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CHAPEL, March 7, 1933
--President Wright

Scripture Lesson: Mark V, Verses 35-43

I did intend to carry on the series of talks I had planned, but so many things have taken place in the last few days that I feel that I ought to talk to you about some of them, about the situation at present, a situation you and I have never known before. To me, the most significant thing Saturday was not the swearing in of Roosevelt. That morning, early, he requested that no appointments be made, that he be allowed a certain amount of time to himself. He took that time to go to Church. To me, that is the most important thing that has taken place since we met here last Friday. That shows us where the man's heart is; gives us an insight into the character of this man who is president of the United States. I do not wish for a minute to minimize the importance of his taking the oath of office as president of our country. That is a great event that comes but once in four years. But to me it is more important to get an insight in the character of the person who, in the midst of that tremendously busy day started with an attitude toward Jehovah, that if held, will help to make our nation a much better place than it is today. He has done a number of things. I am not going to call them to your attention, in detail, but one thing he has done has never been done before in our time--and I hope never will be done again. All banks in the United States have been closed. Banks are a medium of exchange. Approximately 90% of business in America is through checks. (I had thought the amount smaller than that, but am told that it is 90%). If 90% of the business is done by checks, then only 10% can be carried on during this bank holiday. Unless changed by later decrees the holiday lasts through Thursday, which means that no checks can be cashed until after Thursday. It does not mean, however, that you may not send or give a check. The person to whom you send it may return it to you, but in all probability he will hold it until after Thursday to see what will be done. There is a state holiday of three days, but the decision of the United States government adds a day to the time. While banks are not allowed to cash checks this morning's paper says they

are allowed to take deposits, and those new deposits are subject to a hundred per cent withdrawal.

What are we going to do about it? It touches every phase of our industrial life. The University of North Carolina has called off its holiday at the end of the quarter which would have started this week. I doubt that more than half of the students could have got home, unless they went by the thumb route. The man who has a few dollars is saving it to keep himself and family.

The result of all this is that people are very much depressed. Remember what Jesus said "Be not afraid, only believe." We are coming out of this, and I believe we are coming out better. I have faith in a man who has christianity to the extent that he will stop and go to church on the day he is being inaugurated.