

CHAPEL January 15, 1933

PKW

-- President Wright

Scripture lesson: First Chapter Mark, Verses 14-20

In the study that we have been making of the book of Mark and life of Christ there are two or three things I would like to call to your attention. One is that this man Jesus, the Messiah, the Christ, came into the world as an example for others to follow. He did not deal with the material things of life as his disciples expected he would; he did not give specific directions as to how one should vote in an election or which side he should take in a debate, or what his attitude should be about this thing and that, and yet he did give specific instructions about all these things. By the first part of this statement I mean that he left it with the conscience, the spirit, the inner man, to be the guide. Jesus in no sense wanted every person to be a minister, although he was considered by many at that time to be a Ribbi, which means a teacher or preacher among the Jews. He realized that people have to engage in different occupations. Be sure you select the thing God has given you a talent to do, and after you have made your decision stick to it. The temptation of Jesus shows that you will be tempted, too.

For a long, long time in my life I thought all the disciples of Jesus came from the common people, as we use the term; from the poor class, illiterates, etc. I do not know why I was taught that way, but that seemed to be the dominant idea when I was a boy, and it was quite a revelation to me to find that Jesus did not select all his people from that particular class of folks. We find different spiritual developments in those he selected. Simon, later called Peter, was one of the most impulsive men we have ever read the history of. He made a fool of himself several times, according to the record given us in the Bible, by being impulsive. John was a philosopher, and John was evidently an educated man.

John and James were members of a family that was well to do. Their father was a man who owned ships and hired a crew to help him do his fishing. John had a terrific temper. You might not think that, ^{by reading} but ~~read~~ the gospel of St. Paul. And yet he fought that temper down, giving us a wonderful example. Did you ever see anybody fly into a tantrum and make a perfect fool of himself? If you want to accomplish anything worthwhile in the world one of the first things you must do is learn to control your temper. I found that out early in life, when I was playing football. I found that if I could get my opponent on the other team really ^{angry} ~~mad~~, once he lost his temper, I could do anything I wanted to with him. And I have had them try the same thing on me, and a few times I have lost my temper playing football. If you can just smile, turn around and whistle, hum a little tune, get control of your self. That is part of one's religion; get ^{Control} ~~hold~~ of yourself, it will save you from a lot of trouble.