

NO MAN CARED FOR MY SOUL

Psalm 142:4

INTRODUCTION:

All is well whatever comes whether in life or death. In the great beyond, if things are well with the soul. However, nothing is well - nothing is really right unless it is well with a man's soul.

It is tragic when no one cares for a man's soul. Mr. Spurgeon one day, in his orphanage, told about the boys and how their aunts, cousins, and different ones would come to visit some of the children. They would give them a little pocket money. One day he said, a little boy came up to him, and said Mr. Spurgeon, let ~~me speak to you~~. The boy sat down by Mr. Spurgeon and he said, (suppose your father and mother were dead. And you didn't have any cousins, aunts, uncles, or friends, ~~to come and give you pocket money and to bring you presents~~. Don't you think you would feel bad because that's me.) Said Mr. Spurgeon, the minute he said that, I put my right hand down in my pocket and took out some money for him. The point of our text today is David felt like that there was a snares set for him on the right and on the left, and he was in a cave. And that no man cared for him. That is, he says there is not one person that will help. There is not one that cares a bit what will happen to me.

There was a painting in an art gallery, and it was the painting of a storm before which terrible storms, men, and beasts are fleeing if they might find some refuge. Now that is a picture of every rational human life. This is the text upon which I would like to speak this morning. No man cared for my soul. Refuge failed me. As you read the text, and study it, he is saying refuge fled away from me. Then it was that he cried, Lord, thou art my refuge. Now refuge means protection against danger. It means a source of safety. I wonder as I search over this audience today,

and look in your face, if you have a refuge. Each one of you, for your soul, and what is the refuge. Does it satisfy you. Are you safe. Will it meet all the tests.

You will agree that it is fundamental. That every man needs a refuge for his soul. For one thing, a man needs a refuge against the accusing pry of his own conscience.

Oh, there is pain at times in the human conscience. It accuses us and it is the most terrible pain of all. A conscience may be dull, it may be mistaught, and yet conscience will have its hour and will make its terrible cry.

There is a man who was well reared. His position was a lofty one. But he had missed the right road and had fallen terrible. He said, oh man, God Almighty alone knows how I have suffered in my conscience. "Now every man needs a refuge from the accusing cry of his own conscience. You have to live with yourself.

Now the Bible makes this so clear in the state of John the Baptist. When he stood up before Herod and spoke concerning righteousness, temperance, and judgement to come. At last he had to pay for it with his life. But you remember the outcome of that man. Herod had John killed - and months later, Herod was at a feast and suddenly the topic of conversation with him and his men changed because he speculated that out yonder there were people going to the river side to hear what John had to say. Herod rose up, and he says, I suspect you are talking about John the Baptist, whom I beheaded months ago and whose has risen from the dead. Conscience was not dead, in Herod, as he heard about Jesus coming on the scene.

Judas who sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, about \$15.00 of our money. And then came back a few hours later and threw down the 30 pieces of silver, to the men he had traded with. Let's change the bargain, I have betrayed innocent blood. Take

this money back - it burns my pockets. It burns my hands. It burns my conscience. And the men with whom he had traded mocked him, scorned him, and he was goated by his conscience and he went out and took his own life. My brother, today, there is a pain so terrible - no pain as that of a human conscience. You take the human life in temporal and secular life, it is crowded with illustrations that bear out this point.

There is a story of a man in another nation who is a judge. Who had there in his court a young man charged with murdering his master. And who to conceal his crime had burned down the house over the master's head. The trial was stubbornly fought. And it was last brought into conclusion and the judge had to give his charge to the matter. He stood up, gave the charge, and then he sat down without speaking. And then with still deeper agitation he left the judge's bench, went down into the prisoner's dock, and sat down beside the prisoner and put his face in his hands and groaned aloud. There was a sensation, of course, in the court room. Lawyers on either side looked at one another and wondered what it all meant. Presently, when they got up and went to him, and said, what on earth is it Judge. With choking difficulty, he said to them, I have tried my own case. 30 years ago I murdered my master. And to hide my crime, I burned down the house over his head. And if any person ever suspected me, I do not know it. I cannot go on with this trial - I have tried my own case. I cannot continue this case. (30 years) had elapsed but conscience had made its cry.

