

CHAPEL January 21, 1933

-- President Wright

Scripture lesson: First Chapter Mark, Verses 35-45

I want to call your attention this morning especially to the passage of scripture read from Mark, telling of that Sunday, and the beginning of the next day we call Monday. Jesus after sleeping for a little while got up, probably before day, next morning and went out alone to pray. To me that is a very significant statement. I don't know how it is with you in your spiritual life, but it seems to me I can get just a little closer to Jehovah when away from the rest of the world. Evidently, Jesus felt that way for He went out before day alone. His disciples went to look for Him. They found Him and told Him great crowds were seeking Him, but Jesus didn't go back. He turned away from the crowd and went out on a preaching tour through Galilee. I wonder why He did that? Here is a great multitude of people anxious to see Him. He had been teaching in the Synagogue the day before and the rest of the time, as best we can learn, He was helping the sick. I wonder if He hadn't reached the point in that community where to continue healing would have given those people an absolutely erroneous opinion of His mission in this world. I believe that is the reason He left. We are not told that however, except that He started out preaching, or teaching, and it was for that purpose He came. As He went out on the tour there came a man to Him with leprosy, a disease supposed to be incurable, in fact, is still supposed to be incurable. There wasn't much, if any, hope for a person with leprosy, and yet a man came to Him saying, If you will, you can cleanse me; If you will just do it, you can make me well. Think of the faith that leprosy must have had. That faith appealed to Jesus so that He had compassion upon him, and cleansed him; not only cleansed him, but instructed him to go and present himself to the High Priest and fulfill the requirements of the law; do those things Moses had instructed them to do. Jesus told the man not to tell that He had cured him. I think that

was because He didn't want the people to think of Him simply as a great healer. He came for another purpose. He came to bring into the world what we call the Gospel, the religion of love. He came as the Messiah, the long-looked-for example for human beings to follow. He came to deal primarily with the spiritual needs of human beings, and not our temporal bodies, and already His reputation had spread until people in great bodies were looking for Him, and He went into the desert and they found Him even there.

If we can only see our soul sickness, only realize our spiritual short comings, as keenly as we realize our physical shortcomings, what a great blessing it would be to all humanity! Jesus came to help us see the spiritual life, cleanse that, and make it whole. He is our great example.