

CHAPEL, March 8, 1933

-- President Wright

Scripture Lesson: 6 verses from the 6th chapter Mark

I have been asked a number of times in my life, "Would you teach school in your home town?" And my answer has in almost every case been "I would not.". My answer is founded on this passage of scripture I read in your hearing this morning. Jesus goes back into His home town, Nazareth, and on Saturday, as was his custom, He went into the synagogue and talked, but He didn't get very far. The things He told were new to these people; they didn't understand. They marveled at them, but said, "What's the use, isn't that the carpenter? His brothers live here. His sisters are here in our neighborhood. We have known him since he was a boy. Where does he get this power? He is just an ordinary citizen with the rest of us." Jesus could do no mighty works. Jehovah himself can do no mighty works when people take that attitude.

Should I teach in my home town? "Why, I have known her ever since she was a child; I remember when she did so and so--- her brothers live here -- she can do no mighty works---" I hope the time will come when we will not feel that way toward folks, but it isn't here, and I am afraid I am not going to live to see it. Because that's human nature; it's just the way folks live. This lesson is well worth careful study.

"I don't know whether I can stay in college the next quarter or not; all the money I had was in the bank, and my check is not good. Recon I'd just as well give up; I want a college education, but just don't see how I can go on." I wonder if many of you have that feeling here, and in other colleges throughout the state, and all over the nation. "Do not fear, only believe." Just stick to your purpose. Things aren't going to get any worse--because they can't get any worse. We thought we had hit the bottom, but we know now we hadn't. Are we going to work out of it? I think we are. The price of meat, flour, and sugar went up yesterday, and everything else the farmer has to sell. Everything except credit went up, I don't think

credit did. We are coming out of this, and I believe we are going to be on a much more secure basis, and I think that is coming within the next two weeks. I may be wrong, but that is what I believe. There is a spirit of hopefulness and cheer and people feel that things are getting better; maybe we are in that darkest hour just before the dawn.

Go right on with your plans. If you do not have any money and you have a good record, both citizenship and scholarship, come down and talk to me; maybe I can help you. If you have a poor citizenship record and a poor scholarship record you might as well go home. There isn't much anyone can do for you. I hope no student here or at any other college will get panicky and do something that will change the whole course of his life. This is the kind of time that tests human beings; the kind of time that shows what kind of metal you have. This is the kind of time that will pull you away from your life's purpose unless it is deep-seated; the kind of time that will show what kind of character you have.

This is a new experience for me as for you and my judgment is no better than yours unless my past experiences are larger than yours, but when people hew straight to the line, when people live clean, straight, upright lives, these temporal things we are going through now do not change their course. These things that will be straightened out in the near future will not make the right kind of person deviate from his course. The best way is to take it with a smile and a song. I met a girl on the walk yesterday who was whistling. Ordinarily, I might have said "A whistling girl and crowing hen----" but I was glad to see her whistling, glad to see she had music in her soul. The boys who won the world war went over with a song and came back with victory. This doesn't mean that you are not to take your obligations seriously, but don't let discouragements tear you away from your life's purpose. I would like to say to every college boy and girl "Stay in college where you are. The world is going to need college-trained men and women as it has never needed them before. You will not only be doing yourself a great service, but the futher generation. Have faith. Stick."