

50. my - Oct. 10, 71 A.M.

RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Luke 12:42 - 28

Our text today, For unto whom so ever much is given, of him shall be much required. And to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask more.

Governor Pat Neff, of Texas, said youth had hope and old age memory. He urged young people to lay up memories that would bring cheer in old age.

Youth are in preparation for life and they must remember the Creator in the days of youth -- before the evil days draw neigh.

Youth naturally resents advice. This is the assertion of personality. We hear it said, we can only learn by experience. This is half a truth. We perhaps learn more from authority - and the experience of others.

In taking a journey, we would want the advice of others. If you were going to travel in Europe, you would not refuse the advice of others who had taken the trip. To say that I must learn only from my own experience, is to say, I must live my own life. But there are parents, teachers, preachers, who have a right to advise you.

We need to remember the folly of Rehoboam, who refused the advice of the older men. And took the advice of the young men. He made a great blunder and left the kingdom. One should never forget the experience as he faces the task and the duties, the dangers, the opportunities and privileges of life.

Our Scripture text today reminds the Youth of this hour that they have great resources and that they also have grave responsibilities.

The parable begins by pointing out concerning the one who was faithful in administering the important business entrusted to him. The talent which he had was cultivated and was used by one. It indicates that the talent of another must have been used for mischief and pleasure and he thought to himself and said, Jesus is tarrying a long time and may forget all about his steward.

The day of judgement was upon them. And during the time of service they had great resources but they were reminded of their requirements. And it is indicated here that the man who had a little bit of light will receive a few stripes for his punishment - but accordingly whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required.

→ I. What Has The Young Person Been Given Today

Resources

You think in particular, the Christian young person - first of all, he has been given a Saviour. That is enough to make any man rejoice. The God who gave me a Saviour can have all of me is what the young person ought to say. We see that you were lost - on the way to Hell - there were certainly no bright prospects. And the Bible describes Hell as an awful suffering and remorse. Whether or not you take the Bible literally - we know that there is such a place.

But God in his wonderful love has given us a Saviour to save us from Hell. It is enough to make the bells of our soul ring with joy. Suppose that you were drowning - going down for the third time - and a man jumped in and saved you.

Wouldn't you think that he had done a pretty wonderful thing. Suppose you were trapped in a burning building, and a man rescued you - brought you out. Wouldn't you think that the man had done a wonderful thing. God did something infinitely more wonderful, than any of these things, when he gave his begotten Son to save you.

One day Jesus met and sent 70 men out to work and to witness for him - and they had a great time. When they returned, they made their report. And they began to tell how the Devil was subject to them. Then Jesus said, don't rejoice because you have been able to do these things - rejoice because your names are written in Heaven. This truly is a great resource given you.

(II.) God Has Given You The Bible

When a loved one goes away, we eagerly look for letters. We meet the mail and we are disappointed if no letter arrives. God never disappoints - he has written a letter called the Bible. It is his love to his children.

A lady went to consult with the Doctor about her health. She talked about the list of symptoms, but upon examination the Doctor found nothing organically wrong. He told her to go home and read the Bible for (a hour) a day. And return to him in one month. She was angry at first, but finally she decided that this would not hurt her. She had been letting pleasure crowd God out. So she read the Bible everyday for an hour. And at the end of the month, she went back to the Doctor. Her face was glowing with health - she said, I have tried your prescription and I feel fine. I don't need any other medicine. The Doctor pointed to a Bible on his desk and said, if I neglected my daily Bible reading - I would lose my greatest source of strength.

But here is the pity - God has given us his wonderful Bible. And we neglect it. This is a resource for you to use.

(III.) God Has Given You Answer To Your Prayers

Now every Christian who really prays can (count) scores of times when God has answered his prayers. Here is the trouble with most of us. We become greatly concerned about something, we pray about it, and God answers. And yet we forget what he has done and even neglect to thank him for it.

During the (war), a war bride lay in an Eastern hospital. This young woman had given birth to a beautiful little girl, but her husband was on the west coast waiting to go to the Pacific war zone without seeing his baby. This was hard on the little mother. Then her father came to the bedside and brought her a heart breaking piece of news. It was necessary that the 3 day old baby have a serious operation. Without this operation, the baby would die. The young woman took her father's hand, and said, don't leave - (my husband and my baby are in God's hand. And I trust him completely." It happened that the baby-lived and that the husband came home safely. But even if it had not - she was wise in leaving everything to God.

(IV.) God Has Given You The Forgiveness For Sins

Everyday we need that. For everyday we sin. And every sin stands like a dark cloud between us and God. There is only one way to remove that - I John 1:9. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(V.) We Have Heaven To Look Forward To

Where nothing can separate us or rob us of our salvation. At times we may get tired. Down here the road may seem long. But we have the resources here. The problems we face. We have strength enough for them all. And you may have some wonderful days in your life - but the most blessed day is yet to come. And it will come to you when you go to meet Him. And I don't have to tell you that after even a million years in eternity, you will never be able to recount all of the gifts.

