

CHAPEL, January 5, 1934

-- President Wright

Scripture lesson: Matthew, 3; verses 1-12

The enrollment of the college this morning is exactly the same as the enrollment for the winter quarter, last year, 865. We are expecting several more to enroll before registration closes. This large enrollment is very gratifying to us. I am exceedingly anxious that this college year will mean the most possible to each one in college. It depends on you. We can only record what you have done.

The scripture lesson I have read this morning has some very interesting things in it. I wonder if you know who John was? He was evidently conducting what might be called a revival. The manner in which John was living marked him as an eccentric character, a very unusual character. His father was a member of the church body, a Levite, and that would naturally make one expect this boy to live as city people did, but John didn't do that; he spent his time in the forests. He didn't wear the usual kind of clothes. He was preaching what seemed to be a new doctrine and baptizing large numbers of people, and multitudes went out to hear him. The Pharisees and the Sadducees went to hear him, which was very unusual. John asked them what it was that had caused them to flee from the wrath of Jehovah. He was taking the position that the Pharisees and the Sadducees were not living in keeping with the teachings of Jehovah. He told them that he was preaching repentance and his baptism was a baptism of repentance, but One was to come following him much greater than he. He continued to preach and baptize saying that he was the forerunner of the Messiah, whom they knew not. We do not just how long he continued to preach. We see him again as we study Matthew, and again at different times, and we know his tragic end. He was a unique character. It is not unusual for people to realize that they can get closer to Jehovah away from a crowd, can get closer to Him when

they get out in nature. When one can come out into the open on a beautiful star-lit night and cast his eyes to the heavens and see the multitude of stars and realize that many of them are probably heavenly bodies similar to the earth, realize that we have solar system after solar system, all living according to some great plan of Jehovah, then one can indeed and in truth lift his eyes to heaven say, The Heavens declare the glory of God. Though I take wings, though my soul take flight, wherever the mind of man can go, Jehovah is ever present. He will find you out, you cannot hide yourself from God; though you go down into the depths of the sea, you cannot get way from God.