

From The Pulpit

by Rev Donald M. Clark

"PERSONALYSIS, OR
LOOKING AT OURSELVES"
(God Cares For You)

Scripture: Luke 12:4-7.

THERE IS INCREASING evidence that a great number of people in our society are victims of a feeling of uselessness as they live day by day. No one knows exactly how many persons are possessed, at least occasionally, by a real sense of unimportance on earth.

One extreme result of such feelings is the matter of suicides in our country. With about 20,000 actual suicides each year, they are the 11th most frequent cause of death in the U.S.A. A note left by a man who had just taken his life reveals some of the emotions behind this act. It read: "I'm not really needed. Nobody gives a hang for me. I'm just a peanut at Yankee Stadium. I'll step on myself once and for all.

How many did that unhappy soul speak for when he wrote? Perhaps he spoke for those who might never follow his action, but who nevertheless entertain the impulse for a time. A study of 200 university students revealed that 80% of them had thought about self-destruction and many "normal" individuals admitted having considered this solution to life and its difficulties.

All this underlines the fact that many of us are unhappy, often desperately unhappy, and perhaps all of us have some feelings of worthlessness.

GOD'S CARE IS OFTEN UNRECOGNIZED

The Scripture lesson found in Luke 12:4-7, dwells on a basic and universal human problem, for it speaks to the matter of individual usefulness in this life. Surely no one who has a feeling of uselessness welling up inside him has ever really felt the full impact of Jesus' words in this passage. He says: "Are not 5 sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God! Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows!"

Somehow, the eternal truth which Jesus spoke has not been heard clearly in this day of frustration and futility. Those who have such burdens of unhappiness have not caught these glowing words. What finer stimulation could one have for feeling valuable as a person? What greater challenge could one have to use the treasure of talent within? And how much more certain of God's concern for us could we be, with these words before us?

HOW WE KNOW GOD CARES

"You are of more value" says the Scripture: how do we know this... how do we know that God really does care for us?

We believe this is true, first, because Christ says so. It was Jesus Christ, not some fly-by-night orator, who declared that everything about us is precious in God's sight. You cannot treat these words lightly, simply because they are from the Christ. You stand before them in wonder, pondering them, finally accepting them and absorbing them into your very life.

Secondly, we believe every person is valuable to God because of the way in which Jesus behaved. He not only gave us words, but He gave us an example of the way the words worked. No one could have endured the trials Jesus took on Himself, in the manner of strength He showed, unless he had some inner conviction that he was being supported by a loving heavenly Father. Jesus' deep sense of God's care for Him enabled Him to endure, and it showed us what that care

Acknowledgment

The family of the late Mr. Golden Smith acknowledges with grateful appreciation the kind expressions of sympathy from our many friends displayed through the consoling words of kindness, the visits and your thoughtfulness in so many ways.

You were indeed a comfort to each of us and we extend to all of you our heartfelt Thanks.

The Richard Smith Family
1112 Washington Avenue

To all of our kind and loving friends whose prayers, solicitude and understanding afforded us so much comfort in our recent bereavement, we would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation, and wish God's blessing on you as you did on us when our need was the greatest.

The Family of
"Mother" Sarah Parker
830 West Washington

can do.

Then, too, we believe in the fact of God's care for each person by the strength in the lives of those humans who have realized their true worth and place before their Creator. Wherever someone has realized their true worth in God's sight, it has transformed their life and made them new creatures of power.

GOD CARES BY SUSTAINING US

What does it mean to be of great personal worth before God? It means first of all that God will sustain us. As we permit God to guide us, as we trust Him for our needs, He will give them to us. Not only daily food, for which Jesus taught us to pray, not only our other physical needs, but those needs of the mind, of the spirit will be satisfied. Because He cares, God will give us what we really need to sustain our best life.

No human parent who loves his child could go to sleep comfortably at night knowing his little one is hungry or cold or unhappy in soul. It is the same with God... as Jesus portrayed Him, He is a loving, caring heavenly Father who is not satisfied with His children in need.

Thus if we really believe that God cares for us, we will open ourselves to the same kind of trust that a child has, letting God help us, not only receiving our physical needs, but those of the spirit as well.

ANY GOOD PARENT knows that there are some things a child must not have and do, at their level of experience. When older and more mature, that desired action or object may be taken. One minister tells of his young son watching him in the process of shaving, finally asking for his daddy's razor to "shave" himself. The writer asks: "What kind of father would I be to allow my child to have what I know to be a deadly thing, but which to him only looks shiny and interesting."

So with God: His care is often better shown by His refusals than by His approvals.

GOD'S CARE MEANS PRESERVATION OF GOOD

Finally, all of life means more when we are convinced that God cares for us, because we know He will preserve all that is good. Whenever we have responded in trust, obeying God and carrying out His will as best we can, we have stamped our life and the lives of others with the emblem of eternity.

No matter what accidents may befall us, no matter how much the unbelief of others hurts or even kills, we can know that a loving God will see that out worth does not die, ever. Because we believe God cares, we will obey Him and trust Him; and even if our bodies perish, we can never fall away from His concern. He will preserve those who believe in Him.

The next time you feel that you do not count for much, the next time you are depressed about what you are needed for, just open your New Testament and read again the undying words of a man who knew that God cares: "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Job Applicants Sought For Dept. Of Interior

IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT is available in a variety of job categories for both hourly and General Schedule classified employees with the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the Department of Interior.

Bob Bailey, Chairman of the Nevada Commission on Equal Rights of Citizens, has received a request from the Chief Personnel Officer of Consolidated Administrative Services of Portland Oregon for assistance in finding qualified Negro citizens for employment in the Department of Interior. Consolidated Services represents the Bureaus in the cities of Reno, Las Vegas, Elko, Ely, Battle Mountain, Winnemucca, Carson City, Fallon and the field station in Ruby Valley.

Among the hourly-paid jobs offered are such positions as truck drivers, tractor operators, grader operators, maintenancemen, and other types of equipment operators. In the General Schedule classified positions, there are administrative and clerical positions, with particular emphasis on the need for biologists, range conservationists and foresters.

ACCORDING TO Roy Renoud, Consolidated Services Personnel Director, the Department is particularly interested in receiving applications from Negroes who are presently employed in positions where their qualifications are not being fully utilized.

For those who have degrees in any of the disciplines listed, even if they are not from a school accredited by the Civil Service Commission, Consolidated Services are anxious to attempt to work out some type of training program to qualify them for federal employment.

Enquiries and/or applications should be directed to PERSONNEL OFFICE, CONSOLIDATED SERVICES, P.O. BOX 3621, Portland, Oregon 97208.

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