

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

WHAT TO REMEMBER

Text: "And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered. . ." Luke 22:61. What would you give for a candid picture of that moment? This was the moment when everything fell into place, and Peter saw himself as he was, a disciple who had denied his Lord. Small wonder he went out and wept. The encounter was only passing, but it was the turning point. Peter remembered we all need the steady influence of remembering the deepest things. May it not be that we are called by the glance of our Lord to remember some things that we have forgotten?



Rev. D.M. Clark

Some of us are strengthened by remembering great souls we have known. There is a descriptive phrase in the Old Testament story which tells of one of those great heroes. The writer said, "The spirit of the Lord clothed himself in Gideon." So, the spirit of the Lord comes in every generation in the lives of people who just by being what they are give us vivid revelation of the meaning of God in human life.

Who can estimate the influence that has come to us, person to person, through those whom we have known well or even at a distance, but who by their lives gave us our clearest understanding of what is real and right? Some time when the spiritual fires seem to burn low, try remembering these people who have meant so much in making your life better and brighter.

There are some great hours to be remembered, too. The experience of Jacob, in the familiar Old Testament story, is a timeless one. Jacob could never forget the barren place he named Bethel. This had been the great hour of his life. Here when he laid down his head to rest God gave him the vision of the ladder reaching into heaven. All through his life Jacob found his mind turning back to Bethel. One time, particularly when he had married and his family had grown and he saw the inroads of paganism into his family life, he made a pilgrimage, saying to all his family, "Let us go back to Bethel!" I suspect it must have looked like a barren place, indeed, to those who did not see it through the eyes of his experience. But it is clear that the memory of Bethel and the altar he had erected there was one of the great steady influences in the life of Jacob.

There are some who have great mementos like that which are so real to them that all of life is made different. If there have been no great hours, take the testimony of the moments of the fleeting seconds. But above all trust the authentic spiritual experiences of your life, for one moment with God can be so real as to offset years of blindness and denial and searching. Remember the hours!

Moreover, most of us will need to remember some great obligation. By the time man has come to his maturity he is already a debtor. For somewhere in the lives of all of us are the accumulated obligations which give us the urgency to pay back some degree of what we have received.

One of the greatest myths by which we live is the idea of the self-made man. There is no such thing! We are what we are by virtue of those who have loved us, instructed us, served us and led us into the knowledge of spiritual things. I can see that one of the kinds of conversion that ought to come at the glance of the Lord is a long delayed remembering that we are debtors, all of us, to Him.

The great souls, the great hours, the great obligations! Yes, but not all memories are like that. It wasn't so for Peter. This was a time of pain. So finally, we are often saved by remembering our hours of failure and shame.

The glance of Jesus must have been like the breaking of a dam when the floods came, and Peter went out and wept. But it saved him. All the pain and the an-

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DEADLINE for church news and photographs is Friday noon preceding the next Thursday publication date at the Rev. Mr. Clark's home, 1676 N. 'E' St., telephone 642-1560.

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Confession--Saturday 4 and 7:30 p.m.

guish and the remorse broke the shell he was trying to build around himself. And it saved him.

I know and you know that there are many souls that have been redeemed to usefulness and restored to a second chance by recalling the very memory that cost them so much pain.

Can you think of anything more important that might happen here today? We should be led to repentance by remembering. Most of us began well enough, with highest intention. But there are some things which have been forgotten. There are members of the church who need to remember the first passion with which they began, the deep intent and purpose which led them to the commitment. There are some lives that started out with all the simplicity of discipleship and quite without intending have wandered off to follow other gods of material things or lust or pleasure or sheer downright selfishness. Whatever it is, there is for all of us a saving glance, for the Lord has turned and looked upon us. May we always remember that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son so that whomsoever believeth in him shall have everlasting life and shall not die.

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Religious 'First' Here

We are happy to welcome a new "first" to Las Vegas and, we believe, the state of Nevada. The Christian Supply Center at 818 Fremont St. is the first establishment in this area dealing exclusively in religious books and objects.

Prince Edward Task

The central and compelling issue in the Prince Edward County case has been, from the beginning, the quality of public education offered to the 1600 Negro children there. The courts held segregated schools to be unconstitutional because they were inherently inferior. The Negro children have won their long lawsuits first to end legal segregation and then to force the County to reopen its schools. But it is still a bit early to celebrate the advent of equality in the classrooms of Prince Edward. The County's Board of Supervisors have now appropriated \$189,000 to run the public schools, which will be attended by the 1600 Negro children, and \$375,000 for tuition grants to operate the segregated Prince Edward Academy for a somewhat smaller number of white children. It is not yet clear to what extent state equalization funds will mitigate that disparity. Certainly the tuition grant scheme permits the State to spend substantially more public money per pupil on children in segregated private schools than in the neighboring public schools.

Governor Harrison has a duty to see that the Negro children of Prince Edward do not suffer any further harm for the bitter legal struggle that has roared over their heads for 13 years. Because their schools were closed for four years they now require much more intensive teaching than is normally provided in rural schools, as the experience of the privately supported temporary school has shown over the past year.