

CHAPEL, October 28, 1933

(PXL)

-- President Wright

Scripture lesson from the Seventh Chapter Matthews, part of Sermon on the Mt.

I have been talking to you this week on some subjects that I thought you needed to know something about, and I may have left the impression in one or two of these talks that I was a little severe about some things. I hope I did not. I want to say at the beginning of this talk this morning that I firmly believe we have the finest group of young people in this college this fall I have ever seen. I made that same statement last year and believed it, and they proved that I was right. I believe this year the personnel of the student body is superior to the personnel of any student body I have known. I don't want you to get the impression that I do not believe that; I don't want you to get the impression that I do not have implicit faith in you, because I do. I have asked a number of the teachers how you are getting along, and haven't had a single statement that is not complimentary. (I hope they will be able to say the same things after examinations.)

I want to talk to you this morning about social adjustments. I heard the other day about a teacher, who, I am glad to say was not trained in our college, who went to work in a new community, taught one day, went to ride that night, and was dismissed the next day. She failed to make the proper social adjustment, and right at the beginning of the school year was dismissed. Several years ago the college had a follow-up teacher, or rather, follow-up teachers. A primary teacher would go out in the state and help the girls she had taught the year before. Almost all the students who left the college and began teaching received a visit sometime during the year from the teacher who had worked with them the year before. Most of them made good. Of those who did not make good most failed in their social adjustments. They did things in the community the community would not stand for. It is exceedingly vital to you to learn, if you do not already know, how to conduct yourselves in a social way in a community, so that the people of that community will think well of you. You may say they are a bunch of old cranks, who don't know anything about youth today.

I don't think that is true, but even if it is, those "old cranks" are the people who will employ you as teachers, and you have to so conduct yourselves that those old cranks ^{will} want to keep you. I don't think the world is made up of old cranks any more than I think young people today are ^{wild} Indians. Human society starts with a certain level and from generation to generation moves forward, making adjustments, ^{tying} into the preceding generations, building, learning from the errors and mistakes of previous generations, making its own mistakes, and in turn giving the next generation something to build to, and so civilization grows; ideals and ideas change; new environments bring about new problems and call for new adjustments. It behooves us, therefore, as we are building our lives, and that is what you young people are doing, it behooves us to take the best we can out of the past, hold to it tenaciously, and follow our highest ideals. Seek for the truth, and remember to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Never forget that the other person has a right to his opinion, and that his opinion is worth something. If he does not think as you think, that is no reason he is altogether wrong. Never forget that you must work with people who do not see the problems of life just as you do. It pays any person, once in a while, just to stop for a minute and turn his eyes back upon his ^{inner} ~~whole~~ life and look at himself, just as he is. You will be surprised at what you find. Find the things that ought not to be there and proceed at once to take them out. Overcome evil with good. That's the only way on earth I know to build character and live a life that's really worthwhile.

The great problem that's confronting older people today, as well as the young, is how to make their adjustments. You who are going into a new community to teach must make your social adjustments, for you are going to be leaders in the community if you stay there, and you want to lead in the right way, to help make this world a better place for children to grow to manhood and womanhood in. There is no greater service given to man to perform.