

On Life's Highway

-- Dr. Wright, in Chapel Feb. 15, 1930

Scripture reading: Matthew 9, verses 18-26

If we could think of Life and our journey from the time we are born into this world until we pass from here into Eternity as a highway, it probably would help us to visualize some of the things I wish to talk to you about this morning.

Psychologists tell us that we are a part of every thing we see, hear, ^{or} read, ~~or do~~. ~~Everything that comes in touch with us or that we come in touch with enters into our lives and has something to do with shaping each individual life, during our temporal existence on earth.~~ Some go so far as to say that the color of the paper on the walls of a man's house has something to do with his success or failure, with his mental attitude, and his disposition. I suspect there is some truth in that.

The moving pictures you see have something to do with your life. ~~Ever so~~ Often a person is brought up and convicted of some crime that has all the earmarks of ^{some crime} ~~one~~ shown in a moving picture. Probably the moving picture has entered into that person's life and made him become a criminal; that is more than a possibility, it is indeed a probability.

Nature from ^{her} ~~the~~ depths of ~~the universe~~ speaks to human beings from the depths of their hearts. Deep calleth unto deep is certainly true of the human soul and the things God has placed around us. Our lives are ^{and modified} enriched by the experiences we have, ~~not only enriched, but~~ modified.

You have heard the old story of the man who never saw anything quite so beautiful after the Civil War as it was before. It made no difference what you said to him about how beautiful or delightful things were, he always told you how much more beautiful they were before the war.

He was out with a friend on one of those rare, balmy evenings when ~~there~~ were a few stars, ~~and~~ the moon was shining gloriously. The friend said, "Just look at the moon. Isn't it beautiful!" "Yes, it's all right," the old veteran said, "but you ought to 've seen her before the war."

The war had taken out of that old man's life many of the beauties. We laugh at him for making a fool of himself, as we express it, but that four years had taken from him many of the best and most beautiful things of life. ¶ Of two people looking at the same thing one may see beauty beyond compare because of the journey he has taken ~~back here~~ ^{life's} on the highway, because of the beauty he has seen, the things he has thought, and the things he has read. He may stand on the mountain top and see the beauty of the clouds above and the gorge below, and ~~the~~ see the smoke curling up from a house below and reflect on the beauty and the peacefulness of the scene. The convict who is crushing rock on the highway may look at the same scene and, because of the life he has lived, see nothing of beauty in it. The smoke coming up from the chimney may remind him of the crime he committed which caused him to be ~~crushing rock there~~ ^{a convict}. The same scenes look entirely different to people who have come from a different environment.

It behooves us as we go along life's highway to pick out the things that will help and uplift, and shun those that come back in later life and remind us of unpleasant things--to keep out of our lives the things that will keep us from enjoying those things that come to us from the depths of nature as it speaks to the depths of our souls. It behooves us to take those things that add to and enrich our lives and come back to us later, in joy and happiness and in satisfaction.

That woman who walked up and touched the hem of Christ's garment that she might be healed had faith; she reached out for help, and Jesus knew it. He realized that power had gone out from his life into her life, and turned and said to her "thy faith ^{has} made thee whole". You and I are passing along life's highway, and whether we know it or not, though usually we are conscious of it, there is power and influence going out of our lives, and helping to make whole or to make sick the people with whom we come in touch. Their faith in us will do them good if we are living the kind of life we ought to live.

This is especially true, young women, ^{of} with people who are teachers. It is a glorious privilege to so live in this world that you can radiate into the souls of boys and girls you are ^{teaching} going to teach the influence that will help heal their moral and intellectual sickness. I do not know any place on earth that you can do more good by living aright than in the school, if you have the spirit that ought to be in each teacher. It seems to me that the teacher, as he goes along life's highway, has an unusual opportunity of being of help to his fellowman.

^{That man} This ~~man~~ who came to Jesus ^{and} told him that his daughter was already dead, but if he would come and ^{lay his hand on her} take her by the hand she would live again. And Jesus did this, because the man had faith. There are little boys and girls all over North Carolina who will have faith in you and in me, and we want to touch those who are deep in sin or wrong-doing with the hand of light and lift them ~~back~~ into the life of usefulness and service. Along life's highway as we go, day by day, there are thousands of things that will come to pull us off the right ^{way} road, but the spirit of the true teacher will enable one to pass these pitfalls and ^{go on} enable ~~him~~ to help his fellowman.

There is, after all, no nobler thing one can do than to help lift his fellowman to a higher and nobler plane of living. It is great!

It is a great privilege to be a teacher.