You take all of the piles of literature, and trashy literature that is on human conscience. Take MacBeth - see the effort made there to get the blood off the hands. And hear the pitiful cry as the hands are lifted up - oh the blood, the blood. Though I have here in this basin, I cannot get it off.

The story by George Elliott, when she tells of the fatal going astray of a young girl, earth's saddest sight. Let angels vale their faces and crepe put on the

door of Heaven when a young girl falls into shame. George Elliott, tells about this. She describes a young girl putting to death a little child to which she had given birth, seeking thus to hide the shame and the crime. She slew the little child out in the hedge. Later she was brought to justice and judgement. And a kind woman got around this wretched and fallen girl and sought to counsel with her. She listened to her as if she were in a trance. And when she finished talking to her in a kind effort, she said, yes, yes, I hear all that you say. But will I always hear the cry of the little child that I put to death in the hedge.

Now what is George Elliott trying to say. She is saying that conscience lives and men must reckon with conscience. Now every man needs a refuge from an accusing conscience. Every man has a slumbering power of sin in his life. I grieve for any man who boasts of his own strength. No man knows how weak he is. And every man needs something against the slumbering power of sin in his own life. Every man needs a refuge when it comes to the hour that awaits every one of us. And that is death. You need some escape for that hour. You will never miss it. You will never evade it.

There was a funeral of a mother in the city of Dallas. She left a house full of children. The oldest girl mothered all those younger children. It was pitiful but it was wonderful how she mothered the little girls and the boys who cried in vain for their mother. The child's best friend who would never come back. When they got to the cemetery they lowered the body into the grave, the children seemed wild with grief and the oldest girl went up and down the line saying to each one, do not cry. Maybe it is not so. Maybe it is all a dream. We are at home, maybe we will wake up tomorrow and Mama will be with us, and kiss us like she always did. Maybe it is not so. Oh how, we would like to get away from death. How we wish we might. Every man needs a refuge against death. Now David was also thinking here in this text that a man needed a refuge beyond death. That is, when he comes to judgement before God. Every man, one day is going to be called into judgement.

Now there is such a day, it is insisted upon even by human reason. Human reason makes the cry that somewhere, somehow there must be a place for all these tangled threads to be straightened out.

The Bible says God has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ. Listen to it. We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ. Listen to it. We must everyone give account of himself to God. Surely, my friends, today we must all stand. And we need a refuge.

Now every man has a refuge of some sort. Now David found his, this day, in this Psalm. But all through this country and in this city there are people who have some sort of a refuge. Now there are even infidels who go up and down, and say that they have something to offer. They would say well, so and so, and so and so is my religion. He has his refuge. Every man has some sort of something in himself that he falls back on. But many times the peril is that a man's refuge is untrustworthy - it is vain and false. The Bible warns us that there are those who cry peace, peace, and there is no peace.

Jesus said not everyone that sayeth unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven. But he that doeth the will of my father, who is in Heaven. Jesus tells us that it is enough to make anyone think twice. Listen, many will say unto me in that day - the day of judgement - Lord, Lord. Have we not prophesied in thy name. Were we not preachers, were we not casting out Devils. And Jesus is going to confess, I never knew you - depart from me. You were a worker of iniquity.

Now this is an important matter that you be able to detect the lies and the false refuge behind which Satan would have you hide. We have got to be certain that we have the word of God, the guidebook. The divine revelation for human conduct in life. The soul would do well to trust the inner refuge that can be tested according to the Bible.

The first test is, does it satisfy the conscience. I have already indicated something about the conscience in this text. It must be reliable and trustworthy. If a man's refuge is trustworthy, then it must make his life better.

A tree is known by its fruits. And if a man's religious refuge does not make his life better, then he has a false reigning refuge. Life must be made better if one's religious refuge is to be dependable.