The resources for young people today are tremendous.

II. What Is Required - What Are The Responsibilities.

Now this is the thing that so many young people hang up on. They know full well about some of the things that are available and that they take part in. But what about the personal responsibilities which you have.

First, God requires an undivided heart. The greatest trouble is that we try to love the Lord a little and we try to love the world a lot. People give allegiance to the things of the world rather than to the things of God. Now when a man marries a woman, he doesn't want God to give him 1/10 of her love. And the balance to 9 other men. He requires it all. And God, because of who he is and what he has done for us, requires that our hearts be centered on him. There are two voices in every soul. The voice of God and the voice of the world. And Satan is behind every worldly voice.

Second, God requires a holy life. Now I do not mean that God wants the young people to live a perfect life. But I mean that everyday, and in every way we are going to try to live a consecrated, dedicated, separated Christian life. Now we don't influence people so much by what we say. Or how we look. But we influence them tremendously by the way we live everyday.

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan was pastor of a church in London. And a young man came to him and told him that he had been living a dissipated life. And he wanted to become a Christian. He was soon received unto the church and didn't miss a service for months. Then he dropped out and Dr. Morgan went to see him. He said to the young man, I have come to tell you how much I have missed you in church. The young man replied, there is not use of your talking to me about your Christianity. I have tried it and it is a failure. Then Dr. Morgan seized a number of lude pictures on the mantle and threw them into the fire - saying as he did, how can you ever expect to be a real Christian unless you burn the bridges behind you.

Christian young people, God expects you to burn all of the bridges behind you. And live a life that is pleasing to him. He has given you so much - you have the right to that he expect this of you.

When the young man Daniel in the Old Testament had a difficult situation he continued his devotion to God. And neither was there any error or fault found in him. Daniel 6:4. No shadey dealing, no taking of a by-pass for a personal gain, no false balance, no crook or turn, not one question mark. But here was a man who had purpose in his heart. Kneeling 3 times a day no matter what other people were doing - there was no one that was going to shut his window on religion. He was going to be faithful, unto his Christ.

Therefore he was willing to go through the den of lions. And this disturbed the king greatly. But here was a man who was living a holy life as God had directed him and assuming his responsibility.

Third, God requires active service. It is not enough to be good - you must do good. A man moved to a city and came to a church. He had been active in another place where he lived - but he felt that he now could let up on his Christian service. One day in a sermon, the preacher said, you will not rest if you quit serving God. You will rust. This thought seemed to strike the young man with real force. Soon he plunged into the work and became one of the happiest, most active men in the church.

This is the same temptation that the young people have, when they grow up, go out to college, marry, and begin families and homes. It is your responsibility to use your resources for God.

Preacher Told about Young Man wanted to Sing in his choir - Not member of ch - A Christian - member of advanced ch - Preacher advised him to join choir of invisible ch -

Dr. Winfred Moore tells about a 7 year old boy in England who was taken to church by his nurse. This was the first time that the boy had ever been to church. The preacher opened the big book and begin to talk about a man named Jesus. He told about how this man went about doing good and how evil people mistreated him. Hung him on a cross. The boy was greatly moved and whispered to the nurse - why don't these men do something about it. Why will they let him die. The nurse said you must not talk in church. So when church was over, the boy said to the nurse, why don't they go now and do something about this good man who is being mistreated. She whispered, you must not talk about these things - people will think you are odd.

But we do not need to do something about it - we couldn't save him from the cross - but we can serve him. If the world calls us odd - let it be so.

Let us be willing to be fools for Christ's sake - he has done so much for us, it is required that we serve him.

God requires in the fourth place, faithful stewardship. He has entrusted us with much - now he has a right to expect something from us. Let us think about the stewardship of money. Some people object to a preacher talking about money - they say he ought to preach the Gospel. But this is a part of the Gospel. The Bible says more about this than it does about many other things. God wants you to do well financially. So he lays down a good rule in the Bible. He says if we will turn his tithes into his storehouse - he will pour out so many blessings that we will not have room to receive them. And every faithful tither will tell you that God keeps his promise. It is quite interesting often to go into a plush home, eloquently furnished, with expensive pictures and big cars, and a yard filled with beautiful shrubbery - and then for those people to give \$10 a month to the church. You just feel ashamed for them before the Lord.

Now most of you young people today may not be that well fixed. But you have the necessities of life. And those who have many luxuries need to tithe more than the rich man does. Because God promises to take care of the tither. You need it because it will make your soul grow.

