

CHAPEL - JUNE 28, 1932

-- President Wright

Scripture Reading: 19th Chapter First Kings

Friends, this is a hard year on leaders. I think every leader in America realizes that.

I am delighted to be with you this morning and very much pleased to see the finest student body in North Carolina here in this Chapel.

We are living in a very interesting period in the history of the world. I asked Dr. Meadows to read that passage of scripture this morning because of the great character that is represented in that lesson. The character that we are studying this morning is a most interesting human being. He had fought battles in the cause of righteousness. He had killed the prophets of Baal and Jezebel sent him word that in about twenty-four hours he would be slain as they were. The surprising thing is that he became frightened and ran away. He got just as blue as anybody in America is blue today. He was so despondent that he prayed that he might die. He was saying to himself, what's the use? It's all over. I have fought for Jehovah and righteousness and it is all gone. He went out of the country down to Mount Horeb, the Mount of God, and found a cave there and slipped into the cave. He had a chance to meditate. He was told to go forth and stand upon the mountain. There was a great wind that blew the rocks around and broke them to pieces, but God was not in the wind. A great earthquake came and shook the foundations of the mountain; the earth trembled but God was not in the earthquake. Following the earthquake there was a great fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. Following all this turmoil there was a still, small voice. That represented

Jehovah's appearance to this great Christian leader. We are living in a period when a great wind of war has shaken the entire world, and broken it to pieces; this has been followed by a terrific upheaval all over the world; then the fire of depression has apparently burned up all that was left. I wonder if we can hear the still, small voice? I wonder if it is speaking to some of the people of the world today? After all these physical manifestations of human beings' inability to meet their responsibilities I wonder if God isn't just getting us ready to hear the still, small voice? Elijah went down from this mountain and worked most valiantly for Jehovah; and he is one of the few who didn't die but ascended into Heaven, "and His Mantle fell upon Elijah." His life, it seems to me, is a great lesson for people living today. When it seems that everything is gone, when it seems that all the traditions of the world have been shaken to pieces, when it seems that the civilization of today is about to be destroyed and that there is no hope for Israel the life of this character ought to be a great consolation and ought to give us faith to meet the difficulties of this world, and regardless of how difficult the task seems and the fact that we sometimes feel that there are no just men in Israel his life should inspire us to do the right thing. Jehovah said there was still a remnant of the House of Abraham; still those who were willing and ready to fight for the things that are right, and that remnant saved the religion of ^{that} today. That remnant, I firmly believe, is still on the earth. I firmly believe that Jehovah is working out of this situation that confronts us today something that will bring to the world the greatest civilization it has ever known. But it is a world-wide problem. A great deal depends upon the work you and I do. Last week one of the two ^{absolute} ~~greatest~~ monarchies left in the world changed to a limited monarchy. The King of Siam said ^{on one occasion that} he liked America, liked our system and wished he could have a public school system for the children of his country, but the country was too poor. But the people have reached that

stage where they think they can have some say in government. This nation of ours is the only one on the earth founded upon the idea of giving every individual the chance to work out the best that is in him. And that great fundamental purpose upon which this nation is founded is spreading throughout the world. But those principles are being attacked in America. The world is filled with people who are finding fault with everything that is being done, just as in the days of Elijah it was filled with people who were determined to tear down the faith of Jehovah. Are there enough of us who have faith in Jehovah and are willing to lay aside everything else and fight for the principle at stake? Teachers, preachers, and right-minded business men are the ones who are going to save this republic and save this great ideal of the world. Dr. Adams in his book ^{written} ~~he wrote~~ a few years ago asked ^{a Frenchman} "What is the distinguishing characteristic of the American people as you see them?" ^{The answer was} ~~said~~ "They all look you straight in the eye." In other words the American realizes that he has an equal chance; that he has the privilege of making the most possible out of his life.

There are a lot of people who have prejudices almost impossible to overcome, who will not look at both sides of a question. ^{Dr. M. Barnum} tells the story of a congregation in Connecticut who firmly believed they should go to Church and sit through an hour or an hour and a half sermon without any heat. Some one suggested buying a stove but when the "fool idea" was put to a vote it was turned down. However, the idea was eventually brought up again and the stove installed. The next Sunday two maiden ladies fainted from the heat--and then found there was no heat as the stove pipe ^{not been connected and the stove could not be used} ~~hadn't fit and could be used!~~

Thank God for the spirit of youth that is asking for the truth regardless of tradition. We have the greatest opportunity that has ever come to our profession because we are teaching open minded boys and girls. Right-minded teachers in every classroom and ~~school house~~ have this opportunity. I am delighted to see so many young folks that still have faith, that still believe school work is going to go on in North Carolina. If you have the right kind of faith we are going to carry

on and ~~to~~ win.

Remember Elijah. The time will come when you want to run away; when you say, what is the use? when you feel that it is all over--but remember the story of this great character and take courage. Go to the mountain and see the manifestations of Jehovah, listen to the still, small voice and go back to your work as this prophet did, and the world will be better because you have lived in it.