If a man's religion is dependable, it will fortify him and uphold him. Also, in the hour when he comes to die. When he feels that he is crossing Jordan. And when he crosses that river. Moreover, if it satisfies it will be something that will help him in the time of judgement.

So he may have a false refuge. Men may be deceived and lost.

What are some of the false refuges. What was David thinking about here in this cave. No one cared for his soul he says. And every refuge he had failed him. What are some of these false refuges, that fail.

First, I am trusting in my own goodness. Now does this satisfy man's conscience. Does this make his life better. He is missing the road. Will it suffice when he comes to die, upon his couch, that he shall say to his friend - do you know this is your last hour. And will that man answer and say yes, I know it well, the Doctor has told me. And my conscience speaks that I am going to die. What is your hope? Do you think that you will be able to look up into somebody's face and say why man, I am good enough. You need not pray for me. Nor take the Bible out and read it to me or talk to Christ. I am good enough. Do you think that will make

your pillow soft, when you come to die. Will it pass the great test out in the great beyond when you answer to Jesus as he sits upon his throne. And you come to him and say I am here because I am good enough (without you) (your Gospel) without (your blood) (without your grace). Do you suppose that any sinner of all of the earth will at last make such a plea at the judgement of Christ. No man will say it. That is not your refuge is it.

2 ✓ Second, I am just as good as those around me. This is a false refuge. A lot of people will say I know I have failed, granted. But I am just as good as a lot of people around me in the church, and out of the church. And therefore, I'll just let it go at that. So it's not his own goodness but the fact that other people are bad. So he uses this. But now put the test to it. Will that satisfy a man's conscience to say that I will not pay my debts to the Doctor, the grocer, the milkman, the merchant, or the bank - because a good many other people won't pay their's, now does that satisfy you? And I'll ignore the Lord Jesus and put him off because many other people have done the same thing. Does that make your life better to say that?

Does that satisfy you when you come to the solemn hour of death. To say that I just don't need religion - I am about as good as some of the other people. And I will go on my way.

Think when you come to judgement - well, I rejected your Lord Jesus. I would not have you because a great many other people did the same thing. Now is that your refuge.

3 ✓ Third, I do not believe any of it. Now this is refuge of many people. I am

downright, out and out a disbeliever. I reject it all. I do not believe in the Bible. I follow my own ideas - so I do not believe in this.

Put it to the test first, does it satisfy your conscience to say I reject the Bible and reject Jesus as untrustworthy. That in the face, all the Bible and all that Christ has done in this great world - I reject it as untrustworthy. Does that satisfy your conscience.

Does that make your life better to say that unbelief is the refuge of my soul. Does that help to make you a better person.

When you come to die, will that help you as a refuge in the final day to say I reject the Bible because I just didn't believe.

And the last test, when you come to the judgement. How will you answer that. You will answer and say my theory, my defense was unbelief. I rejected all the claims and teachings of Jesus. Do you think that is going to satisfy when you stand before him, and he will say to you - what he says to you now. While you are in life, in the flesh, and on this side of the grave - whatever your unbelief you may know the truth about religion. I wonder if there is some doubter, or some person here that will not stretch out his withered hand and let us pray away those doubts. Somebody who is in earnest about his soul. Jesus comes to you saying no matter what your doubts, no matter what your unbeliefs, no matter what your question is, he says - if any man, that is as broad as the world. If any man willeth to do the will of God, says Jesus, he shall know of the teachings whether it is of God.

If any man will come to God like this, no matter how much of a doubter he is -



will come as Jesus said, and pray oh God, if there be a God. I don't know. I want life. If you are interested in my getting it, and if thou will give light no matter how it comes - I will follow it. No matter where it leads. Any skeptic on this earth would be brought to God if he would follow the light like that.

Two of the most brilliant skeptics, Gilbert West and Lord Littleton, brilliant intellectuals some years ago - every time they met they made fun of Christianity. Two things they said must be exploded. And we'll get Christianity out of the way. One is the death and the resurrection of Jesus. And the other, is the life and the works of the Apostle Paul.