Some years ago a man offered \$25,000 to anyone who would faithfully tithe and say that God had not blessed them. No man ever claimed the money. This man was simply saying that God would keep his promise. I have seen many people start out the year by giving God his tenth. But in a month or two, they wanted something else, so they quit tithing. Soon something was going badly with them. They were not giving God a chance to bless them. They were not

Every faithful tither can say that God keeps his word. You will never lack for anything if you go his way. The reason so many people do not tithe they are afraid they cannot get along without the money that they give to God. Oh, can't you trust him. He never will go into bankruptcy - he will take care of you. So I would challenge you to tempt God. When you young people go out and get your next pay envelope - put God's 10% aside, and I guarantee he will not fail you. Much has been given to you. And of course, he says, much is required here.

A man and his wife, thinking only of dollar signs, living in London, hid their life savings in the house. They had money tucked away here and there. 3 or 4 locks on each door. One night they had a fire. And the house was so secure that the rescuers could not get in. And the man and his wife lost their lives. The newspaper headline the next day read, (hoarded cash brings death.)

If we could but recognize what we do. (Rosetta Houss), who was advised by her brother in 1903 to invest some money in an automobile business who was being formed by a mechanic named Henry Ford. She decided to make a small investment, \$100. During the years, she received, \$95,000 in dividends. In 1919 Henry Ford bought her one share for \$260,000. Now that is great returns for a small investment. Now this is the thing that I am urging upon you where Jesus said - to whomsoever is given much, then he must use that opportunity and ability for Him.

In the fifth and final place, God requires in these responsibilities that you witness for him. We have a dread disease we call sin. We have found Christ to be the cure for it. Other people about us are dying. Don't we owe it to them - to tell them about the remedy which we have.

Mr. H. C. Coleman, a successful business man who has donated thousand of dollars to Hardin-Simmons University, in Texas, invited the President of the University to go with him on a trip to California. It was a very pleasant trip and the President enjoyed being with this fine Christian layman. Mr. Coleman had the chauffeur stop at the florist shop and went in and purchased some flowers. They resumed the journey, and soon the chauffeur stopped the car beside a cemetery on a hill. Mr. Coleman took the flowers and walked up the hill, and put them on a lonely grave, and stood there with his head bowed in prayer for a long time. When he returned to the car, the college President asked him, is there a member of your family buried there. Mr. Coleman answered, no, an old lady by the name of Smith lies there. She once lived in Philadelphia and ran a mission there. I was a wayward boy and she invited me in and led me to Jesus Christ. Each time I come to California - I put some flowers on her grave in gratitude for what she did for me. When your life's little day is over for you - will anybody be able to say, he told me about Jesus and now I am a Christian. And I'm on my way to Heaven. Yes, much has been given us - and much is required of us. God has given us great resources and we have great responsibilities.

I remember reading a story of the editor of the Christian Sun of Raleigh, N. C. - who said there was a gifted young writer who had great skill in writing. And that he often urged her to use her talent for that great purpose. She did use her talent some - but not as she should have. At last she wrote this editor and she felt sure she had something for him to print. But it was a letter. In this letter she revealed the fact that she had been ceased by cancer and that there was no hope for her recovery. She lived just a few months - but it would be short. She referred to his frequent request for articles. From her pen for publication. In her letter she spoke of her lament over the fact that when she was well and had the opportunity to do

good, she had neglected it. And now that she was facing the sunset of life, the opportunity of service was a thing of the past. The editor always used that example of that young woman who attempted to do likewise. If you have strength, do your best for the good of your fellow men. When we think of meeting God in judgement, we dread the ordeal of our sins. But what about his judgement upon our unused talents. The Lord has given you a talent, you have wrapped it in a napkin and have not used it. What sin is worst than that.

Do you remember the words of our Lord, from him that hath not shall be taken - even that which he hath, and given to another. From him that has not used what he has - the unused gift or talent will be given to one who has used what was given to him. This is right - this is just.

I want to close our meditation today in reminding you that you have some wonderful resources. But you also have some wonderful and solemn responsibilities. A man died ~~the~~ week before last in Norfolk by the name of John C. Wilkinson. He started out as a young man like many of the youth here today - he worked hard, studied hard, spent some time in the Army, etc. But then he finally developed into a newspaper reporter. And he wrote Whimsey column, for the Norfolk newspapers. The remarkable thing about this man, that I would like for you to remember is, that as he wrote in a memorandum book the responsibilities of the task and the duties for each day - he wrote assignments and things he wanted to remember and get accomplished that day - quite often he would make an entry, "Say something for Christ today."

This is exactly what our text is saying. To him that has been given much - it is his responsibility and obligation to be a witness for Jesus Christ. Because much shall be required.

If we could go to the top of the hill where the Saviour died - you and I belonged on that cross but he took our place. And he has a message for us. He says, I am dying for you. I am shedding my blood to cover your sins. I am opening up the way to Heaven for you.

I gave my life for thee
My precious blood I shed
That thou mightst ransom be
And quicken from the dead.

I gave, I gave my life for thee
What hast thou given for me.

In the light of that sacrifice - how can you help but bow your head. And say, Lord, you have done so much for me - from now on, you can have my very best.