

CHAPEL, February 14, 1933

PKW

-- President Wright

Scripture lesson: Fourth Chapter Mark, verses 10-20

We have in the explanation of this parable an interesting division of people. We find in the explanation people divided into four groups, and the fourth group divided into three groups. First, we have the people to whom the word is sent, who, as soon as they hear it forget it. It falls on the ear, and disappears. We have all these types with us today. We find them in all the churches, we find them here in college, we find them in every community. Then those where the seed falls in shallow soil, stony ground. It springs up immediately, as soon as seed can sprout, looks as if it will make a fine plant. Then temptations come, it dies. There are a lot of shallow minds in the world; lots of folks who quit as soon as somebody does something in the church they don't like. No depth of soil is there. There is no chance to ^{do} much with such people. At other times the seed falls among thorns. Something else is growing in that life; something else is the dominant factor. The deceitfulness of riches, not riches, but the deceitfulness of riches, the misinterpretation of the use of money may be the dominant factor crowding other things out; or it may be the pursuit of pleasure, may be any one of a thousand things. There's no chance to do much with those people. Jesus placed these three types before the world. We have been taught that we ought to save every person. Jesus has told us that we can't do it. We can carry the word to all of them, but those that have no depth will not receive it, "the fowls of the air carry it away". With those that are shallow it stays a little while and is gone. A good old negro servant came home one day after a negro revival and said, "Well, Mandy got her religion half-soleed again last night". Then, there is another great group of human beings apparently not interested in the spiritual life. Yet they have depth of character, wonderful possibilities. The seed may be sown in their lives and grow for a while, then they get interested

in other things, in making a living, social life, some other kind of human activity, and probably do some things that are worthwhile in life, but do many things that are not. They let something else choke out religion.

The fourth group Jesus told us about are not all alike. The seed is sown in good ground; but some bring forth fruit thirty fold, or thirty-three and a third per cent, and on up to sixty per cent, or as we ordinarily divide it in America, two-thirds, and for other it grows to fill the whole life, or a hundred per cent. I wonder which of the six groups I am in, and I would like for you to consider carefully which group you are in--no depth, shallow soil, with plenty of soil but other cares, those who can grow and develop thirty per cent, those who can grow and develop sixty per cent, and those who can grow and develop a hundred per cent. We are classified here, and it behooves us, if we are not too shallow, to watch our lives and see which one of these classifications we are in, and if we are not in the right group to weed out those things that are interfering with spiritual growth. We can't live the fullest life unless we develop the spiritual side of life. Take these thoughts and weigh them in your heart.