Gilbert West said I will explode the resurrection of Jesus. I'll blow it up. Lord Littleton said I'll explain Paul. They went away and after weeks had passed, by appointment they came together. Littleton said West, what have you to say. West replied Littleton, I have some of the most wonderful news to tell you. When I came to explode the doctrine of Jesus, he arose the third day from the dead, I had to be truthful. I had to be sincere and honest. And search for evidence. You may laugh at me Littleton, but when I looked into it honestly in my mind and the depth of my soul were convinced that Jesus did rise from the dead. And I prayed to him and he saved me and I am his friend.

Then Lord Littleton answered, thank God West. I have something just as wonderful to tell you. When I came to explain the man Paul and get rid of him, I too had to be thorough and truthful. And in my search, you will rejoice with me West, when I tell you that after I studied Paul, by and by I found myself down on my knees just as Paul got down on his knees on the Damascus Road, and my cry was this. Lord what wilt thou have me to do. And I am a Christian also, West. And these two most noted skeptics in the world, became great Christians and used their pen to the glory of God.

You may submit religion to any scientific methods or personal experience.  
But one thing I know, whereas I was blind - now I see. The Master came across my path. And I was reminded of my sins and I went to him and he had mercy on me. Now that is the thing that I know better than anything else in the world. You, who are in unbelief, if a man will turn to Jesus - show me the way and I will walk in it. Whatever it costs, wherever it leads - he will be brought to the right way.

- 1 - My own Goodness -
- 2 - Just as hard as other -
- 3 - el do not believe it - Doubter -

4. ✓ Fourth, you may say, I do not expect anyman to be lost. This may be your refuge. I expect every man to be saved in God's fair Heaven. No matter what crimes, no matter what sin, no matter how wretched. I believe in universal salvation. But I wonder will that meet the test. The Bible speaks so plainly on all of these points.

Will that satisfy a man's conscience to say that ice and virtue will have the same reward that the good man that served God and followed him - they will have nothing different than the man who wastes his life. Does it make a man's life better here and now to say no matter how he lives, all will be well a little later, beyond the sunset and the night.

Is a man made ready for the hour of death when he says I can sow to the flesh. I have a license to sin. No matter, all will turn out well with me. Does that qualify a man to die.

And then to stand yonder and to face Jesus who said, I came into the world to die for sinners that they might die, but that they would repent of sin and turn to me. Do you think a man will be fortified in judgement at the last to say to Jesus, I am here because I taught and I believe no matter how a man sowed,

the harvest would come out all right. My dear brother, these theories, whatsoever a man sows - if he sows wheat he is going to reap wheat. And I say very humbly to you that none of this is for me because there is a law in the physical world that is real. And there is a law in the moral world, that every man when he comes to die, shall go to his own place. If he continues on the wrong road here, the wrong road will be his portion. If he chooses the right road, then the right road will be his portion. Refuge has failed me. Refuge fled away from me. Refuge broke down. It didn't satisfy me. The bridge collapsed. And nothing helps.

What are you to do. What am I to do.

✓ Oh, where shall rest be found

Rest for a weary soul

'Twain the ocean's depths to sound

Or pierce the either pole.

✓ Beyond this vale of tears

There is a life above

And unmeasured by the flight of years

And all that life is love.

There is a death

Whose pain outlast this fleeting breath

Oh, what eternal horrors hang

Around man's second death.

Lord God of truth and grace

Teach us that death to shun.

Lest be banished from thy face

And evermore undone.

If you would have a sufficient refuge, then you must turn to the Lord.

As David says, I will turn to the Lord God for my refuge.

Turn To Jesus as R-

1 - Think about the test. First, the Lord Jesus satisfies a human conscience.

We that are weak and have sinned, are bad and have been on the wrong road, and everyone has come short of the glory of God. Jesus said, you submit your case to me. I have died for the just and the unjust. And if you will come to me - my blood forgives and sets you free.

2 - Second, Jesus, as your refuge will help you to live. There is nothing in the world like living for Christ and knowing that he will help you to live.

