbit and carry it with you, that will keep off all the "hants". Do you catch what I mean? For every fear there is an antidote, and that box of fear is always empty. There is nothing in it, but it keeps you from doing something worth while. Lay it aside, don't try to build a fire in the furnace with it, there isn't enough material there to light a match. Lay out your life plan and go to it, then throw open the doors of your life for the customers to come in and trade with you, and for the fresh air and sunshine of your life to blow through, and meet every customer with a smile and a glad hand



and go on though your life enjoying the simple fact that you are living.

I met a man the other day when it was almost as bad a day as yesterday was, and he had a terrible frown on his face, he says, "this is miserable weather isn't it." I says "it is a lot better than none", and you know he did just like the most of you he smiled. He says, "well, that's fact I hadn't thought about that". It makes no difference how bad the proposition may be, it is simply testing the ~~matter~~ <sup>mettle</sup> that is in you

Yesterday is gone forever, gone into the hands of universe and you can't stay back there and correct it to save your life. Tomorrow is beyond your grasp, but it also is in the hands of the Great God of this universe, and he is shaping your tomorrow so as to mean the most to your life. You have only today, no not all of today, because from 10:30 back is in yesterday and from 11:00 on is in tomorrow. You have only now, just now, and you can stand the task for a minute if you will just have faith and a willingness to put the best that is in your life into it. Now let <sup>each</sup> today be divided into hours, and each hour into minutes, and each minute <sup>into</sup> ~~into~~ each opportunity, and place the best of your life <sup>into</sup> ~~next~~ each opportunity, and you can stand it ~~for~~ for just one day, and when the day is over go quietly to your places to sleep, knowing that the mistakes as well as the <sup>great</sup> things are with a loving heavenly Father and take your rest preparing yourself for your tomorrow, and you can live that kind of life day in and day out, and at the end of a twelve months you will be surprised how much you have added to your stock, how much you have added to your life, how much more life means to you.