

CHAPEL, January 12, 1933

-- President Wright

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Scripture lesson: From first Chapter St. Mark

We have in this scripture lesson today something that is quite interesting if we can get what seems to me to be the correct interpretation of it.

Jesus had dedicated his life to what you and I would call the ministry He had given over His life to do the Father's work. He had set that aside definitely and He had been baptized by John the Baptist, and He had been blessed; He had heard a voice commanding Him, and then almost immediately He went away from the rest of the world, and for forty days according to the gospels, He was alone with Himself and Jehovah, and the devil was there also. This temptation of Jesus is quite interesting if we can put the right interpretation on it. It comes to every young life. Jesus had the same kind of experiences you and I have, and He was human, as well as divine, just as you are divine as well as human. A young life looks out over the world and sees the various and sundry things for human beings to do, and if it is a conscientious kind of life looks into its own soul and sees the thing it is fitted to do. Jesus evidently had been praying--though we are not told that--for forty days He was so completely concerned with other things that He forgot to eat, and then came that natural hunger. And then the temptation came to Him, turn these stones into bread, and His answer "Man shall not live by bread alone." In other words, there is something besides just taking care of the human body. Then figuratively speaking, because I think this was all figurative, He is lifted to the top of the mountain and looks out over the world and sees all the kingdoms of the world. He realized the power He had, all this could be His if He just did the wrong thing, the thing His conscience told Him not to do, and because He had character He turned away. He put that temptation behind Him, and we find Him next on the top pinnacle of the temple. "Make a demonstration before all Jerusalem that God has power to



protect you--cast yourself off the pinnacle, He will bear you up". He did not. He came into this world to give us an example. These ambitions of various and sundry kinds come into your lives as young folks when you are looking out upon the world and various fields of human activities --to go into politics, to gain great wealth, to do something miraculous, to attract attention, to carry out some great work that advertises yourself. Any of these things that pull one away from his life's purpose are wrong. That is the one great truth that comes to my mind from this lesson. You have a purpose in life; stick to it. First, be sure that it is the purpose God intended for you, and then do not let temptation pull you away. Stick to the purpose that enable you to hear a voice for Jehovah saying "Well done"; the purpose where you can get the approval of High Heaven. That is your purpose; do not let anything pull you away.

That is the great lesson that comes to us today.