The story of a toiling carpenter, who one day put his wife's body in the grave. And she left six children and they cried from morning until night, after the mother that could not come back. The hearts of the children, crying after their mother, who would never come back to be with them. A preacher laid his arm on the carpenter's hand, and he went into the other room. And the babies gathered around. He said I want you to be quiet, as best we can. I am going to pray that God will help us. And the preacher prayed and when he had finished, his prayer, he turned to the children and said, children, God is going to help you. And then the father, the carpenter, looked at the children and said, Papa has peace in his heart. And Jesus is going to help us. And Papa is trusting Jesus and you children

are going to follow Papa as he trusts Christ and serves him. The oldest little boy said, Papa I am going to trust him now. Then it seemed that the night had turned to day. The shadow of death had turned into morning.

I say to you, only Christ fortifies us for that black Friday and helps us with life.

3 Third, Christ is your refuge and will help you when you come to die.

I read the story, it is true, of a chaplain on the Battlefield during World War I. One fine Christian boy met death out there. And he was torn by a shell. And his head was torn. And yet, for hours he was conscience and he grew steadily worse and he lay there dying on his cot. And presently his mind wandered and he imagined that the chaplain that was comforting him was his mother. And the dying boy said, so tenderly, put your dear soft hand under my head. It hurts me so much and your soft hand will make it better. The chaplain did just what he thought the mother would have done. As best he could, and then the dying boy said, bend over me. Mother you taught me the way to die. And I am ready to die. Kiss me once more and I will pray my last prayer and leave all to Jesus. For I am not afraid to die. And the chaplain did just what you or I would have done. He bent over the boy, kissed him as nearly like a mother as he could, and the boy faintly said, thank you Mother. Now let me tell Jesus as I am dying that I will just lean on him. I leaned on him way back months and years ago and now I am not afraid. I say to you, that Jesus will help you when you come to die. Jesus is a refuge.

4 In closing, Jesus is going to help you when you come yonder to the judgement.

If we could just imagine this great assembly here today, going before the bar of judgement, what are you going to plead there. What am I going to say. I will tell you, when I get there, I will say Lord - I am not good in myself, I did not please myself on earth, but here in South Norfolk, I said, other refuge have I none. But I hang my helpless soul on thee. Lord Jesus on earth, I said, that I trusted my case wholly to you and here at the judgement, thou art my refuge. I shall pass to Christ's right hand and will be forever with him.

Now I would like to take the hand of everyone and look in their face and say, my friend, come now to Christ. Before you leave this building, I would say that I would like to lay my hand on you and tell Christ that he is your refuge. I would like for every person to be very truthful and say, I am relying on him as my refuge.

You may say, well, I have been wrong with God. And I have been maybe a professor of religion. But I have been wrong, and in my heart deeply - I really want a refuge for my soul. Every man and every person who says I want Christ for my refuge - though I have been wrong with God, I want you to take the courage to tell him. I want you to do it today.

I think if you will settle that, this will be a great decision. You will have purpose for living. A purpose for dying. You will have a purpose because all of us are eternity bound people. And if I were in your place, I would end the battle today. I would stop my delay. This day I would surrender my life to Christ. Remember that (waiting does) not do any good. And waiting cannot help. Waiting is the thing that Satan wants you to do. Now Christ wants you to surrender. But if you are neglecting your duty, if you have been back-slidden, and something has turned you away. Something has set you drifting - no matter what it is, or what it

was, but your conscience is alert in this hour - I do not want you to continue in that wrong way. Take a great step forward, that is what David did. And pray that you will surrender this hour. That you are going to settle this. We are wrong with God but we wish to be right. We have neglected and back-slidden and gone away from God. Many others who have never known Christ at all may want to come without embarrassment in the judgement of your own conscience you know that it will not stand up in that great day. But you will say today, God so help me, I am going to do my duty. I am going to be ready to stand in that day. Every person in this room can accept this proposition.

No man Care for my Soul

Jesus - R -