

CHAPEL, APRIL 26, 1932

RMM

Scripture reading:

I selected the lesson I read in your hearing this morning because of the incident it reveals to us and because of the great truth found in it still applicable to human beings today. In the civilization in which we live so many things have been changed that it is almost incredible to us the kind of things supposed-to-be-civilized human beings did years and years ago. In Abraham's time it was one of the religious customs for people to offer up to their Gods their own children, to make sacrifices often of the ones in the family they loved most. This test was put to Abraham and it was a pretty severe test. Jehovah had promised him that through his son Isaac the nations of the world would be blessed, and yet Jehovah had told him to take that boy and go on a three-days journey and offer him as a sacrifice. He took some servants and the boy and went to the foot of the mountain and then he took his son and gave him the wood to carry and Abraham took the fire and the knife. The ~~servant~~^{son} asked "Where is the lamb?" and Abraham answered that God would provide it. He had been told to offer up Isaac. He builded the fire, put the wood in place, and bound his son. As he drew back his knife to take his child's life the voice of Jehovah stopped him. The significant thing ~~that~~ is that this marks a time when Jehovah no longer demanded the sacrifice of human life, but demands something else in its place. It marks the end of human sacrifice to God but does not mark the end of sacrifice. It means that we must make sacrifices within our own lives. It seems to me that the world needs to realize that today more than any other one thing--that all the worthwhile things of this world really come through sacrifice. Anything for which you make no sacrifice is of very little value. We are living in a time when it seems to me many people of the world are pleasure mad; just seeking pleasure anywhere and everywhere. Pleasure is all right if it comes in the right way but when it comes

as the object of ones life it is all wrong. One of the things the world is being taught today is that sacrifices must be made. This world condition today is bringing people to a realization of the fact that they must measure values and give up pleasure--that they must sacrifice to Jehovah.

If you want to do the best work in college you must give up a lot of things you want to do. If you want to make the best possible teacher when you leave college you must give up a lot of things you want to do. It makes no difference what you want to do in this world if you want to reach the top and do the worthwhile thing you must give up a lot of things. ^{you want to do} Human success is still founded upon sacrifice. It is absolutely essential, and if you are not willing to make the sacrifice you cannot accomplish your life's purpose. This is a universal truth, one of God's laws. Jesus would never have been Jesus if He had^{not} gone through Gethsemane; if He had^{not} sacrificed His life.

You are going to be called upon more than once in life to give up something you cherish and hold very near and dear. Can you do it with the spirit of Abraham, with that spirit of faith and love, with that spirit of willingness to do God's will?