

CHAPEL, March 9, 1933

-- President Wright

RAUB

Scripture lesson: Mark VI, verses 7-13

Things have been moving rather rapidly in the government of the United States and rather slowly in the government of North Carolina during the last twenty-four hours. We are living in a time when the people of America are being tested in some respects as they have never been tested before in a generation. Will Rogers is writing about it--Will usually keeps up with what is going on.

The interesting thing about it to me is the spirit of cheerfulness with which our people seem to be meeting this crisis. Very few seem to be despondent or blue about it, and that is a very significant thing, when you stop to think, because we are really going through a crisis. There is no question about that. The significant thing about it is that the people of the United States are beginning to realize there is something else to live for in this country other than the dollar. And people are trusting one another. Somehow the heart of mankind seems to be going out to his fellow-man, and that is a splendid index. (My heart goes out to you who are on examination in this crucial time in the history of your winter quarter. I hope you will not have to go home on scrip. I hope you are going to make the grade and make it in good shape.) I do not want you to let this period get you so despondent about your finances that you will give up. I spoke along this line yesterday, and I am deferring some talks that I am very anxious to give, because I realize that back of our smiles and laughter there is a serious problem in the hearts and souls of most of us, and that some of the students in the college are saying "What's the use? I can't make the grade, can't get the money; think I'll just quit." Don't do that. It makes no difference how much money you may have in the bank you can't get it now. Therefore I am on just as good footing until this bank holiday ends as you are, no matter how rich you are. I can't get what little I have, any more than you can get all that you have. Of course, if you have some ready cash you are such an

exception to the general rule that you ought to be put in a glass cage so we can look at you! Wait till this flurry blows over and give the Congress of the United States, called together today, and the President of the United States who is going to ask Congress to give him very large powers with reference to this banking situation, time to act. Just forget the money side for a few days. Finish your quarter's work. If you do have a little ready cash spend it sparingly. Do not buy anything you can get along without. Buy a three-cent stamp, maybe, to say "Dear father, won't be home this week-end as I had planned." Now is the time for us not to spend. Wait until the government can get the wheels of the financial end of our nation so they can turn over, and give people a chance. Hold to what little cash you have, and hold to optimism. It seems to me that there is coming to the nation today, out of this financial distress in which we find ourselves, a growing spirit of optimism. The very thing you would not expect is happening to us; but that optimism seems to have sprouted in the midst of this crisis. Students of economics all seem to feel that we are in the dark hour before the dawn of a new day. I do not mean for a minute that money is likely to flow as freely as it did back during the war, but if we can ever get confidence restored in our people, if we will ^{faith} have we will work out of this. And we need faith more today than ever before in my life, and I have said that a number of times; but we need it more than at any previous time when I have said that, faith in ourselves, in our government, in our fellowman, and faith in Jehovah. If we can get faith, and it looks that that is one thing growing out of this situation, we will come out of this period of fear. And we are coming out out of it, that that kind of fear that terrifies one; that kind of fear that makes one feel inferior, that kind of fear that just takes the life out of us. We are coming into a period when we realize that ^{the} thing we feared didn't happen to us, or if it did it didn't kill us, and that we can carry on.

I want you to catch that spirit of faith and hope. "Be not afraid, only believe."