

Chapel -- March 18, 1930

--President Wright

Scripture reading Matthew 12: Verses 29-37

I was detained last evening on account of another appointment, and only heard one part of the musical recital. I want to commend you most highly. I enjoyed every bit of it. It always pleases me to see the students of this college measure up in a big way, as the girls did last evening.

We have completed the registration, and so far it has been the most satisfactory we have ever had. You are now on the beginning of the last lap. You know we are all interested in baseball--I don't know anybody that isn't interested in baseball--and in Babe Ruth. You know the most interesting place in baseball--that last lap, the run from third base to the home plate. You are ready now to make that run. I want you to score. There are a number of things that keep a person from scoring. In baseball the runner's ability to score depends upon the one at the bat. That isn't so in this game you are playing. Your ability to score doesn't depend upon someone else. If you have the ability and the disposition, if you have the willingness to make the sacrifice you will score.

(If you are like these two girls sitting right down front, of course, you won't--these two who want to laugh and talk. If I were your teacher I would meet you half way and tell you that you were out.)

One of the strongest things in education, one of the things you need to acquire, is the ability to give sustained attention. That ability carries you over and gives you the power to apply

yourself, to put your thought on the particular task in hand, and young friends, after all that is probably the biggest thing the college can give you. We are not going to educate you, and I don't want you to deceive yourself by thinking we are. We can't do it. We can help you to educate yourself. It depends upon you, and where your heart is there is your treasure--and where your treasure is there is your heart also. You cannot serve two masters. You cannot think of Jim and John and Bill and geometry at the same time. One is mathematics, and the other is--not. You cannot be thinking about what kind of dress you are going to wear Commencement, and at the same time make a good grade in English. You might do that in Home Economics. Home Ec gives you a chance to think about and work at clothes. You must lay aside everything else and give yourself to your work. I am talking to you about this this morning because I want you to get through, I want you to master your work, I want you to realize that you must apply yourself to your individual task, I want you to realize that all we can do is to fix the place and give you some assistance. Education is the result of individual effort. We can throw around the student an environment that will help you to make the application, but you must do that yourself.

We can give you well-trained teachers that can be of invaluable aid to you, but they can't do the job for you; the job is yours, and I am glad it is that way. Jehovah, in making the laws that govern the relations of human beings one to the other, and in making the laws of the universe and solar system has made them so that they must be followed. There isn't but one way in the world for the individual to make good, and that is to conform to these laws.

In talking to these people Jesus said that the good trees brought forth good fruit and the evil trees, evil fruit, and we are going to judge the tree by the kind of fruit it brings forth. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. We reveal to the world with every word and act the kind of people we are. Students reveal to their teachers the kind of persons they are, just as the officers and teachers of any institution reveal their character to the students. Every work is recorded, and I am going a step farther and say that every thought is recorded. A person broadcasting may make a mistake which goes all over the world. If he discovers the mistake in time he may correct it--but it has been made and recorded. What we say and think is broadcast, and Jehovah receives it, whether it be good or whether it be evil. If we apply ourselves, that is broadcast. If we do the best we can, that is broadcast. If we flit and idle our time away there is no escape from the consequences. "A good tree brings forth good fruit, and an evil tree brings forth evil fruit."

I want you to know that I, and that all of your teachers will be glad if you make good this quarter. I hope you score at the home plate the last week in May.